



# Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Room 2112, David C. Briegel Building

8 a.m. Regular Meeting

## General Business

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Members of the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees met on August 13, 2025 for a regularly scheduled meeting.

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

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

Members Absent: none

Minutes of the June 11, 2025 regular convened meeting required no changes and were placed on file.

Dr. Elaine Foster moved, seconded by Tracy Hertsel, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Five individuals were recognized for their service at the College:

Allyson Harris was recognized for her years of service and trustee Becky Moore presented her with a 5-year pin.

Dr. Karen Reilly was recognized for her years of service and trustee Beth Cripe presented her with a 5-year pin.

Kwajalein Dodd was recognized for her years of service and trustee Todd Obren presented her with a 10-year pin.

John Yu was recognized for his years of service and trustee Dr. Elaine Foster presented him with a 10-year pin.

Allen Jackson was recognized for his years of service and trustee Tracy Hertsel presented him with a 20-year pin.

## Public Input

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Three individuals requested and were given an opportunity for public input: Naomi Ludman, Della Bundle and Julie Dyes.

## Other

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The Treasurer's Report for the months ending June 30, 2025, and July 31, 2025 were received and placed on file.

Nicole Lehman, Director of Human Resources, gave an update on the Presidential search.

Brent Brewer gave his Interim President's Report. He shared that with the fall semester nearing, the campus has been busy with activity all summer including several new student orientations, ETS camps, employee appreciation days and construction projects. Construction continues Jerdon Hall, the wrestling room, and the Mathews Conference Center West. The college directed Steve's Run and participated and

attended 3 county fairs. Interim President Brewer thanked the faculty for their hard work and dedication during the summer months. He reported that The Higher Learning Commission informed SMC that the college successfully completed its Open Pathway Assurance Review with no recommended future monitoring. He reported that student enrollment numbers are up 10.9% in student count and 12.4% in contact hours from one year ago. He stated that student housing for fall is at full capacity which includes the addition of 36 beds scheduled for completion at the end of August. The Interim President reported that there are currently 30 students on the waitlist and work is underway to identify and implement long-term solutions to meet the growing demand.

## Discussion Items

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Trustees discussed the proposed Board Policy changes on Public Input at Public Meetings Article IV, Section 5.

Trustees discussed the proposed changes to Board Policy III.2 Purchasing Policy.

Trustees were presented with the 2025-2026 full-time faculty list stipulating 47 full-time positions.

Trustees reviewed the list of gifts given to the Foundation, with nine individual donations for a grand total in the amount of \$6,950.

## Action Items

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Becky Moore moved, seconded by Dr. Elaine Foster, to approve the updated Board Policy IV.2 with section 5 A amended as follows: "Any individual may appear before the Board of Trustees according to the following procedure". Motion passed unanimously.

Beth Cripe moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to approve the updated Board Policy III.2 Purchasing Policy with section III.2.2 amended to increase the aggregate dollar amount to \$15,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Becky Moore moved, seconded by Tracy Hertsel, to accept with gratitude the gifts shown in attachment 5C, with three individual donations in the amount of \$850. Motion passed unanimously.

## Closed Session

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Tom Jerdon stipulated: The Board of Trustees is scheduled to Discuss Material that is Exempt from Discussion Disclosure Under State and Federal Law which is covered by Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act that necessitates closed session. A motion made by Beth Cripe and supported by Tracy Hertsel to move into closed session. There was no discussion. Beth Cripe took an individual roll call vote on the motion with Tom Jerdon, Todd Obren, Tracy Hertsel, Becky Moore, Dr. Elaine Foster, and Skip Dyes voting yes. Entered closed session at 8:54 a.m.

Following the end of discussion in closed session Todd Obren made the motion to reconvene in open session seconded by Tracy Hertsel. Motion passed unanimously at 9:24 a.m.

## Review of Follow-up Requests

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No follow-up requests were made of the administration.

## Adjournment

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Beth Cripe moved to adjourn at 9:24 a.m. Becky Moore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Beth Cripe, Secretary

Thomas F. Jerdon, Chairman

Proposed - to be approved September 10, 2025