



SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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News Release

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 : BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board approves FY23 budget, discusses new sports options

LIBERAL — The Seward County Community Board of Trustees met Tuesday, Sept. 6, for the regular monthly session, which included the budget hearing for the 2023 budget. The board learned five bids had been submitted to purchase the 930 N. Kansas Ave. property, formerly used as the Colvin Adult Learning Center. The board agreed to schedule a special meeting to review the proposals at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 12 with Richard Farrar of Landmark Realty.

Introductions to board included Jeff Piper, IT department, and Donovan Lambert, one of the prospective buyers of the Colvin Center.

The athletics update from Athletic Director Dan Artamenko included:

- Volleyball season status, 15th in the nation. The team has an upcoming trip to Las Vegas for a showcase. Athletics and the team did a lot of work to make the trip affordable.
- Staffing has been a little bit of a whirlwind, with the HR department meeting a new coach every week. We are almost fully staffed.
- Booster Club membership drive began last week, with public monthly meetings at local restaurants starting Sept. 13, at Vargas. The boosters have their largest membership since 2014 and hopes to increase interactions post-COVID.

Chief Development Officer Kyle Woodrow updated the board about the SCCC Foundation Annual Auction set for Sept. 17.

“Come and bid a lot and bid high,” he said. Woodrow also noted the goal of re-establishing a donor dinner, which lapsed due to the pandemic.

President Brad Bennett led an open discussion with the Board of Trustees about possible new athletic programs.

“Last month, I promised to bring some research back to you. Tonight we’re going to talk a little bit about soccer, cross country and track. We have a duty of care to look at it all,” he said, noting that community members continue to request the addition of soccer to Saints athletics. “One conversation I want to start is the fee breakdown of courses. We are competitive with our fees, but our scholarship amount is among the lowest of our peers,” he said. Bennett plans to look at bond payoff and advantages that might create for scholarships.

“Where our revenue picture lies, we’re 100 students short in the dorms. I’m not sure of other ways to fill the dorms quickly outside of sports,” Bennett said. “Having those heads in the beds is a key.”

Even though soccer is attractive to the community, Bennett noted, it’s more heavy in terms of cost. We need men’s and women’s coaches and assistants. The schools that have cross country also have track. The travel budget and operational budgets are low. Soccer is something we heard about in the community, so we have to weigh in how the community feels.”

Esports offers intriguing possibilities, Bennett said.

“Once we get the fiber project done and our switches go in, we can look at the possibility of Esports. People don’t think of eSports as athletics, but now you see full-time coaches. As you grow your enrollment,

40-50 students, you need a full-time person. At the League of Legends finals — a billion people watched. Barton won the national championship.”

The board agreed to continue thinking of possibilities for the various sports options.

A policy review of the 600 series: Personnel, Due Process, and Nepotism Policy, was approved as presented. Updates were also approved to

602: Release of Information on Employees Policy

603: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy

604: Compensation Policies for Continuing Education Policy

605: Professional Development Grant Policy

606: Personnel - Early Retirement Policy

607: Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens Policy

608: Residency Requirements for All Senior Level Administrators Policy

610: Constitution of Seward County Community College Professional Employee Association Policy

611: Policy of Personnel Evaluation

612: Sabbatical Leave Policy

614: Employment/Hiring Practices Policy

President Bennett requested permission to to purchase fleet cars if he finds them online, not to exceed \$55,000. Supply chain issues are complicating the process, and the campus fleet includes cars with more than 150,000 miles on the odometer. The board approved the request.

The Respiratory Therapy program is requesting mechanical ventilators to match the demand of the ever-evolving technology within the healthcare field. Two of the ventilators that the program currently has are no longer in use in the clinical setting, as they have been phased out and replaced by newer technology. Ventilators 2 and 3 will expose the students to the current technology that has replaced these in the clinical setting. Ventilator 1 has a specific mode that students see in the clinical setting but do not have access to with the current program ventilators and it has some of the latest ventilation technology options. Adding the requested ventilators to the laboratory component of the Respiratory Therapy program curriculum will ensure that graduates are well prepared to transition into the workforce.

The board approved the bid from General Biomedical Service, Inc for the Respiratory Therapy ventilators at a price of \$75,795.00. There will be freight cost added to this bid total. The estimation for freight is \$500.00 per ventilator (\$1,500). The entire purchase would be grant funded through the Paterson Family Foundation.

The board wrapped up the evening with reports from the executive team:

Chief Information Officer Louie Lemert

- We are still waiting the delivery of our large UPS's. The electrical upgrade is almost complete and we should be ready to install when the equipment arrives.
 - Amount Approved: \$289,862; Spent To Date: \$268,907.23
- Southwest Kansas Online plans to complete the fiber upgrade before fall semester begins.
 - Approved: \$208,504; Spent To Date: No bills have been submitted.
- Switches continue to be delayed as the college waits for a firm date of delivery. Could be as early as October or as late as the spring, maybe.
 - Approved: \$557,030.10; Spent to Date: \$89,894

Vice President of Student Services Celeste Donovan

- The Department of Health donated over 500 COVID tests for our students, faculty, and staff to have access to this year. A supply has been sent out to student housing, the athletic department and training room.

