

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 15, 2022**

Members present: Mary Campbell, Joshua Crockett, Jeff Flessner (via zoom), Janet Hood, Cecelia Long, Becky Ropp, Tom Whitt, Katie Boland (via zoom)

Members absent: none

Others present: Keith Cornille, Rick Pearce, Sarah Diel-Hunt, Kelli Hill, Letisha Trepac (via zoom), Terrance Bond, Scott Bross, Johnna Darragh-Ernst, Chris Downing, Steve Fast, Barb Leathers, Sharon McDonald, Amy Pawlik, Sarah Tipton, Michael Lundeen and Loren Johnson of Legat Architects, Laura Mai

Chair Jeff Flessner called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:00pm. Roll call was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Ms. Janet Hood moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Becky Ropp seconded. A voice vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Keith Cornille reported. The McCauley Art Gallery will host an exhibit by Rashod Taylor with the opening on March 12. Mr. Taylor is a photographer and artist from this area whose photos are featured in this month's edition of the National Geographic. The Foundation Board postponed a get-together with the Board this week until April 28.

Agriculture Complex Final Design Review

Michael Lundeen and Loren Johnson of Legat Architects reported on the final designs for the Ag Complex. The schedule is planned as follows: Legat requests bids from general contractors the week of March 11 with bids to be received April 6, the Board takes action in April or May, construction finishes September 2023, and classes start in January 2024.

The project has a \$20 million cost estimates budget and is approximately 5% over budget. As prices escalated in the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing trades, efforts are underway to verify savings through the value engineering process. The College received a \$2 million grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) for the sustainable features on the project.

Mr. Loren Johnson described the design aspect of the interior finishes and exterior aspects. He noted that some value engineering items were downgraded for savings in both the interior and exterior designs. Mr. Lundeen reviewed the next steps including completing the QAQC reviews this week, prepare the drawings for bid, resubmit permits to the Town of Normal, incorporate the ICECF grant into the documents, provide various reports, and coordinate donor recognition locations.

Mr. Lundeen responded to questions from the Board on: flooring materials and savings, space between lights and test plots, major areas to achieve savings without sacrificing quality—Mr. Lundeen gave an example but noted that they are running out of value engineering ideas, and Dr. Cornille noted the bids may result in potential savings and the importance of looking toward the future. Net zero energy was described as a building that produces as much energy as it uses over a 12-month period—excess energy goes into the electrical grid and can be pulled out when needed.

College Spotlight: Early Childhood Education

Rick Pearce, Provost and VP, Academic Affairs, introduced Johnna Darragh-Ernst, Faculty, Early Childhood Education. Dr. Darragh-Ernst is a leading expert on the education of early childhood educators, an author in that field, and highly respected for her work. She is also helping to lead a statewide effort for prior learning credit for people who are working in the field, competency-based education, and the modularization of the curriculum that aligns the curriculum with statewide certifications so students in the program may stack the credentials.

Dr. Darragh-Ernst reported the Early Childhood Education program is about outcomes and having intentionally designed pathways to insure learners have knowledge, skills and intellectual dispositions to support the diversity of children and families in the Heartland community. Heartland has a highly qualified adjunct faculty and strong pathways from high school to university partners. Since 2010, Heartland benefited from \$1.25 million in grant funding to support leadership and competency development.

She noted there is a teacher shortage nationwide, and the IBHE strategic plan calls for solutions including a focus on upskilling educators in the early childhood workforce. The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) is responding to the challenges.

Board Policy Manual

Dr. Cornille reported that the Board and College leadership completed an update of the Board Policy Manual to provide clarity and separation between Board policy and administrative standards or procedures. Legal counsel made suggested recommendations reflective of language clarification and consistency to provide changes of form over substance. These suggestions will be presented in “red line” for action later in the meeting.

Cabinet Reports

Rick Pearce, Provost and VP, Academic Affairs, distributed cards featuring the current Art Gallery exhibit of 50 Iranian female artists, whose work would have been censored in their country.

Sarah Diel-Hunt, VP Enrollment and Student Services, reported on Census Day (10th Day) enrollment noting headcount is up 13.4% and credit hours are up 11.7%, and if College NOW dual credit enrollment is excluded, headcount is up 2.8% and credit hours are up 4.4%. For non-College NOW enrollment, new students increased over 20% and new minority students increased over 40%. The re-enrollment rate for students continuing to the Spring term was 75.4% (the second highest Fall re-enrollment over the last 5 years). The *unofficial* statewide trend for 21 community colleges has only 4 up in credit hours and 6 up in headcount.

