

**HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1500 W. RAAB ROAD, NORMAL, IL
COMMUNITY COMMONS BUILDING 1406/07
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
6:00 PM**

Members Present: Becky Ropp, Janet Hood, Mary Campbell, Josh Crockett, Cecelia Long, Tom Whitt, Andria Merkle

Members Absent: Jeff Flessner

Others Present: Keith Cornille, Nora Dukowitz, Sarah Tipton, Jen O'Connor, Amy Pawlik, Barb Leathers, Terrance Bond, Scott Bross, Noah Lamb, Rick Pearce, Chris Downing, Steve Fast, Jason Nelson, Josh Woods, Jean-Marie Taylor, Janik Mateusz (Pantagraph), others

Chair Becky Ropp called the regular portion of the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 pm.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Trustee Tom Whitt. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephen Sims made a public comment on behalf of the Student Government Association supporting a proposed \$3 per credit hour increase in tuition for the next academic year, beginning summer 2024.

There was no further public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cornille thanked everyone who attended the ribbon cutting for the Agriculture Complex. Next month, the ribbon cutting for the Advanced Manufacturing Complex will be held on February 27. The Chamber will host a breakfast at the Agriculture Complex in March.

President Cornille gave an overview of a recent news story about Bradley University's violation of a covenant agreement with PNC Bank for the year ending May 31, 2023. It required Bradley to maintain a certain debt service coverage ratio, which Bradley failed to do. President Cornille said Heartland is not in this same situation, as Heartland is a public body with statutory language that governs the College. He shared that Heartland has adequate reserves and borrowing capacity.

President Cornille also reviewed the evening's agenda. President Keith Cornille stated that there would be no biannual review and released of closed session minutes for the August-December 2023 time period on tonight's agenda for Board action as no such minutes exist.

President Cornille invited Andy Litwiller, Heartland's Executive Director of Facilities, to give a construction update presentation. Mr. Litwiller provided a brief status overview of construction projects on campus, including outstanding punch list items at the Agriculture Complex, Advanced Manufacturing Complex, and food service area. He also gave updates on ongoing or upcoming projects, such as the Fitness and Recreation Center Plaza, Student Commons Building, Science Labs, Student Services remodel, and others. The anticipated completion timelines and other project details were reviewed. President Cornille added a reminder that Heartland has received a \$200,000 grant from the State of Illinois for an extension of Constitution Trail near Birky Pond.

CABINET REPORTS

Dr. Rick Pearce reported that Kate Herald Browne, Heartland's Director of Online Learning and Instructional Technologies, recently secured a grant to expand VR in Heartland's Nursing and Welding programs. He also reported on a number of Heartland Ag students who did very well in state competitions and have advanced to nationals this March.

Dr. Sarah Diel-Hunt reported that Heartland had established a Home School Advisory Board a few years ago consisting of home school administrators and parents. The group meets annually to discuss ways Heartland can better serve this population. Last Fall, they asked if we could host a Home School Campus visit day similar to what we do for public high schools. Last Friday, Heartland hosted the Crossroads Area Home School Association. It was a great success with 52 attendees and Heartland will plan to continue to host every fall and spring.

Dr. Diel-Hunt reported that Kadi Juris, Executive Director of the Child Development Lab, recently presented at the Leadership Connections National Conference at the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leaders. The title of her presentation was "Using Smart Start Funding to Strengthen the Early Childhood Workforce."

Three staff members from Heartland's Success Connections department recently presented "Campus Collaboration for Students Success" at the national conference on The First Year Experience in Seattle.

