



# Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
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 October 13, 2021 for a regularly scheduled meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, as Secretary, Beth Cripe called the regular meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and made a motion to declare the chair vacant and proceed to elect Treasurer Moore as "Chair pro tem." The motion was seconded by Tracy Hertsel. Motion passed unanimously.

Members Present: Bill White, Beth Cripe, Dr. Elaine Foster(virtually), Becky Moore, Tracy Hertsel, Keith McKenzie

Members Absent: Tom Jerdon

Minutes of the September 8, 2021 regular convened meeting required no changes and were placed on file.

Tracy Hertsel moved, seconded by Bill White, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Seven individuals were recognized for their service at the College:

Mr. Manoj Khot was recognized for his years of service and was presented with his 5-year pin.

Ms. Christy Tidd was recognized for her years of service and was presented with her 5-year pin.

Mr. Cody Miller was recognized for his years of service and was presented with his 5-year pin.

Mr. Blake Bundy was recognized for his years of service and was presented with his 5-year pin.

Mr. Michael O'Brien was recognized for his years of service and was presented with his 5-year pin.

Ms. Mollie Grabemeyer was recognized for her years of service and was presented with her 5-year pin.

Dr. Keith Howell was recognized for his years of service and was presented with his 25-year pin.

## Public Input

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No individual requested to speak.

## Other

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The Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30, 2021 was received and placed on file.

Dr. Odenwald President's Report: Excellence at SMC, Volume 2.

Heather Zile, Director of Admissions, was joined by staff members Ben Spencer, Brian Howard, Bill Mathews and Bria Brookins to present the 2021-2022 Admissions Recruitment Plan to the Board. The presentation included the priorities, goals, and cycles of the plan.

## Discussion Items

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Vice President Susan Coulston presented an update on the Lyons Building Renovation Project to the Trustees. The formal request for funding will be submitted to the State later this month. If ultimately approved, the State will provide for 50% of the project's total cost. Pending approval, construction would begin in the fall of 2023 at the earliest. By then, the College will have accumulated its 50% share of the project's cost.

Susan Coulston proposed that the Board consider a tuition and fee average rate increase of 4.8% annually through FY25. Students will continue to benefit from scholarship aid from the Southwestern Michigan College Foundation, the College's operational budget, and federal financial aid. (In Fiscal Year 2023, students will be awarded up \$1,120,000 from the College and the Foundation. In Fiscal Year 2021, that number was \$880,000.) Due to the uncertainty with State funding and challenging demography, the increase in average tuition and fee rates will provide the College with a better ability to make sound financial projections.

Trustees reviewed the list of gifts given to the Foundation, with three individual donations for a grand total of \$3,125. There was also a correction in the September gifts given to the Foundation, with seven individual donations for a grand total of \$203,425.

## Action Items

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Beth Cripe moved, seconded by Tracy Hertsel, to approve the Employee 80/20 Health Care Cost Sharing Resolution for the coming year. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill White moved, seconded by Tracy Hertsel, to approve the Schedule for the 2023-2025 Tuition and Fees Rate Schedule presented by Vice President Coulston unless Board action in subsequent years results in recommended adjustments. Motion passed unanimously.

Tracy Hertsel moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to accept with gratitude the gift shown in attachment 5C, with one individual donation to the College in the amount of \$1,010. Motion passed unanimously.

## Review of Follow-up Requests

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No follow-up requests were made of the administration.

## Adjournment

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Bill White moved to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. Becky Moore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



Beth Cripe, Secretary



Becky Moore, Chair pro tem