



HEARTLAND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 19, 2022

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

Members absent: none

Others present: Keith Cornille, Rick Pearce, Sarah Diel-Hunt (via zoom), Kelli Hill (via zoom), Letisha Trepac, Terrance Bond, Scott Bross, Nikki Burmann, Miranda Buss, Lauren Denofrio, Chris Downing, Steve Fast, Barb Leathers, Sharon McDonald, Jason Nelson, Jennifer Pauken, Christina Prestin-Beard, Traci Van Prooyen (via zoom), Josh Woods; students: Juniper Adams and parents Liz and Tom Adams, Madelyn Crutcher, Jacob Janssen, Mia Kaufman, Grace Sands, Veronica Swanson; Justin Knorr, Michael Lundeen-Legat Architects, Robyn Walters and Hallie Chadwick, Philip Walker, Connor Wood-Pantagraph, Laura Mai

Chair Jeff Flessner called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Heartland Community College to order at 6:00pm at Heartland Community College in Normal. The roll call was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Seating of Student Trustee and Oath of Office

Chair Flessner administered the Oath of Office to Rodney Billerbeck.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Keith Cornille welcomed Student Trustee Rodney Billerbeck to the Board and thanked outgoing Student Government Association leaders Mia Kaufman, Jacob Janssen, and Madelyn Crutcher for their leadership over the past year. In May, several individuals and organizations will be recognized for their generous gifts for the Ag Complex.

Lincoln College will be closing following the spring 2022 term. Staff are in contact with President Gerlach and his staff to assist in the transition and offer support. Heartland has a "teach out" agreement with Lincoln to help interested students in Lincoln's associate degree programs to complete their associate degrees at Heartland.

Staff is seeking approval on items including bids a testing center in the Workforce Development Center; the current testing location will be used as surge space during the construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Center in the Student Commons Building.

College Spotlight: Outstanding Faculty Awards

Rick Pearce, Provost/VP, Academic Affairs, introduced Dr. Nicola Burrmann, HCC Outstanding Full-Time Faculty awardee and nominee for the ICCTA Outstanding Full-time Faculty award; Chair Flessner presented a plaque. Outstanding Part-time Faculty member, Gena Leffers, was unable to attend due to her teaching schedule. Students nominate the faculty for these awards, and Dr. Burrmann's students praised her for always having the students' best interests at heart.

Student Success Spotlight: Student Honors and Recognition

Dr. Pearce noted the All-Illinois Academic Team recognizes high achieving college students. This year's team members (who are also nominated for inclusion in the All-USA Academic Team) are Caleb Drane, Allyson Howell, and Lindsey Mullen.

Dr. Pearce introduced Mia Kaufman and Veronica Swanson who received top honors for the Students' Choice Top Paper Awards at the annual Honors Research Symposium. He also introduced their faculty sponsors Jennifer Pauken and Christina Prestin-Beard.

Students who received honors at the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) State Conference include Cintia Arias, Rodney Billerbeck II, Joni Russell, Bryce Teubel and Cade Walder. In addition, Linda Lambert was recognized as the Illinois PBL Advisor of the Year.

Recipients of Heartland's Student Awards competition receive \$200 each and go on to ICCTA's competition. The Paul Simon Essay Contest (Heartland named two winners): Blue Buck (whose essay was forwarded to the ICCTA) and Ryan Hoke. The Gandhi King Peace Essay Content: Juniper Adams. The Gregg Chadwick Student Service Scholarship for demonstration of extraordinary commitment to volunteer service: Grace Sands—this is the inaugural year of this award, which was established in honor of Heartland's former Board Chair Gregg Chadwick; Dr. Pearce introduced Robyn Walters, Mr. Chadwick's widow, to present the award.

Board Policy Revision 1st Reading 6.7. Official Holidays

Barb Leathers, Executive Director, HR, noted that last year, June 19th was designated as a state and federal holiday. Staff propose designating Juneteenth and Thanksgiving Wednesday as College holidays starting in 2022. Starting in 2023, changing the five "floating" holidays to "college-designated" holidays: Juneteenth, Thanksgiving Wednesday and three holidays designated by the College in collaboration with the Academic Calendar Team. Holidays will be announced annually in July for the following calendar year. The second reading follows next month. Dr. Cornille noted staff worked with leadership in employee groups on this policy change.

Cabinet Reports

Dr. Pearce reported Breezy Watkins, Associate Adjunct Professor, achieved the College's second Quality Matters certification in an online Business course.

Dr. Pearce reported a number of students and staff set up a table at an electric vehicle drive-in in Atlanta, Illinois, providing an opportunity to connect with EV enthusiasts.

Kelli Hill, VP, External Relations, reported on Continuing Education's upward trend in FY17-FY22 professional development enrollments and customized agreements. Continuing Education has conducted over 60 customized trainings for employers in the first ten months of FY22.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Janet Hood reported the Committee discussed the cost associated with the Ag Complex construction, evaluated funding for the project, and supports approving the Ag Complex construction bid to avoid any delay in moving forward. With the bonds issued as part of the College's financial strategy developed to address priorities in the Facilities Master Plan, along with ongoing fundraising efforts, and the award of the \$2 million grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the Committee feels the College is in a good place to continue this effort.

