

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SPOON RIVER COLLEGE**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m.  
Spoon River College, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B  
23235 N. Co. 22, Canton, Illinois**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at Spoon River College, Canton Campus, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B, 23235 N. Co. 22, Canton, Illinois.

**1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Jerry Cremer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**1.2 Roll Call**

Members Present:	John (JB) Biernbaum Linda Butler Jerry Cremer Dave Maguire Savannah Smith-Coulter
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Members Absent:	Kevin Meade Phillip Murphy Kent Schleich
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Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Brad O'Brien, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Colin Davis, Foundation Director; Andrea Thomson, Director, Human Resources; Lisa Dennis, Director, Academic Support; Andrea White, Student Success Coach; Alex Kellerman, Student Success Coach; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

**1.3 Pledge of Allegiance**

Jerry Cremer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.4 Welcome of Guests**

Jerry Cremer welcomed those in attendance.

**1.5 Public Comment**

Jerry Cremer asked if any members of the audience wished to address the Board. There were no requests or public comments.

**1.6 Approval of Minutes**

**1.6.1 April 26, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Following a motion by Linda Butler, seconded by John Biernbaum, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the April 26, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Dave Maguire presented the following report:

On June 1-3, 2023 the Illinois Community College Trustees Association will be holding its annual convention at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott in Normal Illinois. This is when the Association annually recognizes the accomplishments of students, faculty, alumni, trustees and partners of the community college system. During Friday, June 2nd of the convention, ICCTA will be providing the required Trustee Professional Development Training. The training begins at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 4:15 p.m. This professional development training is required by Public Act 99-0692 and includes the topics of open meetings law, freedom of information law, labor law, contract law, ethics, sexual violence on campus, financial oversight, audits, and fiduciary responsibilities of a trustee. Attendance at this training will fulfill the requirements of the 2017 law. The Association will be recording these sessions and will be made available to the colleges at a later date. Attendance at these sessions is at no charge to the colleges.

Most of the focus of the Association this past month has been items before the state legislature. The Association, after a three year absence, had a very successful Lobby Day event this month. Included was the First Annual Community College Caucus Reception hosted by the Presidents Council and the Trustee's Association. The Governor, along with several legislators, attended this bipartisan event and addressed the group. It was good to have the Governor and legislators take note of the community college system, speak highly of our accomplishments and the need for equitable funding. Over the course of the two days, President Oldfield and I had the opportunity to speak with several members of the legislature and had individual meetings with the five legislators that now represent our college district. It was interesting that we had to explain what parts of our district they now represent which is not surprising after the unique legislative redistricting that occurred. We extended an invitation to each legislator to meet with us after the legislative session and offered them the use of our facilities for hosting meetings with their constituents.

The Legislature missed their self-imposed May 19th adjournment deadline last Friday. They now have until May 31st to pass a budget before the voting requirements change from a simple majority to a super majority. The budget seems to be the biggest problem. The size and relative inexperience of the Democratic caucus, the Speaker's short tenure, and a new team of budget negotiators have contributed to missing the deadline. The various internal Democratic caucuses are not in agreement on their budget priorities. Added to that was a last minute piece of legislation in the final moments of the last General Assembly that provided health care benefits to undocumented immigrants over the age of 42. It was originally slated at that time to be a \$200 million annual cost and is now projected to approach \$1 billion dollars with a proposal to add an additional group age of 17 to 44. There is no federal subsidy for this program so this has created a potential unfunded billion plus dollar hole in the proposed budget.

There are several items of concern for community colleges that are either still under consideration, in the final stages of passage or have been passed through both Houses and are on the way to the Governor for his consideration. There appears to be some agreement in resolving the problem with the under-funded College Insurance Plan (CIP), the health care plan for college retirees. In the past, ICCTA has advocated increasing the contribution level by all parties but has met resistance by the State and the unions. The plan debt is so large that claims are not being paid in a timely manner, if at all. The proposal, which appears to have agreement with the unions and the administration, would incrementally increase the contribution by all parties to clear the plan debt and make CIP solvent. There is limited time to get it into legislative

language and adopted by the General Assembly but at least we have agreement between the parties involved.

Other specific items of legislation include:

House Resolution 219: Encourages Illinois higher education institutions to adopt neurodiversity inclusion statements (an ICCTA initiative) Adopted by the House

SB 1907: Requires wellness kiosks on every college campus and must include “emergency contraception” products, passed both Houses and moves to the Governor’s desk.

