

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SPOON RIVER COLLEGE

Wednesday, December 16, 2020
5:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. at the Macomb Outreach Center, Conference Rooms B and C, 2500 East Jackson, and Macomb, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Mr. Schleich, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:

- Mr. John Biernbaum
- Mrs. Linda Butler
- Mr. Jerry Cremer
- Mr. Dave Maguire
- Mr. Kevin Meade
- Mr. Phillip Murphy
- Mr. Kent Schleich
- Mr. Jaylen Lyttaker

Also present were Mr. Curt Oldfield, President; Ms. Holly Norton, Dean, Transfer Education; Ms. Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Mr. Brad O'Brien, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Mr. Colin Davis, Director, Foundation; Ms. Andrea Thomson, Director, Human Resources; Mr. Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer (via Zoom); Mr. Brett Stoller, Vice President (via Zoom); and Ms. Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President/Recorder.

Also present: Devin, McDonough County Voice (via Zoom).

1.3 Invocation

Mrs. Butler gave the invocation.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Mr. Schleich welcomed the guests who were in attendance.

1.5 Public Comment

Mr. Schleich asked if any member of the audience would like to make a comment. There were no public comments.

1.6 Approval of Minutes

1.6.1 November 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Mr. Biernbaum, seconded by Mrs. Butler, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the November 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

There has hardly been any real action at the State level since my last report. With no Veto Session and little discussion about a Lame Duck session prior to the inauguration date of the 102nd General Assembly, there has been no action and mostly everything has been speculative at best. Four weeks from now, on Wednesday, January 13th, the Illinois House and Senate will organize and officially select its leadership. The election of the Speaker of the House is a key factor to any action, and it is still not certain who that will be. Until there is a Speaker, there is not a mechanism for consideration of any legislation, handling of committee assignments, chairmanships, or a legislative calendar.

The State is facing a projected \$3.9 billion shortfall in this year's fiscal budget. The graduated income tax amendment on the November ballot that failed was supposed to have resolved the budget problem. Due to the amendment's defeat, the Governor is now proposing \$700 million in cuts to the current State budget in those areas that he has direct authority. Additionally, he has proposed borrowing up to \$2 billion from a Federal government loan fund with a three years payback timeline. He has said there is also hope that the Congress will come through with an additional stimulus package to the states that would give the State the funds to cover part of the shortfall. Representative Chris Miller summed up a lot of people's feelings when he wrote, "Budgeting based on fairy dust and unicorns is not the way to run a state of nearly 13 million people." This only speaks to the current fiscal year's budget; the prognosis for the next year's budget will be an added problem.

Congress is closing in on a \$900 billion agreed-upon secondary stimulus package that hopefully will be passed by Christmas recess. The versions keep changing, and there are a lot of questions about what funds might be available for community colleges and higher education. They are also trying to pass an agreed-upon funding bill for the rest of the Federal FY2021 year before the recess. There are at least 15 areas in that legislation that affects funding for community colleges.

Our Legislative Counsel, Jessica Nardulli has recently sent out updated Government Relations and Public Policy Reports to the membership. The last two were on December 5th and December 12th. They are a good source for the latest developments at the State level. In her reposts, she talks about several of the agenda items that are being proposed by the legislative caucuses. Please let us know if you have not received your copy and would like another one sent.

The February association meeting was to have been held in conjunction with ACCT at the National Legislative Summit in Washington. The conference has been changed to a videoconference format, so we will be rescheduling our next ICCTA meeting at a different time.

Additional upcoming dates and meeting of interest are also submitted with my report.

Upcoming dates and meetings of interest:

DECEMBER 2020

December 14-21 Filing period for April 6, 2021 trustee elections

JANUARY 2021

January 13 102nd General Assembly Inauguration, Springfield
January 15 Illinois Community College Board meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College, Center, Springfield
January 28 Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meeting, Joint meeting with Chief Academic Officers and Chief Student Services Officers Via Zoom videoconference

FEBRUARY 2021

Date TBD ICCTA Board of Representatives meeting (TBA)
February 7-10 Virtual Community College National Legislative Summit, Washington, D.C. On-Line Conference and Meetings

MARCH 2021

March 11-12 Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meeting, location TBD
March 12-13 ICCTA Board of Representatives and committee meetings, Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Hotel, Schaumburg
March 26 Illinois Community College Board meeting, Waubonsee Community College, Sugar Grove

APRIL 2021

April 6 Consolidated election (including community college trustees)
April 14 Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois banquet, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield
April 11-14 American Association of Community College (AACC) virtual convention