Finance and Administration

Letisha Trepac, VP, Finance and Administration, commented on efforts to keep the Board informed on the Ag Complex project and asked Dr. Cornille to address an early question that was raised about the "why" behind this major endeavor. Dr. Cornille noted the demands on the College with regard to agriculture. Illinois leads the nation in soybean and corn production and McLean is the #1 county in production levels with Livingston and Logan counties in the top five. In District 540 there are over 2 million acres focused on agriculture.

In conjunction with the Facilities Master Plan, the environmental scan showed agriculture was one of three major areas of growth in the community. In 2018 there were over 4500 posted ag jobs and only 2900 applicants, and 70% of those in the ag industry are within 2 years of retirement. To meet the demands, Lauren Denofrio, Dean, STEM and Business, and Miranda Buss, Faculty-Agriculture, helped to move the agriculture programs forward. In a two-year period, Heartland grew the short-term stackable credentials to move people into different areas of the workforce. Staff continues to look at tech certificate opportunities alongside the Associate Degree with regard to transfer. Students have opportunities to transfer seamlessly their Heartland Associate Degree to many educational institutes in the state or advance directly to employment.

Meetings with numerous donors reveal a general sense that this is long overdue for Heartland and the community is ready for it.

Agriculture Complex Presentation:

Mr. Trepac introduced Michael Lundeen, the project architect from Legat Construction. She reported on changes to costs since the last presentation in March and reviewed the cost projections based on the bids. The bid process included six alternates that fall outside of the base bid—staff recommends the top four. She reviewed the soft costs and the design costs. She reviewed several reasons why cost change. The bids came in on April 6 and there are 60 days to award the bid, but a delay runs a risk due to volatility of costs. She explained the recommendation and the breakdown of the bid. The final projected cost is over the projection but it is within contingency at \$23,382,150 (\$182,000 over the March projection). The four alternates are two plazas for outdoor education spaces, the south parking lot, and the east connection drive.

Funding for the project includes issuing the \$20 million borrow (\$14 million is for the Ag Complex), plus the ICECF Grant plus a fundraising target of \$7 million (of which \$3.25 million has been secured). Total secured is over \$19 million for the project (82% of the total project cost). Mr. Lundeen responded to questions: all bidders for the Ag Complex are union contractors; the budgeted construction contingency is adequate at 5% barring something unknown occurring.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

ICCTA

Mr. Tom Whitt reported on good news from Springfield that the final budget passed with a 5% increase in community college funding, a 5% increase for Adult Ed and CTE, and \$122 million in new funding for MAP, which includes eligibility for short-term programs. The June convention in Chicago includes the Gregg Chadwick Student Service Scholarship at the Awards Banquet.

Student Trustee

Mr. Rodney Billerbeck reported on the new SGA officers: Graham Baner, Hunter Roedell, and Zoe Steinkoenig. Mr. Billerbeck majors in Ag and plans to pursue a degree in Ag Business at ISU.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Chair Flessner noted the Calendar of Upcoming Events is available to the Board.

HCC Board of Trustees: Community Outreach

Mr. Joshua Crockett reported on engaging community leaders and college stakeholders in conversation about the College's work. He noted a list of government entities and boards for outreach activities; feedback from trustees will be solicited prior to scheduling any activities.

Ms. Cecelia Long noted as the community continues to recover from effects of the pandemic, this initiative specifically highlights the need to continue outreach to people who might not have college plans. The Workforce Equity Inclusion grant is an opportunity to increase engagement in the African American and low-income areas of the community.

CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Becky Ropp moved to approve

- **The ratification of bills paid during March 2022.**
- **The minutes of the regular Board meeting March 15, 2022.**
- **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.**
- **The attached resolution regarding the abatement of the revenue recapture amount for bond revenue on tax levy year 2021 (payable in FY2023) for Heartland Community College.**
- **To revise the existing Procurement Card Use Agreement in order to more closely align with current College purchasing practices.**

Mr. Tom Whitt seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

NON-PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS

WDC Testing Center Bid

Ms. Janet Hood moved to approve awarding of the Workforce Development Center Testing Center Project to Catalyst Construction, Inc. as the lowest responsive bidder, in an amount

not to exceed \$951,500. Mr. Joshua Crockett seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Agriculture Complex Approval

Ms. Becky Ropp moved to approve the construction of the 29,500 square foot agriculture facility, infrastructure, and outdoor learning spaces at a total cost for the project not to exceed \$24,000,000. Ms. Janet Hood seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Agriculture Complex Construction Bid

Ms. Janet Hood moved to approve awarding of the Agricultural Complex Construction to River City Construction, LLC as the lowest responsive bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$19,394,000. Mr. Joshua Crockett seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Tax Abatement: Brandt Industries USA Ltd and Brandt Properties USA Ltd

Mr. Tom Whitt moved to approve the Tax Abatement Resolution in respect to the November 2017 Project Development Agreement with Brandt Industries USA Ltd. and Brandt Properties USA Ltd. Ms. Becky Ropp seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Tax Abatement: Rivian Automotive, RA Land Holdings, and RA Plant Holdings

Mr. Joshua Crockett moved to approve the Tax Abatement Resolution in respect to the December 2016 Rivian Property Tax Abatement and Economic Incentive Agreement for the property tax year 2021. Ms. Mary Campbell seconded. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS

Personnel

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Becky Ropp moved to adjourn. Ms. Janet Hood seconded. The voice vote carried, motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.


Jeff Elssner, Chair


Rebecca L. Ropp, Secretary

*Note: The student vote is advisory only