



Southwestern Michigan College Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2025

Dale A. Lyons Building, Foundation Room 906 – Dowagiac Campus

12:00pm

Minutes

Welcome

The meeting was convened at 12:00pm by Board President Carole Schmidt.

Members Present: Carole Schmidt, Tom Ellspermann, Michelle Kite, Krin Jurgensen, Becky Moore, Jan Barkell, Terry Groth, Dick Judd, David Tate, Patty Patano, Julie Dye, Susan Dobrich, Tom Jerdon

Members Absent: Greg Louzeau, Ron Gunn, Bruce Springsteen, Ada Springsteen, Bill White, George Wehrle, Deborah Hackworth, Bruce Watson

Approval of Agenda

Patty Patano moved, seconded by Terry Groth, to add Discussion of Ed Guse Lease as item C under New Business to the July agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 2025 regular convened meeting required no changes. Dick Judd moved, seconded by Tom Ellspermann, to approve the April 2025 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

College Update: Brent Brewer, Interim President

- 2,030 students are registered for Fall 2025. This is 170 more than this time last year.
- Housing is at full capacity for Fall 2025. We have over 40 students on a wait list and 63% are new students.
- Senior Leadership Team are discussing the most cost-effective way for adding additional beds.
- Ariana Dampier has been named the new Women's Basketball Coach.
- Thank you to Emily for her work on the 51st Steve's Run. There were over 300 runners.
- Construction Updates: Jerdon Hall is on schedule to be completed by August 25. Wrestling project is on schedule with the structure going up August 4.

Foundation Board Update: Dr. Carole Schmidt, Foundation President

Tom Ellspermann moved, seconded by Dick Judd, to approve the three-year term renewals for Julie Dye, Krin Jurgensen and Carole Schmidt. Deborah Hackworth has decided not to renew her term. Motion passed unanimously.

Carole, Jan and Dick attended the public input forum regarding the Presidential search. Tom Jerdon responded that the position was posted on July 2 for six weeks. It has been posted on several sites.

Executive Director Update: Emily Schrock, Manager of Development

51st Steve's Run Results –

- Over 300 participants.
- She received great feedback.

Room to Grow Campaign –

- In the middle of the Arts and Athletics campaign.
- \$35,325 has been raised.

-Please think of who may be in your network to reach out to. Marketing materials will be emailed so you have all the information for this campaign.

Financial Report/Quarterly Donations: Michelle Kite, SMC Foundation Treasurer

Members reviewed the financial report and quarterly donations. Total donations were received, for the quarter, in the amount of \$216,000. Jan Barkell moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to accept the quarterly donations. Motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Committee Updates

Investment Committee Update: Michelle Kite

- Review of the quarterly investment report from 1st Source Bank.

Recruitment and Membership Committee Update: Tom Ellspermann

- Please bring any names you have of people that would be interested in joining the Foundation.
- As a member of the Foundation, SMC should be a priority when it comes to fundraising, attending events, speaking positive/respectfully of the college and making your own ongoing donations throughout the year.

New Business

-Officer Elections for 2025/2026:

Slate of officers proposed to stay the same. David Tate moved, seconded by Dick Judd to elect the same officers as 2024/2025. Motion passed unanimously.

-Meeting Dates for 2025/2026:

October 21, 2025

April 21, 2026

July 21, 2026

Terry Groth moved, seconded by Jan Barkell to approve the above meeting dates for 2025/2026. Motion passed unanimously.

-Ed Guse Lease:

Jan Barkell moved, seconded by Tom Jerdon to have Brent Brewer and Bill White negotiate a new farm lease on the Ed Guse property with the current tenant.

Old Business

Adjournment

Terry Groth moved to adjourn at 1:09pm. Patty Patano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Financial/Investment Committee Meeting – October 16, 10:00am

Regular Board Meeting – October 21, 5:00pm

Founders Day – November 7, 11:00am