Senate Bill 2288: Mandates transfer from Illinois community colleges to four-year institutions (an Illinois Community College Board initiative), passed both Houses and moves to the Governor’s desk.

House Bill 2503: Eliminates out-of-district tuition, passed both Houses and moves to the Governor’s desk.

House Bill 3760: Creates the Public University Uniform Admission Pilot Program Act, passed both Houses and moves to the Governor’s desk.

Late last Friday, several large pieces of legislation emerged, including an election omnibus bill, a property tax omnibus bill, a bill extending several sunsets, a cannabis omnibus bill, a bill offering protections for reproductive health care patients and licensees, a revenue bill, a procurement omnibus bill, a Biometric Information Privacy Act reform, a TIF extension bill, and legislation for a state-based insurance exchange.

The House and Senate both returned to Springfield today: the Senate for today and Thursday, and the House for today through Friday. They have several substantive bills are still pending on concurrence or 3rd Reading.

We are still monitoring the work on Governor Pritzker’s proposed FY24 budget, which would include a 7% funding increase for community colleges.

Finally, ICCTA has secured a research intern from the University of Chicago for this summer. The intern will conduct demographic research on ICCTA membership, association awareness, and community college baccalaureate data and strategy. Along with that, the Illinois Community College Marketing Collaborative is hiring a part-time director to implement a statewide branding initiative. The campaign rollout is planned for August;

The next meeting of the Board of Representative will occur during the Annual ICCTA Convention June 1-3, 2023 in Bloomington/Normal.

## 1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Savannah Smith-Coulter presented the following report:

Congratulations to our Spring 2023 graduates. We had close to 130 students participate during the in-person commencement ceremony.

Academic honor lists for Spring 2023 include: President’s List with a grade point average of 3.6 or higher - 161 full-time students and 120 part-time students; Dean’s List with a gpa of 3.0-3.59- 89 full-time students and 82 part-time students.

Congratulations also to our student athletes who were named award winners for their academic accomplishments: The Midwest Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference honors went to 26 athletes who completed at least 24 semester hours with a minimum of a 3.5 gpa. Additionally, 22 athletes earned National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

Academic All-American status with 11 athletes receiving First Team for a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Students for Environmental Action planted 17 trees along the entrance to the college that the SRC Foundation funded. Savannah said she assisted with the planting of the trees, and there were other students who helped as well. They are very excited about the addition to the Canton Campus.

#### 1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Colin Davis presented the following report:

- Financials: Revenues: \$40,364.68
- The SRC Foundation Board met Wednesday, May 17 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom with some present on campus.
- This meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Foundation Board, meaning:
  - The Board reviewed its By-Laws and Policies and Procedures; while no changes were made this time, the Board did recommend to do a deeper review of the Gift Acceptance Policy in the coming months.
  - After recognizing the six years of service of Brendon Bauman, Staci Mayall, and Nick Tinsman (the 3 outgoing members), the Board elected new members to replace them – Cindy Cassidy of Ipava and Sarah Keefer of Farmington (both SRC alumnae) will join the Board for the first time, while Denise Kirgan of Canton will return to the Board after an ex-officio year.
  - The Board then elected its officers for the next year – Bruce Beal will serve as Chair, John Davis as Vice Chair, Debbie Collins as Treasurer, and John Marshall as Secretary. Nick Tinsman will remain with the Board in an ex-officio role, serving as Immediate Past Chair to round out the Executive Committee.
  - Finally, the Board approved a budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year.
- Our next appeal letter for the Annual Campaign dropped in the mail on 5/23, and letters to former and potential golf outing sponsors/players are all out, as well. Please mark your calendars for July 28, the date of our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing – we'll have plenty of jobs the day of and the day before if you're not a golfer, and if you are, we'd love to have you join!
- The SRC Community Chorus will present two productions in the Taylor Hall Theatre this summer:
  - *An Evening With Patsy Cline*, starring former SRC employee Julie Seeley as Patsy, June 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. and June 25 at 3 p.m.
  - *48 Hours: A Musical Revue* where 17 performers and several musicians have just 48 hours to rehearse numbers and put a show together, July 23 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.Tickets for each production are \$15, and as always, benefit SRC Foundation scholarships. We hope you'll make time to attend these performances.
- The Students for Environmental Action organization completed the planting of the trees on the north side of the driveway, which you probably saw when you were driving in tonight. A kudos goes out to Jim Sheff, the students of SEA, and Mike Strauman and the facilities team for working together to make this happen. As these trees grow, they'll help to create a beautiful first impression for those entering our campus.
- The full SRC Foundation Board does not meet in June. Instead, committees will meet on an as-needed basis, and orientation sessions with new board members will take place in June or early July. The next meeting of the SRC Foundation is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 19, and we'll have a FYE report for the Trustees at the June meeting.

