

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

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 6 p.m.
Spoon River College, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B
Canton Campus, Canton, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 6 p.m. in Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B, Canton Campus, Canton, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Jerry Cremer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:	John Biernbaum
	Linda Butler
	Jerry Cremer
	Dave Maguire
	Kevin Meade
	Phil Murphy
	Kent Schleich
	Esmeralda Uribe

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Andrea Thomson, Director, Human Resources; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations and Safety Officer; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Kaley Barbknecht, Coordinator, Academic Services/Recorder; Allyson Smith, Ag Management Faculty; Sarah Dalpiaz, Mathematics Faculty; Bridget Loftus, Chemistry Faculty; Kim Gillespie, Biology Faculty; Sarah Strode, Nursing Faculty; Eryn Way, Welding Faculty; Todd Thompson, Diesel Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees.

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 August 28, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the August 28, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

There have been two meetings hosted by ICCA since our last board meeting. The regular ICCTA September meeting was held in Springfield on the 13th and 14th and the ICCTA Regional Trustee was held in Moline last night.

The Springfield meeting included our trustee round table, seminar presentations, committee meetings and the Board of Representatives. The trustee roundtable focus on sharing information between boards about trustee roles and what is being done in the way of continuing education for trustees beyond what is required by state statute. The afternoon session was a presentation by the Pauly Group, an Illinois based academic search firm and a representative of the ACCT Search division. While the information was valuable we fortunately are not in the position to need their services. One of the more interesting presentations of the weekend was by ICCTA Executive Director Jim Reed on Artificial Intelligence (AI). His material helps put the topic of AI in better perspective and was a great help to trustees in gaining an understanding for future discussion.

The Association is in the processes of developing its legislative agenda for the year. The agenda is scheduled for adoption at the November ICCTA meeting. Several items are under discussion for inclusion. It was suggested there may be a need for something about competency based education. There was also considerable discussion concerning the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) and future compliance issues. There is a BEP Summit being scheduled, there is concern about the 30% goal and discussion about whether a college should adopt a BEP operating ordinance. The colleges are being asked to share any additional items to be included in the annual legislative agenda.

There is still no indication of what if any legislative items might be considered during the Veto Session in November. The upcoming election has been the focus for most members of the legislature so their attention is not on legislation matters until after the election.

Blackhawk College hosted the Regional trustee meeting at their Moline Campus. It is always good to be able to tour other college facilities. Their recently opened remodeled building with updated athletic facilities was well worth the price of admission. They were still installing the ambulance simulator as we toured the building. The new outdoor baseball fields featured the latest in outdoor baseball field lighting.

The business portion of the meeting included the AI presentation by Jim Reed. During the meeting we had an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with Senator Mike Halpin who is from the Quad Cities area. Senator Halpin is Co-Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee. His district includes our Macomb campus.

The next meeting of the Board of Representative will be November 15-16 at the Chicago Marriott Schaumburg Hotel in Schaumburg.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Esmeralda Uribe presented the following report:

Student activities for September included:

- Free Pizza with President Oldfield, which was very well attended and very well received!
- “Snap into Growth” wellness fair-a Snapper healthy living event where students learned about local resources, experienced guided yoga/meditation, and engaged with therapy dogs!

The TRIO program had a productive and engaging September! They hosted orientations for new students and presented a series of workshops open to all TRIO students covering essential topics such as time management, financial literacy, and wellness and stress management. Additionally, Macomb TRIO students enjoyed a unique experience playing “Monopoly Go”, where they used the app and play Monopoly among the life-sized Monopoly pieces in the downtown square.

Activities at the Havana Center this month include:

- Mindful Mondays-stress reducing tips, mental health resources, and TimelyCare information.
- True or False Tuesdays-weekly trivia questions with SRC swag for winners.
- Welcome Wednesdays-free school supplies including SRC planners to keep students organized.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

The Foundation deposit was \$50,378.67 for August. Michelle Howe has been hired as the alumni coordinator. The Dual Credit Scholarship has closed and was awarded to 37 students totaling \$6,300 in awards. The Fellheimer Scholarship has opened and applications are due by October 25th. All other scholarships will open October 1st. Dusty thanked the business office, marketing, and IT for helping him and Penny navigate scholarships. Dusty shared that everything is set for the impact report and it should go out at the end of the month. Lastly, Dusty shared some upcoming events. November 9th is the Alumni dinner, and there have been 6 alumni nominations, so far. Giving Spoon begins December 3rd. SRC’s community chorus concert “Winter Blues and All That Jazz” premieres December 7th.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

John Biernbaum thanked whoever gifted him the coloring book and commented that the fresh cut grass looks great.

Kevin Meade ran into Danielle Cheatham, the SRC volleyball coach, at Wally’s Truck Stop in Pontiac. Kevin commented on the SRC shirts, and Danielle (not knowing who Kevin was) told Kevin about SRC and said very nice things and spoke highly of the college. Kevin commented that he was impressed that she would say such nice things to who she thought was a stranger.