MAY 2021

May 31 Scheduled Adjournment of the Illinois General Assembly

JUNE 2021

June 3 – 5 ICCTA Annual Convention and Board of Representatives Meeting
Marriott Bloomington-Normal Hotel & Conference Center, Normal, IL

Mr. Murphy asked about the 700 million and if education is in those cuts. President Oldfield said when the Governor held a press conference on Tuesday, it was not included. ICCB has said that they will absorb cuts within the ICCB, so individual colleges wouldn't receive any cuts to equalization or base operating grants. We may not see funding for Veterans Grants or other grants they administer. Mr. Murphy said there was an original reference to across the board cuts and did that include education. President Oldfield said the Governor is working through this departmentally for FY21. Mr. Maguire said the Governor is limited in authority because he can only act on certain parts of agencies because some are statutorily protected. President Oldfield said anything legislatively appropriated can't be cut. There is also a potential furlough for State workers. President Oldfield said the interesting point is if Speaker Madigan is not elected and no one is elected, then Secretary of State Jesse White becomes the speaker. Dave said a concern was expressed this morning about the legislature needing to meet if there are matching funds in the federal legislation in the next two weeks.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Mr. Jaylen Lyttaker presented the following report:

Student members of PEEPS continue to plan for outdoor spring semester cleanup activities for the SRC sites. Students are also developing recycling initiatives for both on and off campus.

Habitat for Humanity students have been working at the current house build in Canton-putting finishing touches on the house. Students continue to meet via Google Meet and hope to have at least one large fundraiser in spring, possibly entirely online...Clash of the Snappers III.

The Speech and Debate Team participated in a tournament this month hosted by Elgin Community College and the College of Lake County. Jessica Boyd earned a bronze in Speech to Entertain, and Aimee Kalb earned a bronze in Program Oral Interpretation.

The final TRIO workshop for the semester was study skills. TRIO also hosted a “Finish Line Week” in the TRIO computer labs. TRIO students participated in a virtual paint night sponsored by the Macomb Arts Center.

Student Activities awarded Final Week of the Fall Semester Survival Kits to the four randomly selected SRC students.

Although the Fall 2020 production of August Strindberg’s drama *Miss Julie* ultimately did not have a performance run, SRC Theatre would like to recognize the students who gave no less of their time, energy, and artistry than previous companies that did not have their performances canceled. Those student cast and crew members are listed on the handout at your seat (and below). Our thanks to the entire company!

Cast and Crew of the Fall 2020 production of
August Strindberg’s drama *Miss Julie*:

Lauren Avery	McKenna Bleem
Destiny Evans	Rachel Hickle
Aja Lawson	Rosalina Lentini
Aimee Kalb	Brook Massingale
Desiray Meyer	Sydney Munson
Logan Postin	Sienna Rader
Kaitlynn Tutt	Hannah Zimmerman

1.9 Report - Spoon River College Foundation

Mr. Phillip Murphy presented the following report:

- **Financials:** Revenues: \$71,485.04
- The SRC Foundation Board didn’t meet in December as a full board (as is typical), but several committees have met and others will meet before the full board meeting in January.

Mr. Colin Davis presented the following report:

- Our efforts paid off with this year’s #GivingSPOONday campaign. You may recall that we set a goal of 200 gifts by the end of the day on Giving Tuesday, December 1. By dinner time, we had increased that goal to 250 gifts, and we flew past that, too. Some statistics that illustrate how successful this campaign was:
 - 360 gifts
 - \$50,822 when you account for all matching gifts.
 - When you remove those matching gifts, the average gift was \$81
 - Gifts ranged from \$1 to \$10,000
 - All four corners of the United States were represented – gifts from Florida, Vermont, Washington State, and Arizona and 14 states in all
 - Gifts came from 75 different zip codes
 - The #GivingSPOONday campaign has now raised \$159,048 since our first one in 2015.
- Now, while it doesn’t account for *all* the success, I’d be remiss if I didn’t recognize the efforts of the SRC Community Chorus in putting on their virtual concert, *Home for the Holidays*:

Virtually Unplugged. This concert ended up being over 3 hours and 35 minutes in length, but the comments have been rolling in from those who have watched it:

- “It is certainly a legacy piece, a testament to the talent, the devotion, and the love that only a group of likeminded artists can share. Each and every performance let a little light shine into a dark year.”
- “The magnitude of this production and the joy it brings...not to mention its profitability...I went to sleep with a smile on my face.”
- “What support this group has in the community, and the Foundation has, in the community; you guys are amazing. That is just wonderful!”

