

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Southwestern Community College

July 22, 2025 – SCC Jackson Campus

Attending:

Trustees

Howard Allman Mark Jones
Toby Allman Cory McCall
Jeff Cloer Gerald McKinney
Joyce Cooper Zyla Young
J.K. Coward
Jack Debnam

College Staff

Dr. Don Tomas
Scott Baker
Sayward Cabe
Tyler Goode
Megan Nicholson
Kathy Posey
Barb Putman
Bryan Singleton
Andrea Stamper

Guests

Tina Wilson

Absent:

Ken Henke Brett Rogers Betty Waldroop Cynthia Womble

The Board of Trustees of Southwestern Community College (SCC) met for their bi-monthly meeting on July 22, 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 James Kent (J.K.) Coward and reappointed Trustee Jeff Cloer. Dr. Tomas introduced Mr. Coward to the Board.

WELCOME

Dr. Tomas presented a certificate to Ms. Zyla Young, who served as a Student Representative to the Board of Trustees for the past two years.

Dr. Tomas introduced and welcomed Ms. Tina Wilson. Ms. Wilson will begin her new role as Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services on Friday, August 1.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Cloer presented nominees for the upcoming term: Mr. Jerry McKinney for the position of Vice Chair, Mr. Mark Jones for the position of Chair. Dr. Tomas was confirmed as Secretary. Mr. Debnam made a motion to approve the nominations as presented. Mr. Howard Allman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Jeff Cloer 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 May 20, 2025. Mr. Toby Allman made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Tomas provided a President's Report, noting that the General Assembly had not yet passed a budget, leading to a continuation budget based on the previous year's funding. The board was

informed about upcoming events, including a Summer President's Meeting, the Fall Kickoff event on August 12th and the annual Gala fundraiser for student scholarships on September 27.

CURRICULUM AND STUDENT SERVICES

Committee Chair, Ken Henke asked Dr. Tomas to report on behalf of Dr. Barb Putman who was not able to attend. Dr. Tomas introduced Ms. Sayward Cabe, Director of Financial Aid. Ms. Cabe informed the board about the decision to exit the student loan program starting in Fall 2026, due to changing federal regulations and a rising cohort default rate. Students will be directed to alternative loan options, as the college believes this decision will not negatively impact students given other available resources.

FINANCE AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT (Action Items)

Finance and Campus Improvement Committee Chair Cory McCall asked Mr. Bryan Singleton, Director of Human Resources, to give a report on Local Revenue Analysis and State Budget Expenditures.

Under Action Items, Mr. Singleton presented the Budget Allocations and Transfers. Following review and discussion, Mr. Cloer made a motion to approve the Budget Allocations and Transfers as presented, which was seconded by Mr. McKinney and passed unanimously.

Mr. Singleton presented several policy action items for approval: Pregnant Parenting Employees Policy 4.02.22/Procedure 4.02.2201, Parental Leave Policy 4.02.09, Employee Grievance Policy 4.03.06, Debt Collection Policy 7.01.05, Tuition Residency Requirements Policy 7.01.06, Optional Fees Policy 7.01.02, Bidding for Construction Work Policy 3.02.01 and Administrative Records Request Policy 3.03.11.

Dr. Tomas discussed a modification to the Bidding for Construction Work Policy, recommending that the President be authorized to approve change orders up to \$100,000 without immediate board approval, removing the 10% project budget threshold. This change aims to expedite projects, with all change orders to be reported at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Following review and discussion, Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to approve all policies as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Toby Allman and passed unanimously.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Dr. Tomas provided an update on several ongoing capital projects. The schematic design for the Learning Commons has been sent to state construction and visual designs should be available for the September board meeting. The fire rescue training facility and indoor firearm training facility projects are also progressing. The dental assisting and dental hygiene renovation project is scheduled for completion by mid-October.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

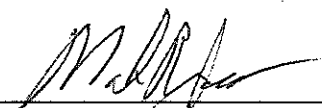
Under action items, the board approved moving the May board meeting from the third Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday to establish a more consistent routine and allow more preparation for staff. Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to move the May board meeting from the third Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday. Mr. McCall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

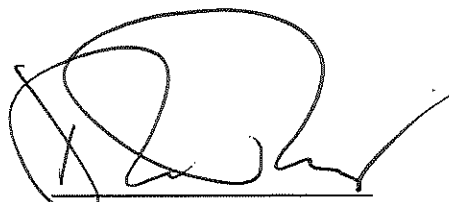
Ms. Nicholson informed the board about the status of the campus blue light phones, which are currently not working due to age and reliance on solar power. The cost to repair and hardwire them is substantial, and the SCC Alert app is now the primary and more reliable emergency communication tool, offering 24/7 monitoring, texting, and video capabilities.

Ms. Andrea Stamper presented an update for the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, to formalize the passage of the strategic plan and the value statements. The strategic plan will include an annual report to the board to update them on institutional progress and allow for adjustments as needed. Ms. Howard Allman made a motion to approve the strategic plan as presented. Mr. Cloer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

With no other business before the Board, Mr. Howard Allman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Jones adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.



Mark Jones, Chair
Board of Trustees



Den Tomas, Secretary
Board of Trustees