

**SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OCTOBER 29, 2024; 6:00 PM  
RODNEY J BRENNER BOARD ROOM**

The Southeastern Illinois College Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 6:20 pm in the Rodney J. Brenner Board Room. On roll call, the following members were present: Dr. Pat York, Dr. Frank Barbre, Mr. Jim Ellis, and Mrs. Debbie Hughes.

Also present were: Dr. Karen Weiss, Lisa Hite, Dr. Kyla Burford, Dr. Tyler Billman, Dr. Chris Barr, and Ms. Sky Fowler.

Dr. York welcomed guests and allowed time for comment.

**Reports:**

ICCTA (Barbre)

Dr. Barbre and Mr. Ellis attended the ACCT Leadership Conference in Seattle, WA, from October 22-27, 2024. Dr. Barbre shared that it was an outstanding conference. The keynote speaker addressed the topic of artificial intelligence (AI), and many sessions explored its applications, particularly how AI can significantly reduce time spent on tasks. One session even recommended allocating some funds for AI in the budget, highlighting its growing importance. Dr. Barbre also attended a session on AI-powered equipment, including an example of an AI-assisted welding machine. Local manufacturers are already incorporating robotics into their operations and are increasingly seeking skilled workers to operate this advanced equipment. In fact, some manufacturers have funded the purchase of this technology themselves due to the critical need for it in their industries.

President's Report (Weiss)

Dr. Weiss provided an update on several ongoing initiatives and developments:

- Southern Illinois Manufacturing Initiative: Dr. Weiss highlighted a meeting with Rend Lake College (RLC) regarding the Southern Illinois Manufacturing initiative.
- Staff Development Day: The recent Staff Development Day was deemed a success, with notable contributions from Lynn Chambers.
- STEM Day: This year's STEM Day saw an impressive turnout, with more schools participating than ever before.
- PATH Grant: The college plans to continue utilizing the PATH Grant, which has supported a number of initiatives and allowed for significant progress.
- Nursing Program: The nursing department is upgrading its charting software to match the system used by Ferrell Hospital. Additionally, there are plans to establish a small computer lab in the nursing area to support these upgrades.
- CDL Program: The CDL program continues to thrive and is "still going strong."

- Heritage Festival: The upcoming Heritage Festival this weekend promises to be a great event.
- Honor Roll Academy: Lori is bringing back the Honor Roll Academy, an initiative aimed at engaging middle school students and sparking their interest in college.
- Christmas Story Production: Exciting plans are underway for a large-scale production of A Christmas Story.
- New Building Construction: Lisa circulated plans for the construction of the new building, which is moving forward.
- JaaS Implementation: The Jenzabar JaaS program is progressing smoothly and has been well-received.

Dr. Weiss concluded by emphasizing that a lot of exciting developments are on the horizon for the institution.

## **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis and seconded by Trustee Hughes to approve the consent agenda which included the September 24, 2024 regular and closed session minutes, destroying tapes of the March 2023 closed session, the Treasurer's report, and the approval of bills for September 2024 which totaled \$2,571,045.92 that included \$581,076.37 in payroll. On roll call the following members voted:

Ms. Hughes

Mr. Ellis

Dr. Barbre

Dr. York

All members voted aye. Motion carried.

## Non - Action Items

In non-action, we discussed the 2023-2024 Annual Assessment Report, the Title III Annual Review Report - Dr. Dunn our external evaluator was very thorough and impressed with our program, as well as the FY26 CDB Parking Lot(s) Project.

## Action Items

A motion was made by Trustee Hughes seconded by Trustee Barbre to approve the Board of Trustees 2025 Meeting Dates and Times. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Barbre seconded by Trustee Ellis to approve Certificate of Tax Levy. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Hughes seconded by Trustee Ellis to approve Budget Transfers. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**New Business, Topics, or Discussion**

We had no new Business, Topics, or Discussion.

**Personnel**

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Hughes, to approve all items listed in Personnel. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

- A. Approve New Hire for Administrative Assistant to CTE & Workforce Ed
- B. Approve New Hire for SBDC Grant - Business Development Specialist
- C. Approve Adjunct Faculty Recommendations

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Barbre made the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Trustee Hughes. All members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.