In addition to President Oldfield, faculty, staff, Foundation Board members, and SRC students, you’ll see cameos from Trustee Cremer and Trustee Schleich and his very comedically-inclined cow. Thank you for taking part, and thank you to each of the over 85 people from across the district and beyond who helped in some fashion. I can attest this took hundreds of hours to complete, but I also attribute a sizable amount of the success of #GivingSPOONday to this concert. Additionally, one donor mentioned that she wished everyone could see it. Well, not everyone can see it, but we’ll be using it as a way to thank our previous donors and add to their holiday season in the next few days before we leave for break.

And all of this is to say nothing about other gifts, or the early results of the annual appeal letter, which has returned over an additional \$12,000 in gifts to this point. Considering that these went out after our #GivingSPOONday appeals, that there is some significant “crossover” between the two campaigns, and that gifts continue to gradually roll in, I’m very pleased with the early returns here. Keep in mind we’ll have two other mailings going out in spring and early summer, too.

The next meeting of the SRC Foundation will take place on January 20 at 7:30 a.m., remotely by video.

Colin also reported that the new sign has been installed along the Canton/Cuba Blacktop. Sherri Rader is in charge of the messaging for the sign. It’s a nice addition to the campus.

Mr. Murphy commented that he thinks putting the chorus and Giving Tuesday together was part of the success, and he thanked John Davis and Carol Davis for their work. He said he was impressed with the technology as well. Mr. Schleich congratulated Colin on the success of Giving Tuesday.

1.10 Report - Board Member Comments

There were no additional Board Member comments.

2.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield thanked our faculty, staff, and everyone for their efforts during the challenging fall semester, and he said he is impressed with their resilience. He also thanked the students for their efforts this semester as well. We found that we are a lot more resilient than we give ourselves credit for. We do more with what we have than what we realized we could have. President Oldfield said he is most proud of the demonstration that SRC is truly committed to our Strategic Plan goal of Student Success, and our employees stepped up to help make that happen and also problem solve. He thanked everyone involved in that success. President Oldfield said as we prepare for the spring semester, we will see a lot of the same scenarios as we had in the fall with some face to face classes, some on line, and some that are a blend. Our faculty have really learned a lot, and the quality will continue to improve as we move forward. We hope to see fewer disruptions this spring semester, especially with a vaccine available.

President Oldfield said our faculty and staff will be eligible for vaccines, and we are working with the county health departments. We are in “1B” for vaccinations. President Oldfield said he is working with Andrea Thomson to get us prepared for when we are notified that the vaccinations are available. We have some logistical issues to work out with the four county health departments, and Andrea is doing a great job getting us ready. President Oldfield said he anticipates that to occur sometime during the middle to end of January, and it is a great opportunity for our employees. We will not require the vaccination, but it will be available. We will also open our doors and parking lots to assist health departments administer the vaccine. Mr. Biernbaum asked how many will take it. President Oldfield said he would anticipate 40 to 45% - and that is a guess.

President Oldfield said DCEO has sent out a request for an advanced manufacturing grant, and they encouraged partnerships. Spoon River College, Black Hawk College, Illinois Central College, Illinois Valley Community College, Lincoln Land, and Carl Sandburg College have been talking about sharing resources. This would be housed at ICC, and preliminarily, we would be a satellite here in Macomb for advanced manufacturing. We don't have any of the details, but the grant is due January 31. When we called DCEO, we were the first group of schools to make that contact, and this is the downstate grant that was released around Thanksgiving. We will be looking at this more, and another meeting is scheduled for Friday of this week. The premise behind it is to look at incumbent workers who could benefit from short term training and move up in an organization and then have openings for newly trained workers. This training could be on the non-credit side, and Brad O'Brien and Velvet Powell would work to organize the training. Mr. Maguire asked if those are pass through Federal funds or State funds. President Oldfield said they are State funds that the Illinois Manufacturing Association lobbied for during the last legislative session, and there is no match requirement.

President Oldfield reminded the Trustees that there was a slight change in CARES Act funds reporting, and we followed the guidance provided to us, and our audit was completed. After the audit, the Federal government made some minor changes which resulted in some slight changes in the audit. We need to collect the audits distributed, and a new audit will be issued. President Oldfield thanked Brett Stoller, Sarah Gray, and Jo Branson for making the adjustments.