2.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported that he continues to serve on the Advancement and Equity committee formed by ICCB. He is one of four community college presidents serving in the committee. The committee is studying Illinois community college equity funding models and they send their findings forward. There is a CFO aspect where CFOs will gain perspective, and SRC will be represented in that discussion. The committee will meet again in November. President Oldfield’s goal is to have a report to present in the spring.

On Monday President Oldfield gave testimony to the Illinois House Higher Education Appropriations Committee. SRC and other colleges requested systematic funding for deferred maintenance needs.

President Oldfield reported on the following new hires:

Eric Anderson, Director, Facilities & Grounds, September 2, replaces Steve Polich

Candy Hadsall, part-time Community Outreach Office Assistant, September 3

Chase Fisher, Head Cross Country Coach, September 5

Anthony Jurewicz, Head Esports Coach, September 6.

President Oldfield reminded the board of the volleyball game tonight against Danville Community College. He encourages everyone to attend.

President Oldfield reminded the board of October's joint board meeting with the Foundation Board. The Board was reminded to send in their agenda items and topics. A first draft of the agenda has been sent to Dusty and a similar request has been given the Foundation Board. The evening will begin with the Foundation Board meeting, then dinner, and end with the SRC Board meeting.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of September, 2024:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$556,816.56
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	717,306.46
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	5,497.84
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	165.00
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	384,899.03
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>4,515.25</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,669,200.14

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 September, 2024:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$556,816.56
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	717,306.46
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	5,497.84
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	165.00
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TOTAL:	\$1,669,200.14

2.2.2 Acceptance of the SRC Risk Management Plan

Sarah Gray presented on the SRC Risk Management Plan. She stated that there were not many changes from last year. One addition made to the plan was including the establishment of the Core Crises Team for the purpose of reviewing issues or incidents of major or significant concern at any location/campus or site. They meet monthly to review and discuss current issues or concerns, conduct tabletop exercises, and plan for

possible future situations. Another addition to the plan was including the password change IT has made requiring multifactor authentication when logging into SSO. Also included, was the annual review of the Campus Emergency Operation Plan, which details all comprehensive emergency management efforts. It is designed to comply with all applicable federal and state regulations and to provide the policies and procedures to be followed in dealing with any emergency and/or disaster. Updates on insurance policies were also included. Lastly, updates were made to position descriptions and the addition of the Crisis Team members.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved acceptance of the SRC Risk Management Plan.

2.3 Institutional Planning

Fall Enrollment Update – Missy Wilkinson presented the following report:

SRC is happy to announce there are enrollment increases for the Fall 2024 semester. These increases include increases in student credit hours, student headcount, first-time freshmen in both transfer and male students, an increase in students aged 18-25 and greater than 26, and 50% of the dual credit graduates are continuing their degree at SRC. Fall 2024 10th day credit hours increase by 1% from last year and we are just about level with 2022. We saw a 30% increase in first time freshman. The Fall 2024 10th day total headcount increased by 3% from last year and 4% from 2022. The headcount increased both in part-time and full-time students from last year, as well. The gender breakdown also increased. Although the male to female ratio is not quite where we want it, the male population has increased 10% this year. We are looking into what males are majoring in and other variable to try and balance the gender ratio. Lastly, Missy reported on the age breakdown. We saw the biggest decline in under 18 students, and IT is looking at data to explain that decline. But, we are up in other age groups for Fall 2024. Dave Maguire asked what we think cause the increase in the male population for Fall 2024. Missy stated that it is most likely attributed to a variety of things such as marketing, etc. One thing we have noticed is that there was an increase in males in the dual credit program that could also have attributed. Jerry Cremer ask if it could have anything to do with changes in staff. Missy said that her staff are great at communicating and that could very well attribute. Students have reported they feel a connection here at SRC and that it feels like family here. Missy also stated that TRIO hit their numbers earlier than they ever have. John Biernbaum stated that four-year colleges have become so expensive that students are choosing community colleges. President Oldfield agreed and added that students have become more price conscientious.

2.3.1 Tenure recommendation – Allyson Smith, Ag Management Faculty, effective January 13, 2025.

Holly Norton reported on Allyson’s tenure recommendation. Holly stated that Allyson was assigned to a Peer Assistance Committee whose members observed, reported, and discussed Allyson and her classroom over the course of 3 years totaling 6 semesters. The committee is made up of an admin, a mentor in a similar discipline and two additional faculty members chosen by the non-tenured faculty member and the admin. In Brad’s absence, Holly was acting admin for Allyson and she completed Allyson’s final report with the other committee members. All committee members, Brad, and Holly recommended Allyson’s tenure. Holly noted Allyson’s growth as an instructor over the last 3 years and she knows Allyson will continue to grow as an instructor in the future.

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 approved the tenure recommendation – Allyson Smith, Ag Management Faculty, effective January 13, 2025.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There were no additional items presented

4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2 (c), the Board of Trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for the purposes of paragraph 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 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; 5) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; 6) the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, seconded by Linda Butler, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, September 25, 2024, adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Jerry Cremer, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary