



SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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NEWS RELEASE

APRIL 4, 2023 | BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board gives thumbs-up to renovations in Student Housing Center

LIBERAL, Kan. — The Seward County Community College Board of Trustees met April 4, 2023, following the student-board dinner. Board chair Ron Oliver thanked the board/president executive assistant Karla Morales Escarcega “for putting it together, it’s always the highlight of the year.”

Trustee Kay Burtzloff thanked the board for sending her to attend the Higher Learning Commission annual convention.

“It was a great learning experience,” she said. “One of the takeaways I had was when the president of HLC advised us all to ‘take care of your college president.’ I’m really glad we have Brad,” she said.

Bennett added that HLC reminded him to be aware of the political climate around higher ed right now.

“There are voices Impinging on academic freedom and probably this is one of the most contentious political climates higher ed has had to contend with,” he said. “We have our accreditation coming up and it’s always good to remember HLC is interested in working with you, not using it as a punitive measure.”

The board approved the personnel report, which included the hiring of CDL instructor Carl Law. Resignations included IT Helpdesk Manager Jeff Piper and Assistant Athletic Director for Communications Kendall Hernandez.

“Kenny is heading to Colby Community College to take on the role of Athletic Director,” said Pres. Brad Bennett. “We are excited for him to take that next step in his career and wish him nothing but the best.”

The Board acknowledged their annual review, and approved continuation of Board Policy Manual Series 400: Student Services, specifically policies 420: Student Travel Policy, 421: Student Complaint and Grievance Procedure Policy, 422: Record of Student Complaint Policy, 423: Policy on Student Records in Accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA Policy), 424: Student ID Numbers Policy, 425: Background Check for Employees and Students Involved in Internship and Clinical Experiences Policy, 426: Policy of Student Insurance Coverage, and 427: Missing Student Notification Policy, as presented, with no updates. Policy 428: Tuberculosis Prevention Plan was updated with a minor change and approved.

New Program Proposal – Maintenance Technician Cert A

Vice President of Academic Affairs Luke Dowell and Dean of Industrial Technology Dr. Amber Jones presented information regarding a new program geared toward local industry needs. The Maintenance Technician program will prepare students for entry-level employment in various industries in this region primarily in the meat packing industry, but also other occupations such as general maintenance, facilities technician, maintenance and repair technology, and general maintenance engineer. This custom-built program will fit the entry-level employment needs of employers in the region.

Administration approved the maintenance technician certificate A, a 17 credit program.

Athletic Director Dan Artamenko submitted a full update of each of the athletic programs:

Volleyball – They began their spring season last week, will have up to 4 events this semester. Coach Wilson has interviewed assistants and should have a decision soon.

Men's Basketball – The program has been recruiting hard, having multiple visits on campus, including individuals from state-champion Hugoton as well as the Gatorade Player of the Year from Colorado, and are also doing recruiting on the assistant coach position.

Women's Basketball – The search is coming close to being completed for the head position. Assistant Coach Matt Creamer has been recruiting for Seward County over the last month.

Baseball – In the middle of conference play, currently .500 in conference play. The Saints team is one of the best offensive teams in the conference.

Softball – Went on a nice winning streak to get into the top half of the conference and needs to keep players healthy for the end of the year.

Tennis – Is fighting hard despite being low on numbers. Individuals are highly ranked nationally.

Soccer Programs – The schedule is near competition, uniform and supplies are ordered. Assistant Coach hires should be completed shortly as well. Forty-four men are committed\

Esports – A lot of equipment has been ordered and the space is coming together. A lot of excitement for the program!

The student athlete banquet is set for April 28, with the golf tournament to follow April 29.

Chief Development Officer Kyle D. Woodrow reported that flooring has been installed in restrooms of the Sharp Family Champions Center Phase 2. The SCCC Day of Giving moved to April 27, 2023, so as not to coincide with Ag Week. The Foundation's Annual Meeting went well – despite down markets, there was positive growth in program support and support of other college activities. In the past academic year, SCCC Foundation provided over \$1.6 million in support to college, students, and activities.

