

**SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 16, 2026; 4:06 PM
RODNEY J BRENNER BOARD ROOM**

The Southeastern Illinois College Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 4:00 pm in the Rodney J. Brenner Board Room. On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Debbie Hughes, Dr. Frank Barbre, Mr. Jim Ellis, Mrs. Gina Sirach, Mr. Blake Bradley, and Mr. Avery Henderson. Mr. David Dennison was not present.

Also present were: Dr. Karen Weiss, Ms. Lisa Hite, Dr. Tyler Billman, Dr. Chris Barr, Dr. Kyla Burford, Ms. Rachel Parish, and Mrs. Kathy Volkening.

Trustee Hughes welcomed everyone and allowed time for comments.

Reports:

ICCTA (Barbre)

Trustee Barbre reported that the next ICCTA meeting would be held March 19-21, and Mr. Jim Ellis would be attending. Mr. Ellis will submit next month's report. Lobby Day will be held in Springfield May 6-7.

Student Trustee (Avery Henderson)

Mr. Avery Henderson reported:

- The Nursing Club held a toy drive, will be volunteering at Heaven's Kitchen on March 31st, and will hold a silent auction on April 9th.
- Student Government held a food drive for Freddie's Food Pantry that ended on March 6th.

President's Report (Weiss)

Dr. Weiss provided the following updates:

- Dr. Weiss displayed the American flag that was donated to the College by Jacob Vaughan, who is the 2026 Distinguished Alumni.
- Governor Pritzker proposed a 1% increase in funding for community colleges this year in the FY27 state budget. ICCB is requesting last year's 2%, as well. This will be presented to the Governor in April.
- ICCB's Spring 2026 Enrollment Report indicated a 3% increase in enrollment and a 2% FTE increase system-wide for spring 2026 in comparison with the previous year. SIC was up 1% in enrollments over spring 2025, based on 10th day numbers.
- The *Dueling Pianos* fundraiser with Ferrell Hospital in February netted a total of \$14,800. Approximately \$7,000 will be split equally with Ferrell Hospital and the Foundation.
- Sabrina Stout, ADN Nursing Instructor, was named the 2026 Faculty of the Year.
- Dr. Billman met with representatives from Illinois Eastern at the Williams Career & Training Center. They were impressed with the facility and will be considering partnering with SIC on potential program, i.e., CDL, Industrial Maintenance.

- Dr. Billman is working on an oil and gas certificate to be offered at the Williams Career & Training Center.
- Car Corral nominated SIC Powersports for the Can-Am for a Cause Giveaway, and the College has been gifted a free 2026 Can-Am Defender HD11 to use within the program for training and general use.
- The Nursing application deadline was February 28. We have 30 ADN applicants, with a waiting list, and we are waiting to hear the number of PN applications.
- Dr. Burford reported on the mental health initiatives at SIC.
- The inaugural Studio 618 Hip Hop Dance Team (coached by Josh Kimball) received Platinum Ranking at Arabesque Dance Studio on March 1st.
- The Common App through Admissions is an ongoing project.
- Art students will be hanging their artwork at Cedarhurst in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. SIC is the only community college asked to participate.
Medical emergency wall kits have been installed next to the defibrillators located around campus.
- The new mobile app, *MySICmobile*, is now available in the App Store for both iPhones and androids.
- The Forensic Falcons will be going to state later this month, and will be holding their annual fundraiser, *Night Before Nationals*, on March 24th.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Bradley and seconded by Trustee Sirach to approve the consent agenda which included the February 17, 2026, regular and closed session minutes, destroying tapes of the July-September 2024 closed session, the Treasurer’s report, and the approval of bills for February 2026 which totaled \$2,698,634.29 including \$591,948.80 in Payroll. On roll call the following members voted:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Mrs. Debbie Hughes	
Dr. Frank Barbre	
Mr. Jim Ellis	
Mrs. Gina Sirach	
Mr. Blake Bradley	
Dr. Cliff Karnes	
Mr. Avery Henderson (Student Trustee)	

All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bradley and seconded by Trustee Sirach to approve the reimbursement of travel, meals, and lodging expenses for Dr. Barbre and Mr. Ellis to attend Lobby Day in Springfield, May 6-7th. Total estimated expenses are \$1800.00.

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
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Mrs. Debbie Hughes
Dr. Frank Barbre
Mr. Jim Ellis
Mrs. Gina Sirach
Mr. Blake Bradley
Dr. Cliff Karnes
Mr. Avery Henderson (Student Trustee)

All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Non-Action Items

- A. Mental Health Panel Meeting Notes – Dr. Burford explained that this is now required to be presented two times per year. A committee of seven people from SIC make up the panel.
- B. ICCB Recognition Response Summary – Dr. Barr indicated that these are our responses to the minor recommendations made by ICCB through the Recognition Review.
- C. Agenda for Board Retreat in April – The Board was good with the agenda and look forward to the tours.

Action Items

- A. A motion was made by Trustee Bradley, seconded by Trustee Barbre to approve the budget transfers. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Sirach to approve the Curriculum Committee Report. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

New Business, Topics, or Discussion

- A. Board Policy #2022 – Facility Naming Policy – The Board talked about possible options in naming an area of the College after Richard Morgan. They will forward their suggestions to Chairwoman Hughes and will decide next month how they would like to honor Mr. Morgan.

Personnel

A motion was made by Trustee Bradley, seconded by Trustee Sirach, to approve all items listed in Personnel. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

- A. A. Evaluations/recommendations for re-employment:
 - 1. President. (Without going into closed session, members of the Board gave very positive comments on the performance of Dr. Weiss.)
 - 2. Administrative Cabinet.
 - 3. Other Administrative Personnel.

4. Staff and Tenured Personnel.
- B.** Student Development Mentor Job Description.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Karnes made the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Trustee Barbre. All members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.