

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Southwestern Community College

March 25, 2025 – SCC Jackson Campus

Attending:

Trustees

Howard Allman	Mark Jones
Toby Allman	Cory McCall
Sue Bartlett	Gerald McKinney
Joyce Cooper	Brett Rogers
Jack Debnam	Elizabeth Waldroop
Ken Henke	Zyla Young
Luke Hyde (virtual)	

College Staff

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

Absent:

Todd Bryson	Jeff Cloer	Cynthia Womble
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The Board of Trustees of Southwestern Community College (SCC) met for their bi-monthly meeting on March 25, 2025, in the Slagle Board Room of the Conrad G. Burrell Building on the Jackson campus.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark Jones called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. A quorum was present for the meeting.

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was amended to delete section X. B.6. and instead move to a Closed Session. Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Ken Henke 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 January 28, 2025. Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jerry McKinney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Tomas reported on the Bellwether Award celebration last month, emphasizing the successful gaming program’s partnership with Harrah’s Cherokee Casino. Dr. Tomas displayed the plaque award we received as a top 10 finalist. Dr. Tomas provided an update on his trip to Raleigh March 18-21 to attend the NCACCT Law-Legislative Seminar with Chairman Jones. He also provided an update on current happenings within the General Assembly. While in Raleigh, Dr. Tomas and Mr. Jones were able to meet with Representative Gillespie, Representative Clampitt and Senator Corbin’s assistant. The conversations were very positive. Mr. Tyler Goode presented the new 60th Anniversary books and showed a few public relations media clips.

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 Fall 2024 Curriculum Enrollment Report and the current Spring 2025 Curriculum Enrollment Report. Dr. Putman provided an update on the SACSCOC reaffirmation process to maintain compliance. A new Quality Enhancement Plan will be launched next month to improve student learning over the next five years.

FINANCE AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT

Finance and Campus Improvement Committee Chair Cory McCall asked Vice President for Financial and Administrative Services Lisa Kim Fisher to give a report on Local Revenue Analysis and State Budget Expenditures.

Under Action Items, Ms. Fisher presented the Budget Allocations and Transfers. Following review and discussion, Ms. Sue Bartlett made a motion to approve the Budget Allocations and Transfers as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Jack Debnam and passed unanimously. Mr. Brett Rogers abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest with the DuoTech Customized Training line item.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Dr. Tomas provided an update on several ongoing capital projects, including the Learning Commons, 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. The dental hygiene program is slated to begin in Fall 2026.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Jones presented the full-time and part-time employee lists for review and approval. Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to approve the full-time and part-time employee lists which was seconded by Mr. Jack Debnam and passed unanimously. Chairman Jones discussed the necessity of approving full-time and part-time employees moving forward. There is direction and precedence indicating that approving employees is not a Board of Trustee function. Discussion followed with general board agreement to eliminate this action item from future meeting agendas. There is a sentence in the by-laws that needs to be redacted and re-written in regard to this change. A motion will be taken at the May board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Tomas reviewed the Sound Fiscal Management Practices document he received from the System Office. SCC meets expectations in all of the categories. We received a score of “Meets with Coaching” in the Compliance Review Findings section. Dr. Tomas will further research the meaning of this score and report back to the board.

Dr. Tomas reminded the board that it is time to complete their annual self-evaluation, which is a state requirement. Ms. Kathy Posey will send the self-evaluation to all board members. The results of the self-evaluations will be used to craft the agenda for our board retreat. Evaluations should be completed by April 25.

Ms. Andrea Stamper, Director of Institutional Research, presented survey results and updates in regard to the Strategic Plan Vision 2030. Ms. Stamper presented the mission statement, vision statement and goals for board approval. Discussion followed and board members would like to see defining aspects of the values. Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to accept the mission statement, vision statement and values as presented with the caveat that Ms. Stamper will come back to the board with the defining aspects of the values. Mr. Jack Debnam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Tyler Goode presented proposed revisions to the Inclement Weather Policy 5.02.05. Ms. Waldroop made a motion to approve the policy revisions as indicated. Mr. Howard Allman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott Baker presented the Pornography Prohibited on College Networks and Devices Policy 4.05.08. Mr. Baker is in the process of adding major revisions to this policy, including cybersecurity components, which will be presented at the May meeting for approval. This new policy for approval today is a stop gap measure until the fully revised policy can be approved in May. Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Ms. Sue Bartlett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Bryan Singleton, SCC Director of Human Resources, reported that due to new Federal Executive Orders, and with guidance from our college attorney, we need to revert back to our 2022 Title IX policies. Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to revert back to the 2022 version of policy 4.03.05 Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment. Mr. Brett Rogers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Tomas presented a change order request for board approval. All change orders above \$35,000 require board approval. This change order is for the final phase to complete renovations for the dental assisting/hygiene programs. Ms. Betty Waldroop made a motion to approve the change order as presented. Mr. Gerald McKinney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Jones called the board into closed session to discuss a personnel issue.

Mr. Jack Debnam made a motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Gerald McKinney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Cory McCall made a motion to return to an open session. Mr. Brett Rogers seconded the motion which passed unanimously. No action was taken in the closed session.

With no other business before the Board, Mr. Toby Allman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Mark Jones, Chair
Board of Trustees

Don Tomas, Secretary
Board of Trustees