In preparation for the SCCC eSports team, the college asked the board to approve spending up to \$68,053 for competition units. Below are the costs and numbers.

1. \$43,000 for the purchase of 11 Dell Alienware competition class esports computers.
2. \$14,500 for the purchase of 5 Dell Alienware moderate class esports computers.
3. \$7,315 for the purchase of 11 ASUS XG27AQM Gaming Monitor
4. \$1,638 for the purchase of 5 ASUS VG27AQ Gaming Monitor
5. \$1,600 for shipping and handling.

The board approved the purchase.

Housing Software

Seward County Community College currently manages its Housing Department through a very manual process that requires multiple software systems from Microsoft Office (mass emails, application, and contract creation), Adobe (converting documents to fillable options), SignNow (allows for online submission of applications), and finally, Ellucian Banner (to create housing assignments and input individual students each semester to apply charges and manage addresses). Each process requires we complete data entry from one system to the next taking numerous hours of staff time, increases the risks for errors, and leaves student data vulnerable.

By streamlining these processes under a housing software, we are not only able to simplify steps for our students but simplify the practices for staff across multiple departments. Housing software will allow us to retain pertinent data year

to year regardless of turnover, increase our efficiency, and work towards better student retention through improved student tracking.

Administration recommended accepting the bid from eRezLife for the housing management software at a price of \$16,466.00.

The board voted unanimously to purchase eRezLife.

Transit Van

The board approved the purchase of an additional vehicle for the college fleet: a 2023 Ford Transit 15 Passenger Van, from Foss Motor Company of Liberal, Kansas, for \$50,110.00. No other vendors responded to the request for bids.

Fresh Paint for Dorms

The Administration has identified the Student Living Center as a priority from the deferred and ongoing maintenance list and was sent out for quotes. We requested cost for painting one suite (2 dorm rooms and 1 bathroom), cost per hallway, cost per stairwell, and painting door frames. The request for quotes were sent out to French Construction, Touch of Class Painting, and B & G Services. Quotes were received from French Construction and Touch of Class Painting. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$120,000.00 which will include 42 sets of rooms, 3 hallways, 4 stairwells, a game room, and 2 computer labs. Results of the bid:

French Construction, Liberal, KS..... \$8,750.00 per set + Hallways and entryways

Touch of Class Painting, Liberal, KS.....\$8,600.00 per set + Hallways and entryways

French Construction & Touch of Class have agreed to work together for the cost of \$8,600.00

The Board accepted the bid from Touch of Class Painting and French Construction for the SLC painting at the price of \$100,275, as presented.

Software Subscription management

The Business Office has been looking into software solutions for the implementation of GASB 96 standards. The college has around 48 subscription-based information technology arrangements that are going to need to be capitalized as intangible assets in the FY23 Financial Statements. This software will help calculate any adjustments to expenses and intangible assets and help manage the subscriptions used by the college. This will help us know that we are not doubling up on any services and where we can save as a college. As a member of the National Cooperative Purchasing Agency (NCPA), they released a competitive bid for debt and lease management software that was awarded to DebtBook.

The board voted unanimously to award the bid to DebtBook for \$15,000.

In their reports to the board, the executive team submitted the following:

Chief Information Officer Louie Lemert

General Departmental Projects:

- Switches – configuring and installing.
- UPS's – installation will be completed as we replace the switches.
- Fiber Upgrade – SWKO is waiting for components to become available.
- Wireless Controllers – complete.
- Firewall Installation – reviewing current configurations and developing an implementation plan.
- Windows Deployment Services (WDS) – testing continues.
- Phone System – testing continues.

- ERP Contract Negotiations – continue to wait for numbers.
- Multi-Factor Authentication – waiting for web based single sign on to be completed.

Website: The website replacement has been broken down into three segments:

- Page and login migration
- Departmental need assessment and documentation
- Graphical User Interface (GUI) design and implementation

We are in the initial stage of the process. The migration of pages and component parts has occurred. The developer is working on converting the HTML code to WordPress objects, building WordPress logic for self-administration, and creating connections to all single sign on resources.