#### 1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Dave Maguire said next month is Heritage Days in Macomb, and along with that is the retirement of John Biernbaum on June 15. There will be days long celebrations. Dave said JB was just recently recognized as the Employee of the Year by the Council of Administrative Personnel.

Jerry Cremer congratulated staff on the great Commencement ceremony.

## 2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 2.1 Communications

President Oldfield thanked Missy Wilkinson and the Student Services Staff on the successful commencement ceremony. The day following our ceremony, Canton High School held their Commencement ceremony here. He said they have asked for this to be an annual location for CHS, and we are working to see if we can make that happen. President Oldfield thanked all of the staff who worked hard to make both events a success.

President Oldfield echoed Trustee Smith-Coulter's comments on the tree planting. It is a very nice addition for the years to come. He thanked the students who led the initiative with Jim Sheff and Mike Strauman and the Maintenance staff.

President Oldfield reported on the following grants that are being submitted: Path Grant for Health Careers that is being submitted by Brad. Julie Hampton has been helping on a Climate Equity Grant which is the result of the loss of the two power plants in our district with an award for about \$487,000. We are within a few days of being within 3 years of the EDA Grant and receipt of a letter of award. We were awarded in the Spring of 2021, and we are hoping to receive the authority to proceed soon. The EDA grant funds will go towards upgrades in VoTec and also two new semi trucks. Future Board Meetings will reflect those purchases with those grant funds.

President Oldfield reported on new hires for some new positions. A new Assistant Dean, Student Services is being filled by Jo Branson. She brings a lot of great experience and will still also be able to advise us in Financial Aid. We are excited about this addition. Brandi Dorsey has been hired as a Food Services Attendant. She is primarily in the River Roast Coffee Shop, and we are happy to have her with us. Chance Jones resigned as head men's basketball coach, and Kent Jones was his assistant. The recommendation was to hire Kent Jones as Head Men's Basketball Coach. We will fill the part-time coaching position.

President Oldfield reported that the Board approved minutes contain the update of the Abstract of Votes totals as received from the Fulton County Clerk, and the minutes were corrected to reflect those accurate numbers.

President Oldfield shared that yesterday he was invited to the Peoria Riverfront Museum to be a part of a group to welcome the President of Lebanon America University, which is located in Beirut. He is a neurosurgeon who is also the President of the University and the two hospitals the University owns in the Country of Lebanon that is bankrupt. The University has a campus in New York, and they run their bills through there and pay their staff in American dollars. They are looking to expand to Bagdad and other locations, primarily medical institutions. There was also an opportunity for a panel presentation with the Lebanese community in Peoria. President Oldfield said he was invited by Ray LaHood, an alum of SRC.

### 2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of May 2023:

Payroll	\$584,036.65
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	247,619.73
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	13,242.80
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	277.50
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	-0-
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>3,872.90</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$849,049.58</b>

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Linda Butler, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month of May 2023:

Payroll	\$584,036.65
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	247,619.73
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	13,242.80
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	277.50
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	-0-
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>3,872.90</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$849,049.58</b>

2.2.2 Approve a 6-month contract renewal with Corporate Clean, Peoria, Illinois, effective July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for custodial services. Funds are available in the Building fund.

Canton Campus:	\$12,340.00 monthly
Macomb Campus:	4,135.00 monthly
Macomb East:	1,615.00 monthly
Havana Center:	1,062.00 monthly
Rushville Center:	480.00 monthly

President Oldfield said the last Corporate Clean renewal was also a six month renewal, and we sought improvements, which continue. President Oldfield said he and Mike Strauman feel it is important to again pursue a six month renewal. The break out is listed by campus by month. He asked the Board for approval which will take us through the end of this calendar year. Linda butler asked if President Oldfield is satisfied with the work. President Oldfield said it ebbs and flows. We have seen improvements but there needs to be more consistency. Corporate Clean has experienced turnover, and we hope the improvements can be made. Jerry Cremer asked if they cover all of the sites. President Oldfield said daily in Canton and Macomb and MOC, and every day in Havana ad Rushville that we are open.

