

SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 20, 2025; 6:00 PM
RODNEY J BRENNER BOARD ROOM

The Southeastern Illinois College Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6:03 pm in the Rodney J. Brenner Board Room. On roll call, the following members were present: Dr. Frank Barbre, Mr. Richard Morgan, Mr. Jim Ellis, Mrs. Debbie Hughes, Mr. Blake Bradley, Mr. David Dennison, Mrs. Gina Sirach, and Mr. Avery Henderson.

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

Mrs. Hughes welcomed guests and allowed time for comment.

Reports:

ICCTA (Barbre)

Dr. Barbre attended the ICCTA Quarterly Meeting and Lobby Day held on May 6–7. Dr. Weiss provided a summary of the meetings with state representatives and senators, describing the events as highly successful.

These advocacy efforts are a key part of supporting the ICCTA's mission, particularly in securing increased funding for community colleges. Participating in Lobby Day underscores our commitment and ensures our college maintains a visible and active presence in legislative discussions. Feedback from legislators was extremely positive, and there was strong support expressed for our institution.

The next ICCTA meeting, which will also serve as the annual meeting, is scheduled for June 6–7 in Bloomington.

Student Trustee (Avery Henderson)

Mr. Avery Henderson updated the Board on student initiatives including the Nursing Club Troop for Treats fundraiser, Student Corps Mental Health Awareness Month and Emotional Support for student during exam week, and the Student Government end of year trip to St. Louis.

President's Report (Weiss)

Dr. Weiss provided the following updates:

- **ICCTA Initiatives:** The ICCTA has developed a flyer highlighting the proposed bachelor's degree initiative. Legislative activity remains high, with numerous bills in motion. Dr. Chris Barr and Dr. Weiss are participating in weekly legislative calls on Mondays and Fridays to ensure the college stays informed and maintains a voice in the process.

- **Student Success:** The average GPA for student-athletes on competitive teams is 3.17, reflecting strong academic performance.
- **Williams Career and Training Center:** Construction is expected to be completed by the end of this month. An open house is being planned for late July, with sponsors and community partners to be invited.
- **Art in Architecture:** The college will follow the formal art-in-architecture process to commission artwork for the Carmi Center. Plans include featuring large-scale prints of students in action, as well as potentially commissioning an industrial-style installation for the large space.
- **Advocacy:** Chris collaborated with John A. Logan College (JALC) to draft a joint letter to Congressman Bost advocating for key federal support.
- **Grants and Programs:**
 - The Cabinet reported the receipt of a \$150,000 Dual Credit Equity and Access Grant, which will be used to purchase textbooks for dual credit students.
 - Updates were shared regarding Section 25 Ag Mechanics and continued collaboration on the agriculture program with Rend Lake College (RLC).
- **Campus Events and Engagement:**
 - STEM Day welcomed 128 students, with New Hope School participating for the first time.
 - The Learning Commons saw over 2,000 student visits, and staff are exploring additional student engagement strategies.
 - The Junior Falcons summer theatre program will feature two casts performing *Annie*, with participation from students in kindergarten through 9th grade.
- **Technology:** An AI chatbot has been launched on the SIC website to improve user experience and enhance student support services.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis and seconded by Trustee Bradley to approve the consent agenda which included the April 15, 2025 regular and closed session minutes, destroying tapes of the October 2023 closed session, the Treasurer's report, and the approval of bills for April 2025 which totaled \$1,822,266.08 that included \$648,599.76 in Payroll. On roll call the following members voted:

Aye _____ Nay _____

Dr. Barbre

Mr. Morgan

Mr. Ellis

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Bradley

Mr. Dennison

Mrs. Sirach

Mr. Henderson (Student Trustee)

All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bradley and seconded by Trustee Sirach to approve the reimbursement of Travel, Meals, and Lodging Expenses for Dr. Barbre and Jim Ellis who will be traveling to Bloomington, IL for the ICCTA Annual Convention on June 6-7, 2025. Total estimated expenses are \$1,800.

Aye _____ Nay

Dr. Barbre

Mr. Morgan

Mr. Ellis

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Bradley

Mr. Dennison

Mrs. Sirach

Mr. Henderson (advisory vote)

All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Non-Action Items

We asked our legal team at Robbins Schwarts to draft an Intergovernmental agreement with K-12 partners and Saline County Sheriff's Office for SIC to serve as a reunification site in case of a major emergency for Saline County and Gallatin County School districts. A copy of this agreement draft was presented to the Board for review.

Handouts regarding the ICCB Recognition Review Self Study 2025 were available to review at the meeting.

Action Items

The following actions were taken:

- A motion was made by Trustee Ellis seconded by Trustee Bradley to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of interest earned in the Working Cash Fund to the Operation and Maintenance Fund. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Trustee Sirach seconded by Trustee Barbre to approve the revised Nursing and Allied Health Student Handbook Policy regarding wait times for third time re-entry into the programs. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Trustee Dennison seconded by Trustee Bradley to approve the curriculum report as presented. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Trustee Ellis seconded by Trustee Barbre to approve the budget transfers for May 2025. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Trustee Morgan seconded by Trustee Sirach to approve to serve alcohol at the Malkovich as Muse Reception on August 29, 2025. All members voted aye

except Dave Dennison who abstained due to a conflict of interest related to Morello's. Motion carried.

- A motion was made by Trustee Morgan seconded by Trustee Barbre to approve to serve alcohol at the Q&A with Santo on August 30, 2025. All members voted aye except Dave Dennison who abstained due to a conflict of interest related to Morello's. Motion carried.

New Business, Topics, or Discussion

None

Personnel

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

- Approve the hiring of Michael Donofrio as the new SICEA Psychology Instructor effective August 14, 2025.
- Approve Retirement of James Carlton, Senior Director of Network Security effective June 30, 2025.
- Approve Retirement of Marzel Scates, Assistant to the Exec Dean of Administrative Services effective March 31, 2026.
- Approve Resignation of Mark Stucker, Part-time Environmental Services, effective April 30, 2025.
- Approve new job description for SICEA CNA Instructor/Coordinator.
- Approve new job description for part-time Adult Education Enrollment Assistant.
- Approve resignation of Savannah Blue, Cosmetology Instructor, effective August 31, 2025.
- Approve revised job description for Math Support Specialist.
- Approve resignation of Matt Lees, SICEA Government Instructor, effective August 10, 2025.
- Approve adjunct faculty recommendations for Summer and Fall 2025.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Morgan made the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Trustee Barbre. All members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.