Amy Pawlik, Associate VP, Enrollment and Student Services, reported the College received over \$41,000 from the Strength and Grow Child Care Grant through the American Rescue Plan Act. Funds will be used to provide modest stipends for Child Development Lab employees and to create new programming to develop staff professional and to support the children and families e.g., more time for the cook to develop and prepare free family meals for student-parents.

Kelli Hill, VP, External Relations, reported the Marketing team is one of three finalists for a Paragon award for the podcast Steve Fast, Assistant to the President, Public Information and Communication, made with Richard Caspar (Outstanding Alum). The National Council on Marketing and Public Relations is a professional association for two-year institutions.

Ms. Hill displayed wall graphics designed by Anjanel Folkens, Director, Creative Design Services, from a DCEO grant for the Challenger Learning Center (CLC) Discovery Lab.

Ms. Hill reported the Challenger Nationals received a \$1 million grant from Blue Origins Club for the Future, which was spread across Challenger Learning Centers (CLC) across the nation. Heartland's CLC received \$6,000 to support Unit 5 and District 87 junior high schools for 60 students from each school to attend a CLC mission. The first visit is from Evans Jr. High with an ESL cohort.

Ms. Hill reported the Continuing Education Fall 2021 enrollment and revenue are 90% of Fall 2019 (pre-COVID). Spring semester open enrollment courses (not Customized Training or CLC) have 550 registrants for this winter, which is more than double this time in 2021 and it is 15% higher than this time in 2020—this is the first institutional indicator that surpasses pre-COVID enrollment numbers.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Committee

Janet Hood, Finance Committee Chair, reported the Finance Committee continues to be focused and engaged on the development of next year's operating budget. The Committee ran through several scenarios with College staff to determine an appropriate recommendation for the tuition and fee rates for next academic year that meets the needs of the College to cover operating costs while maintaining student affordability. The Committee supports the tuition and fee recommendation that will be presented to the Board this evening.

Finance and Administration

Audit Findings FY21: Letisha Trepac, VP, Finance and Administration, reported the FY21 Audit is now completed, and there were no changes since the auditors presented in November.

Tuition and Fees: Ms. Trepac reported. Tuition and fees are approximately 40% of the FY22 operating budget, which also supports Student Life and Student Engagement. Historically, Heartland's tuition and fees stay in range of peer community colleges, and since 2018 has maintained a slightly above average rate through modest increases. Heartland is ranked 8th in FY22 for community colleges and compares favorably in terms of affordability to local higher educational institutions.

Tuition supports the operating budget and cost of instruction; fees support student activities, program development and facility enhancement; neither support large scale capital projects e.g., the Ag Complex. The operating budget may subsidize fee areas when necessary, but fees may not subsidize college operations. The College has been subsidizing the Student Life account, and the proposed fee increase starts to correct that deficit. If the FY23 budget remains level with student costs, staff would project the existing deficit in the Student Life account to be further exacerbated, which is why they are recommending a \$2 increase to the Student Life fee. Staff's proposed \$3 increase in tuition projects revenues to be level with currently projected expenditures. The Student Government Association proposed the same \$5 total increase but with a larger

increase to the Student Life Fee than to Tuition.

When asked about options to increasing tuition while meeting Student Life needs, Ms. Trepac noted that support for Student Life will continue and staff explore expenditure reductions, but the main reason for the existing deficit is the addition of athletic programs prior a fee to adjustment to support the programs. In FY18, the annual cost was \$4,440 for 15 hours per semester at \$148 tuition and fees with no aid or assistance compared to FY22 at \$5,070. The difference between a \$3 versus \$2 increase to the Student Life Fee is roughly \$90,000.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

ICCTA

Mr. Tom Whitt reported the governor's budget includes an increase request of 5% for community college funding plus additional dollars for other items; the ICCTA meets in March in East Peoria.

ACCT and AACC National Legislative Summit Recap

Mr. Whitt reported he and Trustees Crockett and Long and President Cornille attended the National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. Activities included in-person meetings with Representatives LaHood and Davis and a discussion on the need for the \$4.2 million grant for the Advanced Manufacturing Technical Training Academy.

Mr. Joshua Crockett noted that discussions centered on college affordability as a possible barrier to students, maintaining quality and employee compensation while keeping tuition and fees low. He mentioned a task force to explore the causes of high textbook costs. Ms. Cecelia Long appreciated the opportunity to hear from other community colleges across using work ready programs. She had the opportunity to attend a SNAP employment benefit training workshop.

