



SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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News Release

OCTOBER 3, 2022 : BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board handles short agenda with five-member quorum

LIBERAL — The Seward County Community College Board of Trustees met Oct. 3 for the regular monthly session. Trustees John Engel and Casey Mein were absent. The group handled a light agenda, with a personnel report of only one item, the resignation of Jim Hyder as instructional designer following the completion of the National Science Foundation grant. President Brad Bennett told the board filling the job posting will be a high priority as the need for online class delivery increases.

Bennett requested — and received — board approval to act on behalf of SCCC in contract negotiations for the third iteration of the Western Kansas Community College Virtual Education Consortium, also known as EduKan.

The board approved the annual review of Board Policy Manual Series 400: Student Services, specifically policies: 412: In-district Tuitions Grants, 413: Student Tuition Appeal, 418: Academic Probation Dismissal and Reinstatement, and 419: Refund of Tuition and Fees, as presented. Minor changes, primarily grammatical and formatting, were approved for policies 411:GED Testing, 414:Student Residency,415:Free Speech and Peaceful Assembly, 416:Student Code of Conduct, and 417:Constitution of the Student Government Association, as presented.

In a follow-up to the SCCC Foundation Party Auction, the board approved the naming of the circle drive as requested by Jo Ann Sharp and according to Board Policy No. 113. The board also approved naming of the Showcase Theater as requested by Jesus A. Manriquez and according to Board Policy No. 113. The Student Union will be re-carpeted in the next month following approval of the low bid from Brown's Furniture for \$16,619.56.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel. Action taken following executive session followed the recommendation from administration that SCCC pay the estate of Frances Brown a \$63,391 lump sum for her unexpired term of contract.

The board received several Executive Reports:

Chief Information Officer Louie Lemert reported that UPSes and Switches are still on order as part of the campus IT infrastructure update. He estimates he will be able to present a full review in November or December.

Vice President Celeste Donovan augmented her written report with comments about the semester. Student athletes helped a lot at the Liberal Area Chamber of Commerce Duck Festival, and people in the community appreciated it. As part of the Title IX restructuring process, Donovan, Student Housing and Safety Director Kit Hernandez, and Human Resources Director Charlotte Peterson will attend a training seminar in the next two weeks.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Luke Dowell reviewed goals and projects on campus, including many opportunities to bring people back to campus. "I'm proud of how everyone is working to get back to the pre-COVID approach," he noted, adding that in-person instruction is preferred by many students. In regard to the personnel report, he said the Allied Health division is "very happy to have a nursing instructor added so that we are closer to full staff. We have enough clinical adjuncts we are able to cover." With the Business Administrative Technology position that has been open for two years, "we're excited to have someone there. She really is excited about growing the program."

Vice President of Finance and Operations Dennis Sander was assisted by Dean of Finance Madalen Day, who distributed budget reports. Trustee Dustin Ormiston had questions about the truck driving

program, which showed a negative balance. State appropriations come twice a year, “and we just received it yesterday,” Day said.

President Brad Bennett distributed an early draft of the Strategic Plan, which is still being adjusted. He requested trustees give feedback and suggestions. “We will have a final strategic plan at the November meeting. 350 people were involved in it, and we’re really proud of the approach that gathered so much input from the community,” he said.

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