

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Southwestern Community College

January 28, 2025 – SCC Jackson Campus

Attending:

Trustees

Howard Allman	Ken Henke
Toby Allman	Mark Jones
Sue Bartlett	Cory McCall
Todd Bryson	Gerald McKinney
Jeff Cloer	Brett Rogers
Joyce Cooper	Cynthia Womble
Jack Debnam	Zyla Young

College Staff

Dr. Don Tomas
Scott Baker
Lisa Kim Fisher
Tyler Goode
Evan Hatch
Barb Putman
Kathy Posey
Andrea Stamper

Guests

Fred Hannah
Diane Mahoney
Pam Hartley

Absent:

Luke Hyde Elizabeth Waldroop

The Board of Trustees of Southwestern Community College (SCC) met for their bi-monthly meeting on January 28, 2025, in the Slagle BoardRoom of the Conrad G. Burrell Building on the Jackson campus.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark Jones called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. A quorum was present for the meeting.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Kim Poteet, Jackson County Clerk of Court, administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Trustee Todd Bryson. Mr. Bryson introduced himself to the Board.

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was amended to include reports and updates for section VI. A. 1b and 1c. Mr. McKinney made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Jack Debnam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of November 19, 2024. Ms. Cynthia Womble made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jerry McKinney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Tomas presented the report, highlighting work on the strategic plan, aiming for approval at the July board meeting. Dr. Tomas discussed the Bellwether Award nomination, emphasizing the successful gaming program's partnership with Harrah's Cherokee Casino and its high employment rate (98%). Dr. Tomas shared updates from the Presidents Meeting, including discussions on cybersecurity and the upcoming legislative session. There is uncertainty regarding the impact of a federal aid freeze, particularly on grants for minority serving institutions and DEI initiatives. Lastly, Dr. Tomas shared the news that former SCC President, Dr. Cecil Groves recently passed away. There was a discussion regarding different ways to memorialize Dr. Groves and other SCC Presidents who have passed away. No decision was made. Further discussion is needed.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

Dr. Barb Putman introduced three students nominated for state-level awards: Diane Mahoney (Bob Scott Leadership Award), Fred Hannah (Dallas Herring Award), and Zyla Young (North Carolina Community College Academic Excellence Award). Each student shared their personal stories and how SCC supported them.

CURRICULUM AND STUDENT SERVICES

Committee Chair, Ken Henke, stated there was no committee report and deferred to Dr. Barb Putman to report to the Board.

Dr. Putman reported there were no action items. She reviewed the Workforce Continuing Education Enrollment Report, noting variations across programs and room for improvement. She also outlined the reaffirmation process for SACSCOC accreditation. A new Quality Enhancement Plan will be developed, aligning with the strategic plan.

FINANCE AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT

Chairman Jones called on the Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services, Lisa Kim Fisher, to present to the Board.

Ms. Fisher presented the Budget Allocations and Transfers. Following review and discussion, Mr. Jack Debnam made a motion to approve the Budget Allocations and Transfers as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry McKinney and passed unanimously.

The board discussed a \$200,000 student debt write off. The board concluded that writing off the debt was necessary to accurately reflect the college's financial statements, as the likelihood of collection was minimal. Ms. Cynthia Womble made a motion to approve the student write off debt. Mr. Cory McCall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Dr. Tomas provided an update on several ongoing capital projects, including the burn tower and indoor firearms training facility in Macon County as well as dental assisting/hygiene renovations in Founders Hall and the Holt Library renovations. The dental assisting/hygiene renovations are nearing completion with a tour planned for board members in March.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Jones presented the full-time and part-time employee lists for review and approval. Mr. Cloer made a motion to approve the full-time employee list which was seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously. Mr. Toby Allman made a motion to approve the part-time employee list, which was seconded by Mr. Howard Allman and passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Tomas instructed the board to complete the President's Evaluation which Ms. Kathy Posey will send via email to the board. Please complete your evaluation by February 28.

Chair Jones reminded the board that all trustees are required to complete a Statement of Economic Interest. Please complete your SEI by January 31.

Ms. Andrea Stamper, Director of Institutional Research, presented an overview of the Strategic Plan. Ms. Stamper and Ms. Pam Hartley conducted a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis with board members.

With no other business before the Board, Mr. Cloer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Mark Jones, Chair
Board of Trustees

Don Tomas, Secretary
Board of Trustees