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, seconded by Linda Butler, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved a 6-month contract renewal with Corporate Clean, Peoria, Illinois, effective July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for custodial services. Funds are available in the Building fund.

Canton Campus:	\$12,340.00 monthly
Macomb Campus:	4,135.00 monthly
Macomb East:	1,615.00 monthly
Havana Center:	1,062.00 monthly
Rushville Center:	480.00 monthly

### 2.2.3 Rushville Fitness Center Tax Abatement Request

President Oldfield presented this item and said it has a Resolution that the Board passed in October of 2020, and that resolution has been updated for this consideration. The dates now represent three years which would be for property tax years 2023, 2024, and 2025. Mr. Sargent presented this for consideration in March, and Linda Butler discussed this further with the Trustees last month. Julie Hampton updated the Resolution to reflect the appropriate dates.

Linda Butler said in recent communication she forwarded to President Oldfield, the Center will be seeking a permanent solution, and that will take time. John Biernbaum said he was reluctant to vote for it in 2020, and he feels badly for them. He thought they were seeking a solution two years ago. He respectfully said he would be doing what they are doing today, but if he is a student at SRC, he doesn't see how this helps a student by raising tuition. We are as efficient as we can be, and this gives an \$11,000 hall pass. John said he understands goodwill and being a good neighbor, and he feels we did that two years ago. He doesn't think this is student friendly. Linda Butler said she understands and wants to give them the time to do what they need to, and the options all take time. The other thing is they are a party to a lot of development that is occurring in Rushville and are key to some initiatives. Lastly, Linda said she has supported every initiative that has come to this board for various communities during her time on the Board.

John Biernbaum said he doesn't feel bad about being on the wrong end of the vote tonight but he hopes that this will not come back to this board again in three years. This does not help one SRC student. Linda Butler said if there is a lot of development, that will impact property taxes which in turn will benefit students. John said that is a whole different conversation. Linda said she understands and has been on the side that John is stating. Jerry Cremer said his hope is that if this passes, they remember us and other taxing bodies who support this for our students. President Oldfield said they do reduce fees for SRC students, and we have aside for further cost considerations. Jerry stated that he agrees with JB and hopes that this does not come back in three years. JB said he would do the same thing if he was in their position, but he is not. Linda Butler said their other option is to hire someone to pursue the exemption, but why should you have to hire someone to achieve that.

Dave Maguire said he respects JB's opinion and understands where he is coming from and would not expect him to change it. Dave said he is going to support a second time partnering with Rushville and thinks it is the thing to do. He would never expect JB to go back on his previous vote on the subject.

Following a motion by Linda Butler, seconded by Dave Maguire, and a roll call vote of four yeas and one nay (John Biernbaum), it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Rushville Fitness Center Tax Abatement Request

- 2.2.4 Approve a five year contract with Jenzabar for an upgrade in the administrative system from CX to Jenzabar One (J1). This contract with Jenzabar is for 5 years at a cost of \$1,970,831 with an effective start date of July 1, 2024. The annual maintenance cost is \$1,302,880 for 5 years and Professional Services cost for the upgrade is \$667,951. Funds for this contract are available in General Education fund for the year 2024 and the College Bonds fund for the year 2025 to 2029.

President Oldfield presented this item and asked Raj Siddaraju to provide the details for this consideration. President Oldfield said the full contract is available in SharePoint.

#### Upgrading CX Administrative System to Jenzabar One (J1)

##### Jenzabar CX Sunset – July 1, 2024

- Two year Federal tax support

- Reduce support

- No enhancements

- Bug/problem fixes

##### Why Jenzabar One (J1)

- Selected after internal evaluation

- Three main criteria

  - Functional advantages

  - New Administrative System challenges

  - Annual maintenance and total costs

##### Functional Advantages

- Over 17 years of Jenzabar CX track record

- Improved student services CRM

- Input from institutions for JX/J1

- Improved support service

- Positive reviews

J1 Five Year Cost Breakdown – Raj reviewed the cost breakdown over five years. The cumulative five year cost is \$1,970,831. This will start next year, 2024-2025, and it is a fixed cost for the five year period.

President Oldfield explained that Professional Services Fees takes care of having someone here on campus to work so that the system is never down but is by module. Data conversation help will be provided by Jenzabar. It will include a lot of technical support for years two and three to divide out the modules to move over. President Oldfield said we would go for a bond in July of 2024 with the start of the process in order to have the funds by June of 2025 and cover the costs for the years two through 5. Jerry Cremer asked if they will be annual payments? President Oldfield said yes. Dave Maguire said the 23-24 budget won't have any change. President Oldfield said correct, along with 24-25. President Oldfield said the Board is not obligating the College to anything by signing this contract. It is simply staging Jenzabar for work that will start in July of 2024 and to receive a discount for signing early. Linda Butler said she assumes this is a boilerplate contract since the Board hasn't had a lot of time to review. President Oldfield said he and Raj have reviewed the contract. Linda Butler asked if he and Raj are satisfied with the contract. President Oldfield said yes.

President Oldfield thanked Raj for all of his work on this issue. He has put forth a lot of work and has achieved some significant cost savings for us.

Following a motion by Dave Maguire to approve a five year contract with Jenzabar for an upgrade in the administrative system from CX to Jenzabar One (J1). This contract with Jenzabar is for 5 years at a cost of \$1,970,831 with an effective start date of July 1, 2024. The annual maintenance cost is \$1,302,880 for 5 years and Professional Services cost for the upgrade is \$667,951. Funds for this contract are available in General Education fund



for the year 2024 and the College Bonds fund for the year 2025 to 2029. list details and only total cost and effective cost date and further that the college authorizes the College's CIO to execute the agreement. Linda Butler seconded the motion, and following a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved a five year contract with Jenzabar for an upgrade in the administrative system from CX to Jenzabar One (J1). This contract with Jenzabar is for 5 years at a cost of \$1,970,831 with an effective start date of July 1, 2024. The annual maintenance cost is \$1,302,880 for 5 years and Professional Services cost for the upgrade is \$667,951. Funds for this contract are available in General Education fund for the year 2024 and the College Bonds fund for the year 2025 to 2029.

#### 2.2.5 Resolution to name Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency

President Oldfield presented this and explained that last year in legislation it was passed that we are required to establish a Decennial Committee to study efficiency. In following the law, the recommendation is for the Board to consider the Resolution. It establishes that all of the Trustees are a part of the Committee plus two members of the community. In the Resolution it authorizes the Board Chair to select those two members. President Oldfield and Colin will make recommendations for those two positions. There are three required meetings, and by November of 2024, a report will be filed with the Fulton County Board. President Oldfield asked the Board to approve the Resolution.

John Biernbaum said we are moving on something that we don't have a choice on. Linda Butler said the vote is a buy in and there is no penalty for not doing this. Linda Butler said she thought it had to be separate meetings. President Oldfield said yes it would have to be a noticed meeting before the start of a Board meeting. Linda said she thinks there should be so many recommendations that it becomes burdensome. Four years ago, there was a water quality study of K-12s and 85% have elevated lead in water systems with no solution.

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, seconded by Linda Butler, and a roll call vote of four yeas and one abstention (John Biernbaum) approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved a Resolution to name Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency.

### 2.3 Institutional Planning

- Academic Support Services – Lisa Dennis, Alex Kellerman, and Andrea White

President Oldfield asked Lisa, Alex, and Andrea to present the Academic Support Services report.

Lisa said Andrea will present the Pre Nursing Orientation course that was developed and started last year as an effort to address retention issues. Lisa said this was offered in July for four weeks prior to the nursing students starting the semester. Andrea thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to present this course. She said we knew right away the purpose and agreed this course was to help the retention rates for first year nursing students and better prepare them for the rigor of the program.

Pre- Nur orientation

#### I. Purpose

1. To increase completion/retention 1<sup>st</sup> year NUR students
2. To prepare for rigor of program

3. To prepare for challenges (academic and personal) and consider mitigation efforts and resources  
(money, books and child care- top three) This would help them plan ahead to determine options to address the challenges. Andrea said financial issues were significant issues as well as books and childcare. The Path Grant was also helpful as well as the Foundation in various situations.

\*note FA 22 began with 28 1<sup>st</sup> year students.

## II. Class – online, Brad purchased books for the students.

1. No grades, participation for personal benefit (quite a challenge for some) – help the students in the nursing program.
2. Academic success plan (setting goals, identifying stressors, attendance & reflection (what worked, what didn't). Meeting with success coach can be critical (asking the right questions to prepare/plan) and continued follow up was CRITICAL
3. Metacognition/how they learn/ teaches students how to evaluate learning/strategies for learning/not memorizing (self eval/reflecting)

Move In the fall of 2022 paragraph here.

## III. Outcomes

1. FA 22- 3 w/d personal reasons (including car accident/injuries, death in family and “personal issues)  
\*2 are returning in FA23, the other FA 24
2. FA 22 - 0 failed, 24 returned SP 23
3. SP 23- 2 did not pass, both plan to reenroll SP 24
4. 22 will return FA 23!!!!
  - Our 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr. retention increased from 24% last year to 80% this year. TEAM effort!
  - The average 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year retention rate for an ADN program is estimated to be 69%

## IV. This summer

1. Alex joins the team- YAY!~
2. More critical thinking is added to the new course. This will help develop critical thinking skills.
3. Add in student suggestions (more contact with one another/discussion boards? Fewer assignments/although NUR is a lot to keep up with/good training/eye opening?).

Jerry Cremer asked about students who work part time as well. Andrea said most students do work somewhere in the health care field, and we can try to make connections as well.

Brad O'Brien said the unique part of our program is the first year students are able to take a course during the summer and sit for the LPN exam, and we have 14 first year students doing that this summer, and once the LPN is passed, they will be most likely working as an LPN during the second year making decent money. Lisa also offered that we feel that some of those nursing students who did not have a plan at the start ran in to trouble and didn't know where to go. Having that connection with the Student Success Coach from the start had that support already in place for the student.

In the fall of 2022, the nursing program started the year with 28 first-year students. Over the course of the year, we have had 5 students withdraw or fail. Of these, 2 are returning FA 23, 1 FA 24 and 2 (from SP 23) plan on returning SP 24!

Thus, our first to second-year retention increased from 24% last year to 80% this year.

**NOTE:** The average first-year to second-year retention rate for an ADN program is estimated to be 69%.

President Oldfield thanked Lisa, Andrea, and Alex for their leadership and support for our students on a daily basis. We have offered the Student Success model for 18 years, and this enhancement is a testament to best practices and the success of our students. Brad O'Brien said in true SRC fashion, not once did Lisa or Andrea say that it was too big to pull off. Andrea said this truly was a team effort, and the nursing department was fantastic to work with and without all of us working together it would not have worked.

2.3.1 Approval for the Early Childhood Education program. This new program includes:

- Assistant Teacher Certificate- 18 hours
- Early Childhood Educator Certificate- 30 hours
- Associate in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education – 60 credits – level four credentials.

Holly Norton presented this and explained the certificates that are a part of the degree. This would lead to Gateway Credentials. She reviewed the two certificates and the degree. She reviewed the newly developed courses as well. Holly said this would meet the Early Childhood Consortium Act. Alex Kellerman has been assisting because of his background in Early Childhood, and he has helped us move forward. Dave Maguire asked if we get the funding that comes with the Act. President Oldfield said not until we are credentialed. We have to get Gateway approved and authorized. President Oldfield said this will transfer to all state universities as junior status even though it is an Associate in Applied Science. This gives students the pathway to the baccalaureate degree. Linda Butler asked about the timeframe Holly said we are hoping for fall. We have the pieces in place for this. Alex submitted the application to Gateway, and they said they would respond by the end of June. Holly said we will have the marketing pieces in place as well. Linda asked about the staff in place to teach. Holly said we are working on hiring an Early Childhood Coordinator.

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, seconded by John Biernbaum, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Early Childhood Education program. This new program includes:

- Assistant Teacher Certificate
- Early Childhood Educator Certificate
- Associate in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education

### 3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Board of Trustees Retreat – July 26, 2023 – Agenda Items

President Oldfield said we are in the cycle for receipt of Retreat agenda items. Please submit to him or Julie, and he will work with Chairman Cremer to build the agenda. This will start at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. with a 4:30 p.m. Board Meeting start time and this will be held in Macomb at the Outreach Center.

President Oldfield said he and Sarah Gray plan to have the budget ready for the Trustees to consider at the July Board Meeting. Linda Butler said a light agenda but with the agenda. President Oldfield said yes. Linda said we could have the first Decennial committee meeting that day as well.

- 4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Meetings Act, Section 2 (c), the Board of trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of 1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; or 2). Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Jerry Cremer said there was not a call for Closed Session.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Dave Maguire, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, May 24, 2023, adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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Jerry Cremer, Chair

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Date

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Linda Butler, Secretary