

4/22/25

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1500 W. RAAB ROAD, NORMAL, IL
COMMUNITY COMMONS BUILDING, ROOM 1406/07
(Gregg Chadwick Community Board Room)
APRIL 22, 2025
6:00 PM**

Members Present: Mary Campbell, Josh Crockett, Janet Hood, Jon Kilgore, Auston Koch, Becky Ropp, Tom Whitt, Cecelia Long (virtually), Aemun Lopeyok*, Laurie Bergner*

*Seated during the organizational portion of the meeting

Tom Whitt exited at approximately 6:17 pm, after the Organization of the Board, to attend to a personal matter.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Keith Cornille, Jen O'Connor, Nora Dukowitz, Jean-Marie Taylor, Mateusz Janik, Sarah Tipton, Noah Lamb, Sarah Diel-Hunt, Rick Pearce, Jaxon Henrichs, Melanie Fata, Steve Fast, Amy Pawlik, Tom McCulley, Rebecca Shaefer, Lauren Hostetter, and various other students, faculty, staff members, and members of the public

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

Trustee Cecelia Long made a request to participate remotely in the meeting due to a work commitment outside of the area. Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to allow for remote participation. Trustee Janet Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Adopt Agenda

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Organization of the Board

With the recent April 1, 2025 election having taken place and election results having been confirmed, the organizational meeting of the Board took place as follows:

Adjournment of Retiring Board Sine Die

Trustee Ropp thanked the retiring or recently retired members of the Board for their service: Jeff Flessner, who resigned in 2024, Jon Kilgore, and Student Trustee Auston Koch.

4/22/25

Convening of the New Board by the Ranking Officer of the Old Board and Seating of New Members and Oath of Office

New and returning members of the Board, Laurie Bergner, Student Trustee Aemun Lopeyok, Janet Hood, and Tom Whitt, were seated and took the Oath of Office, read by Recording Secretary Nora Dukowitz.

Election of Chair

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to elect Trustee Becky Ropp to the position of Chair. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed and without any further nominations.

Election of Vice Chair

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to elect Trustee Janet Hood to the position of Vice Chair. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed and without any further nominations.

Election of Secretary

Trustee Mary Campbell made a motion to elect Trustee Josh Crockett to the position of Secretary. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed and without any further nominations.

Appointment of Treasurer

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to appoint Noah Lamb, Vice President of Finance and Administration, to the position of Treasurer. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Appointment of Recording Secretary

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to appoint Nora Dukowitz, Executive Assistant, to the position of Recording Secretary. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Appointment of Finance Committee

Trustee Mary Campbell made a motion to appoint Trustee Janet Hood, Trustee Tom Whitt, Trustee Josh Crockett, Noah Lamb, and Laura Hughs, Associate Vice President of Finance and Administration to the Finance Committee. Trustee Aemun Lopeyok seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Appointment of ICCTA Representative

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to appoint Trustee Tom Whitt as the primary ICCTA representative and Trustee Janet Hood as the secondary ICCTA representative. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Establishment of Regular Meeting Date and Place

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion that generally, the Board regular meeting date will be the third Tuesday of the month and the location will be at Heartland Community College. Trustee Janet Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Public Comment

Jean-Marie Taylor made a comment, thanking those who participated in the recent election process. She then asked if the Board would consider livestreaming meetings in the future. She also congratulated the faculty members and students that would be honored this evening as well as the incoming student trustee and SGA officers. A copy of Ms. Taylor's comments is attached to these minutes for reference.

Presidents Report

President Keith Cornille congratulated incoming Board members and thanked outgoing Board members. He mentioned that this Friday is Heartland's annual Service Day. Tomorrow is the groundbreaking ceremony for the Constitution Trail project. He went over the agenda for this evening's meeting.

Various awards and recognitions were presented:

- Outstanding Full-Time Faculty: Dr. Tom McCulley
- Outstanding Adjunct Faculty: Rebecca Schaefer
- All Illinois Academic Team: Ava Doran and Carolina Joaquin
- HCC Paul Simon Essay Contest Winner: Sophia Hubbs
- Gandhi King Essay Contest Winner: Maddison Foster
- Gregg Chadwick Winner: Ella Brownlee
- Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award Winner: Auston Koch
- National Professional Agriculture Student Organization Winners: Kaylee Lewis, Emily Pina, Payton Wiltz, Cade Luginbuhl, Lauren Monk, Brody Wilson, and Kaden Farrell

The new slate of SGA leaders was introduced: Aemun Lopeyok (Student Trustee), Sara Quiceno-Sandoval (President), Luis Bazan (Vice President), and Lizeth Sandoval (Chief Communications Officer)

Students who participated in Alternative Spring Break gave a report on their experience partnering with Living Lands and Waters in Memphis, TN.