- The At-risk committee has started regularly meeting this semester to provide support to students who are struggling. We continue to look at ways to utilize our community partnerships to access resources for our students.
- In moving forward with a new structure for Residence Life & Safety many things have taken place:
 - Additional “on-call” staff have been added to the housing staff for additional coverage, evening duty and staff presence in the residence halls. We are supplementing the cost with and exchange of room and board.
 - A meeting took place with the Chief of Police, Director of Residence Life & Safety, and VP Donovan last week. We discussed ways to partner this year to create a positive working relationship with the police department, our staff, and students at SCCC. It was a very positive meeting. We plan to hold a meeting each semester to keep the lines of communications open.
 - Move-in went smoothly this year and there were a lot of positive feedback around bringing some students in early. A meeting was held to look at the positive and negative sides of bringing students back early. The information will be shared with the academic side of the house when we prepare the 2023/2024 academic calendar.
 - The transition of moving the Security staff over to the Residence Life area will occur in October, once the Clery Report is completed.
- Ruth Rivera has taken on the role of coordinating SCCC’s tutoring services this year. She is new to SCCC and will also be the Transfer Specialist. She has been advertising the tutor schedule to faculty, staff, and students for access.
- Soon we will see a different look in the Student Success Center with updated and modern furniture for students to enjoy. The furniture has been shipped so hopefully by mid-September we should see the updated center.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Luke Dowell

- Fall classes started August 15, thanks to great effort by those all across campus to have facilities, technology, and activities ready as students returned. Many faculty and staff have pitched in to teach classes left open due to unfilled positions or illness.
- KBOR Initiatives continue to drive committee work.
 - Corequisite Remediation – KBOR is pushing to move all colleges and universities toward using corequisite remediation for English and Math general education requirements. Students who do not place into the college level course would be allowed to enroll in that course along with additional credit hours where they are given support and review to help them be successful in the college level course. SCCC already has courses designed in this way, but we would need to transition to where we have no stand-alone remedial courses. We will research how best to make this transition.
 - Math Pathways – College Algebra is the primary math requirement for most bachelor’s degrees across the state. It is designed to prepare students for Calculus, which is not required by most degrees. Math Pathways would develop alternative math courses that could replace College Algebra as the general education requirement for degrees that do not require Calculus. System wide transfer courses that can serve as alternatives have already been approved, we will need to approve those courses on our campus if needed and determine how teaching loads will be affected when we will not need as many sections of College Algebra.

- Multiple Measures of Placement – This represents a shift from only using test scores to place students in college courses. SCCC already initiated multiple measures for placement in 2020 as a result of Covid restrictions on students being able to test. The Academic Affairs Council will be looking at data to determine the effectiveness of our measures and also review whether our processes meet the new expectations of the Board of Regents.
- Updated Degree Maps to Include System Wide General Education – KBOR voted to adopt and statewide general education system that should take effect in August of 2024, if not sooner. Having degree maps for all degrees was a recommendation strengthen advising in order to help improve success and degree completion across all colleges. We currently have these for our programs, we will work to improve them and include the new general education requirements.
- Project-Based Performance Funding – Starting in Fall 2024, funding would be based on our college’s completion of the above projects. We will be looking into the details of how this will work over the next year. We will still use the current Performance Agreements and metric for this year and next.

Vice President of Finance & Operation Dennis Sander

- The Saints Bookstore is off to a great start this Fall semester. The new point of sale is up and running with IT working on integrations with Banner. We are seeing a steadily increasing trend toward digital textbooks. This year’s focus will be on finding the sweet spot for apparel inventory in the store and increasing our online presence with a new website provider.
- Dean of Finance Madalen Day has created a Statement of net position, revenues and expenses. We will start having complete financial statements on a monthly basis. Spent funds, encumbered funds.

Trustee Keeley Moree

The Associate of Community College Trustees conference provided great training. I learned more about the importance of the voice of the board chair, speaking with a unified voice through the chair, speak well publicly , criticize privately. Our role as advocates, not only locally but with legislators Being able to speak to lawmakers to quickly and concisely have a consistent message. Overall it was a great conference.

President Brad Bennett:

- We plan to replace the library carpet over fall break.
- There’s a shortage of red paint nationwide, which has affected the completion of some of our concrete work on campus.
- Community conference rooms in the Student Union will be refreshed. Roger and I are working on a master plan to have every square foot of campus on a spreadsheet, recording its capacity, paint, carpet, and when it is slated for updates.
- We have evaluated and organized our COVID funds. Air conditioning in the gymnasium is out because of high prices. Bathroom remodels, exterior signage on buildings and possibly some furniture replacement on campus are under consideration. We are making sure we use the dollars in the best possible way.

The Board meeting closed with adoption of the FY23 Budget and Resolution No. 09062022 to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate of 33.994 mils by the Seward County Clerk. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

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