- Community Outreach/Macomb Outreach Center – Brad O'Brien presented the following report for Velvet Powell:

Brad acknowledged the Outreach staff and their efforts with the challenges this year. He said they have done an outstanding job and are looking ahead to the Spring semester.

Macomb Outreach Center

Due to the pandemic, we are obviously down in facility rentals. In 2019 we had 301 rentals at the Macomb Outreach Center. In 2020 we have had only 96. We are hopeful to get back to normal in 2021. Brad added that those 96 were hard fought for rentals, and our staff did an outstanding job keeping those in attendance safe.

Office of Community Outreach

Our numbers are obviously down in what we have been able to offer through the Community Outreach Department as well. However, we have been learning new ways to adapt to the change and have had several successes along the way. A few include:

- A program called Blinded by the White: Understanding Racial Injustice went viral with over 3,000 engagements on Facebook. The program was presented by Michael Maher. Close to 50 people participated in this program which was offered in 3 different formats. It was offered face-to-face, online through Google Meet, and was also held privately for a local business. A class on Gender Equality is being planned for Spring.
- A Babysitting Clinic was held in Macomb in partnership with Spoon River College, University of Illinois Extension, and McDonough District Hospital. This program geared

towards ages 8-18 provided basic training to those interested in increasing their babysitting skills.

- A LIVE online Dale Carnegie leadership series featuring four different topics served 34 people who were able to learn and participate from their personal/work computer. This program was held online but offered LIVE through a product called Webex which allows for a very engaging experience. The software has features like chat room, a poll option, “raise your hand feature,” and it even has a feature to put people into breakout sessions. We have had good feedback on these sessions which get the participants more involved in the training. More Dale Carnegie classes are being planned for Spring.
- We are currently working with a client offering for the first time an ALL online training for a local business. We are providing training on Leading Teams, Problem Solving, Decision Making, Time Management, HR Basics, and Communications & Active Listening.
- Also... a few face-to-face offerings were held with limited seating. Topics included classes about technology, finances, food service, and crafting. A four part series on Abraham Lincoln was also a hit.

Brad reported that we have also been working on our Social Media presence this year. We have been posting more frequently on Facebook and have incorporated adding videos which provide free snippets of education. A limited schedule is being planned for Spring, and we are hopeful to get more people back on campus. Brad added that he took the Dale Carnegie series, and he really enjoyed it and recommended it. Community Outreach is going to adopt the Webex platform for future trainings.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of December 2020:

Payroll	\$ 518,545.60
Accounts Payable (excluding Travel)	2,236,575.49
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	8,901.83
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	187.73
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	123,373.06
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	- 0 -
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>187,140.76</u>
TOTAL:	\$3,074,724.47

Following a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Maguire, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month of December 2020:

Payroll	\$ 518,545.60
Accounts Payable (excluding Travel)	2,236,575.49
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	8,901.83
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TOTAL:	\$3,074,724.47

2.3 Institutional Planning

3.0 2020 - 2021 TAX LEVY

- 3.1 Adopt the Resolution Directing Tax Levy and the Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act. These must be filed on or before the last Tuesday in December.

President Oldfield reminded the Board that Brett does this work with the counties, and he is available this evening via Zoom for any questions. President Oldfield said we will have a slight decrease for taxes that will be collected in 2022.

Following a motion by Mr. Cremer, seconded by Mr. Meade, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees adopted the Resolution Directing Tax Levy and the Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act.

4.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Topics for January 2021 Retreat Agenda

President Oldfield said he listed in the Board memo some potential Retreat agenda items. He reviewed some items. He asked for Trustees to please submit your items, and staff will begin to work on presentations. The Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27 at 10 a.m. with Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m. at the Canton Campus in Conference Rooms A and B. Mr. Schleich asked for Trustees to submit topics to President Oldfield. Mr. Murphy asked for an Athletic Update at the Retreat. Mr. Maguire asked if we went before the Capital Development Board in November. Brett said CDB approved Hastings and Chivetta from St. Louis to serve as architects. This is for the Macomb project. President Oldfield said design meetings will start after winter break. Brett will have a facilities update at the Retreat.

- 5.0 CLOSED SESSION - In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2 (c), the Board of Trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for the purposes of 1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; or 2). Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Mr. Schleich said there was not a call for Closed Session.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schleich wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Following a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lyttaker, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, December 16, 2020 adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Kent Schleich, Chair

Date

Mr. Phillip R. Murphy, Secretary