Vice President of Student Services Celeste Donovan

- We will be conducting interviews for the Executive Director of Enrollment this month. We are still gathering applications for the additional recruiting coordinator. Hopefully, we will have a good pool to start interviewing for that position, as well.

- We have started to receive applications for the Mental Health Counselor position. Once selected, this position will be in place for fall 2023.

- Kit Hernandez and Dan Artamenko attended a statewide Title IX collaboration meeting this month. It included many of the Title IX Coordinators from around the state. They brought back some good information and shared it with the rest of our Title IX Team for further discussion.

- President Bennett, Luke Dowell, Celeste Donovan, Annette Hackbarth-Onson, Charlotte Peterson, Amber Jones and Marvin Chance will be participating in the PTK Academic All-American celebration this month with SCCC students and their families. This is a wonderful event in which to celebrate the high academic achievements of our students.

- Enrollment for summer and fall 2023 has begun. There have been some issues with the web site conversion, but hopefully we can continue to move forward with the progress.

- We are continuing the road trips to promote our new high school scholarships for fall 2023. There has been a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm from area schools about this new initiative. I believe it was a good decision in filling our mission of the college.

- The Admissions office sponsored a “Sr. Day” in March for area high schools. There were over 220 students in attendance. I did a special session for HS Counselors and parents that were in attendance.

- SCCC participated in the annual Chamber Bash on April 1. While our table didn’t win any prizes, it was well represented. The college gave out T-shirts, pens, and a few other promotional items.

- The HALO Club will be assisting with a pre-enrollment event at Bright Start on April 4. The HALO Club has again had a good year of staying engaged with community events.

- We had a really exciting event on campus — senior day, two different programs of study to learn about, games, gym, lunch, signup for All Saints Day. They didn’t just leave and go their cars, they signed up. We’re almost full for three of them.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Luke Dowell

- Higher Learning Commission Conference: Seven individuals attended the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference in Chicago March 24 – 28. We were able to gain ideas in how other colleges are addressing issues

we are addressing, get updates that will help us with our accreditation process, and network with others to build connections around the region.

- Accreditation Update: Our Institution update was completed and submitted March 23. Thank you to Vice President of Academic Affairs Madalyn Day, Institutional Research and Data Analyst Teresa Wehmeier, and Director of Human Resources Charlotte Peterson for their work in getting this done early.

- Graduate Assessment: Students graduating this spring and summer will be taking graduate assessments April 6th. There will be no classes during the day to allow students to complete these assessments. The Assessment Committee will meet in the morning to dive deeper into assessment data and processes, while all faculty and staff involved in assessment will meet in the afternoon to review data, discuss progress on improving critical reading, and update program mission statements.

Vice President of Finance Affairs Madalen Day

- New giftable ideas have been arriving daily and just in time for graduation. Regalia sales will be open to the students at the beginning of April.

- The business department has been working on getting students situated for the semester. Accounts Receivable is still working their way through the write off list and they are working with other departments to prepare for the saints ahead scholarship.

- Accounts payable is working on collecting contracts for all of our software subscriptions to get us ready for this years audit. We have been working through our annual filings and quarterly grant filings. We are excited to get some grants cleaned up before the end of the year.

- We are looking into a payment option for international students through Convera at no cost to the college. HEERF annual report is completed for 2022 and winter IPEDS report has been completed as well.

- Maddie learned a lot at HLC conference about our accreditation. SCCC is in a great place to be prepared for any state regulations concerning holds on student accounts. We are also trying to be proactive with some new regulations coming down, such as the Clery act.

President Brad Bennett

- Thanked team members who gave up their weekend to attend HLC Conference and stay current on the national policies and atmosphere that affect SCCC

- Summer improvements continue to shorten the deferred maintenance projects. This room (SU 214 E/W) will get new carpet. This is a highly utilized room and we need to make it look the best we can.

- We're still waiting on the glass door for the gym to arrive.

- Architect One is completing plans for the One Stop Shop/ Hobble entrance, bring everyone together.

- We are cleaning out the old dorms to renovate that space for mental health and student health services. I was in there last week. There was a lot of stuff. Scott from AO got us a quick mockup to file for a grant.

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