ICCTA East Central Region Meeting

Ms. Janet Hood noted invitations were emailed for the March 25 ICCTA East Central Region luncheon, which will be hosted at Heartland. Mr. Jee Hang Lee, President and CEO of ACCT, will present on Bridging K-12 to College.

HCC Board and Foundation Board Gathering

Chair Flessner noted the importance of meeting with the Foundation Board members, who do a good job for the College. This function was postponed until April 28.

Student Trustee

Ms. Katie Boland reported the Student Senate finished a 3-part discussion with College leadership on tuition and budget plans for AY23, and 9 student leaders voted on the proposal to increase tuition and fees. Activities during the Week of Welcome include a student group that helped raise awareness and money for homeless people in the community, opportunities for students to participate with the Global Café, a Black History Month field trip, and a Valentine's Day event. Emerging Leaders (in its fourth semester) helps students develop their own leadership philosophy.

Board Community Outreach

Mr. Crockett provided a handout on ideas for the Board to participate in community outreach including: visit elected-official partners across the district, hold a joint board meeting with K-12 school board partners, and attend community-sponsored events. They are working with Dr. Cornille on a Board presentation. Ms. Cecelia Long noted that she sees community engagement as meeting the needs of the people who voted for her and potential Heartland students at all three campuses.

Dr. Cornille noted he and Terrance Bond, Assistant to the President, Institutional Effectiveness, and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, were asked to attend the Bloomington City Council on February 28 to speak on the Workforce Equity Initiative grant and invited a trustee or two to participate.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Chair Flessner noted the Calendar is available. Dr. Cornille noted the Illinois Community College Board meets March 25 at Heartland and invited a trustee to join him in welcoming them.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Becky Ropp moved to enter into closed session at 7:56pm to consider collective negotiating matters. Mr. Tom Whitt seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Chair Flessner reconvened the regular meeting at 8:39pm.

CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Becky Ropp moved to approve the ratification of bills paid during January 2022, the minutes of the regular Board meeting January 18, 2022, and travel expenditures by members of the Board of Trustees and travel expenditures that exceed maximum reimbursable rates by Heartland Community College employees submitted since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Tom Whitt seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

NON-PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS

Board Policy Manual 2nd Reading Sections 1.0 Through 8.0

Mr. Joshua Crockett moved to approve Board Policies 1.0 Legal Authority and Responsibilities, 2.0 Bylaws, 3.0 General Administration and Operations, 4.0 Educational Programs, 5.0 Students, 6.0 Personnel, 7.0 Business, 8.0 Campus and Community as presented. Ms. Janet Hood seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Tuition and Fees Recommendation FY2023 (AY2022-2023)

Ms. Janet Hood moved to establish the Heartland Community College per credit hour tuition and universal fees rate at a total of \$174.00 per credit hour effective with the summer term of FY2023, as follows: Tuition \$161.00, Student Life Fee \$11.00, Program Development and Facilities Enhancement Fee \$2.00. Ms. Becky Ropp seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS

Monthly Personnel Actions

Mr. Joshua Crockett moved to approve the monthly personnel actions as presented. Mr. Tom Whitt seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Tenure Recommendation

Mr. Tom Whitt moved to grant tenure to the following faculty members effective with the Fall 2022 semester:

Aaron Metcalf; Career and Technical Education; Welding

Mark Harper; Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; Humanities and Film

Miranda Buss; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math & Business; Agriculture

Janet Beach Davis; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math & Business; Earth Science.

Ms. Janet Hood seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Semi-Annual Closed Session Minutes and Recordings August-December 2021

Ms. Becky Ropp moved to approve and release the closed session minutes of the following Board meetings (except for portions of such minutes that have been redacted for the reason that the need to maintain confidentiality continues to exist), and to extend non-disclosure of the recordings of the closed session portions of the Board meetings set forth below for the reason that the need to maintain confidentiality continues to exist, and to authorize and direct the Board Secretary to destroy such recordings after 18 months on or after the identified dates:

Regular Board meeting of October 19, 2021; authorized destruction April 19, 2023

Regular Board meeting of December 14, 2021; authorized destruction June 14, 2023

There were no closed sessions on the following dates: Regular Board meeting of August 17, 2021; Special Board meeting of September 7, 2021; Regular Board meeting of September 21, 2021; Regular Board meeting of November 16, 2021; Mr. Tom Whitt seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Janet Hood moved to adjourn. Mr. Joshua Crockett seconded. Motion was approved with a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Jeff Flessner, Chair

Becky Ropp, Secretary

*Note: The student vote is advisory only