Heartland's Marketing department, having won several regional awards last Fall, has now won a National Paragon Award, the highest level award they can win. The award is for the Fall 2022 Continuing Education Booklet. We will find out at the national conference this March whether Heartland has won the bronze, silver, or gold award.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Trustee Janet Hood gave a report from the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee began with concurrence on the Consent Agenda. The Committee received updates on the Apartment

Taxpayer EAV Board of Review settlements and the Academic Year 2024-2025 Tuition & Fees recommendation. At the Committee meeting, Facilities presented several projects with sources of funding and then briefly discussed the upcoming chiller repairs (deferred maintenance). R&R Consultants provided the Finance Committee a Medical review on Tuesday, January 30th at a Special Meeting. The Committee received a brief update on the wage survey, and Carlson Dettmann is developing cost and timing suggestions for total compensation (wages and benefits) and budgeting purposes.

Tuition & Fees

Mr. Noah Lamb spoke highly of the recent series of meetings with the SGA regarding tuition and fees. The members were engaged and asked excellent questions. Mr. Lamb proceeded with a presentation on proposed tuition and fees for the coming year. He reviewed the tuition and fees proposal, historical trends, HCC rankings and comparisons, and the potential budget impact of proposed changes. HCC is proposing a \$3 per credit hour increase, \$2 in tuition, a \$1 increase in the student life fee and, a \$0 increase to the PDFE (Program Development and Facility Enhancement) fee. Mr. Lamb reviewed a zero increase and a \$3 increase and the anticipated financial outcomes of both scenarios. He also briefly touched on a \$5 increase and its impact. He reasoned that \$3 lessened the impact to the students versus the \$5 amount while still putting the College's finances in a better position than no increase, hence staff's recommendation.

Questions from the Board and discussion ensued.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

ICCTA

Trustee Tom Whitt reported on the ACCT Legislative Summit Washington D.C. trip. Attendees met with various elected officials and others and attended panel discussions. It was a positive trip. Useful information about grant opportunities was shared. HCC attendees to the summit attended various panel discussions. March 8-9 is the next ICCTA event, this time at Kankakee Community College. A main topic will be AI and will include a presentation by author/educator Arthur Levine.

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Trustee Andria Merkle gave the student trustee report. The Black Student Union hosted or will host various events for Black History Month in February. Alternative Spring Break is upcoming. The Heartland Activities Committee is hosting a bowling and pizza event at Pheasant Lanes. SGA is hosting elections that will take place in late March and they are planning outreach to attract officers. Andria shared a report from the SGA on the tuition and fees discussion. She said the students were divided about whether to go with the \$3 or \$5 increase. She shared some of the concerns students had with each proposal. They were thankful for the opportunity to have the conversation between SGA and the Executive team.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Trustee Tom Whitt and seconded by Trustee Josh Crockett to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Bills
- Minutes of the Board Workshop and Regular Meeting - January 23, 2024
- Minutes of the Decennial Committee Meeting January 10, 2024
- Travel Expenditures
- Naming of Spaces – WDC/Student Center Veterans Center

The motion passed unanimously.

NON-PERSONNEL

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to pass the Tuition and Fees Recommendation FY2025 (AY2024-25) item. Trustee Andria Merkle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Andria Merkle made a motion to pass the Approval of Science Labs Renovation (Phase I) Project item. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to pass the Approval of Science Labs Renovation (Phase I) Bids item. Trustee Cecelia Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Cecelia Long made a motion to pass the Approval of Elevator Project item. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

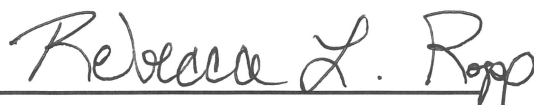
PERSONNEL

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to pass the Monthly Personnel Actions item. Trustee Andria Merkle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to pass the Tenure Recommendations item. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

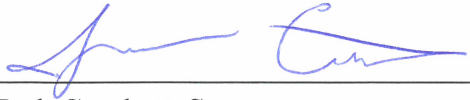
Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Trustee Janet Hood. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:34 pm.



Becky Ropp, Chair

3/19/24
2/20/24

14

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Crockett", is written above a horizontal line.

Josh Crockett, Secretary