



Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Room 2112, David C. Briegel Building

General Business

Members of the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees met on February 12, 2025 for a regularly scheduled meeting.

The meeting was convened at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Tom Jerdon.

Members Present: Tom Jerdon, Beth Cripe, Becky Moore, Tracy Hertsel, Todd Obren, Skip Dyes

Members Absent: Dr. Elaine Foster

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the January 8, 2025 regular convened meeting and the February 6, 2025 special meeting required no changes and were placed on file.

Tracy Hertsel moved, seconded by Skip Dyes, to change Action Item C to "Approval of the next steps on filling the President's position on a permanent basis." With that change, the previous letter Action Item C will become Action Item D. Motion passed unanimously.

Skip Dyes moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Two individuals were recognized for their service at the College:

Mr. Andrew Churchill was recognized for his years of service and Trustee Beth Cripe presented him with a 5-year pin.

Mr. James Benak was recognized for his years of service and Trustee Todd Obren presented him with a 15-year pin.

Public Input

No individual requested to speak.

Other

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 31, 2025 was received and placed on file.

Chief Financial Officer Michelle Kite presented the Quarterly Financial Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2024.

Dr. Odenwald gave his President's report. He reported that spring enrollment is up from spring enrollment of 2024, making it the sixth straight semester of year over year growth. Dr. Odenwald shared that Nicole Lehman, has been selected as Interim Manager of Human Resources. He noted that the search for Chief Assurance Officer is underway and that the pool of candidates is strong. Dr. Odenwald stated that filling this position is of his highest priority before his departure, May 10.

Dr. Odenwald shared that SMC continues to invest in employees by paying for their degrees. Employees are currently working on doctorates, MBA's and educator degrees.

Discussion Items

Trustees reviewed the list of gifts given to the Foundation, with thirty-one individual donations for a grand total in the amount of \$41,690.

Action Items

Beth Cripe moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to approve the AAS in Cardiovascular Technology and AAS in Surgical Technology programs. Motion passed unanimously.

Becky Moore moved, seconded by Skip Dyes, to accept with gratitude the gift to the College shown in attachment 5B, with one individual donation to the College in the amount of \$100. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Tom Jerdon moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to amend the main motion to the Board of Trustees. The Board will discuss and determine next steps for filling the President's position on a permanent basis in October 2025. The Board of Trustees are sensitive to the many major activities the administration has on its agenda and charges the administration to largely complete them by summer's end. Motion passed unanimously.

No other Action Items resulting from discussion items above.

Closed Session

Chairman Tom Jerdon moved, seconded by Tracy Hertsel, to enter into a closed session to discuss a real estate matter pursuant to the closed session provisions of the Open Meetings Act under MCL 15.268(d).

Chairman Tom Jerdon stated that according to the Open Meetings Act under MCL 15.2689(d). The Open Meetings Act allows the Board to enter into private session for real estate matters.

A Roll Call vote was taken to enter closed session at 8:47 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered into open session at 9:31 a.m., with a roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Follow-up Requests

No follow-up requests were made of the administration.

Adjournment

Beth Cripe moved to adjourn at 9:32 a.m. Todd Obren seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Beth J. Cripe, Secretary

Thomas F. Jerdon, Chairman

Proposed - to be approved March 12, 2025