Financial Report

Trustee Janet Hood gave a report from the Finance Committee, detailing the April meeting. The Committee discussed its routine items, various bids coming forward for approval, the revenue recapture resolution on tonight's agenda, and an update on employee insurance. A special Finance Committee meeting will be held on May 8 to further discuss health insurance.

Following Trustee Hood's report, Noah reviewed the bids that are coming before the Board for consideration this evening. He also noted that the Board has an updated issue paper in front of them this evening for the ICN Networking project that reflects some slight cost increases; however, the entire project is still under the amount approved by the Board.

Trustee Reports

4/22/25

ICCTA

Trustee Janet Hood gave the ICCTA report in Trustee Tom Whitt's absence. Work continues on the state budget. The ICCTA Annual Convention is upcoming in June. Lobby Day is upcoming in May.

Student Trustee

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok gave the student trustee report. The new SGA officers have been selected. Trustee Lopeyok thanked the outgoing SGA officers and then gave a summary of recent and future student activities, such as Student Advocacy Day on April 9, the May 2 Student Leadership Celebration, and a recent clean-up project at the ISU Farm.

Consent Agenda Action Items

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of Bills
- Minutes: Board Workshop & Regular Meeting – March 18, 2025
- Travel Expenses
- Revenue Recapture Abatement Resolution FY2026
- Naming Rights Agreement – Steve and Patty McManus Student Leadership Room
- Naming Rights Agreement – Birky Family Pond Overlook

Trustee Janet Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Non-Personnel Action Items

Approval of Constitution Trail Project Bids

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the Constitution Trail project bids. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Approval of WDC/Student Center Phase II Project Bids

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the WDC/Student Center Phase II project bids. Trustee Aemun Lopeyok seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Approval of ICN Networking Project Bids

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the ICN Networking project bids. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Approval of Exterior Paint (Phase I) Project Bids

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the Exterior Paint (Phase I) project bids. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Closed Session: Section 2(c)(2) of 5 ILCS 120: Collective Bargaining

4/22/25

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to go into Closed Session, per Section 2(c)(2) of 5 ILCS 120: Collective Bargaining. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed, and the Board entered Closed Session at approximately 7:21 pm.

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to end Closed Session. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to return to Open Session. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 7:45 pm.

Personnel Action Items

Monthly Personnel

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the monthly personnel report. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.


Sabbaticals

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to approve the sabbatical recommendations. Trustee Janet Hood seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Adjourn

Having no further business, Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded. The motion passed unopposed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:51 pm.


Becky Ropp, Chair


Joshua Crockett, Secretary

Public Comment – Jean-Marie Taylor – April 22, 2025

Good afternoon!

My name is Jean-Marie Taylor and I am here on behalf of the Heartland Adjunct Faculty Association, more commonly referred to as HAFA, because Heartland Adjunct Faculty Association can be a mouthful!

First, HAFA and the Heartland Faculty Association (HFA) would like to thank the three Trustee Candidates who participated in our Candidate Forum: Tom Whitt, Janet Hood, and Laurie Bergner. We so appreciated your willingness to meet with faculty and students, to both answer questions and to ask them; we look forward to the prospect of continuing these kinds of interactions.

Thank you, too, to Karla Huffman who facilitated the early organization of this event, and to the Student Government Association for their contributions – and to all of those who attended.

That said, I'd like to congratulate Tom and Janet on their re-election to the Board, and to welcome Laurie as a new member!

During the forum, one of the questions that was asked was regarding accessibility and transparency in public meetings.

Given the Board's role in fostering transparency and public engagement, would you support offering a Zoom option for the public to attend committee meetings (such as the finance committee) and the regular board meeting remotely? If so, what steps would you take to make this happen? If not, what are your concerns about expanding access in this way? We discussed their thoughts on this briefly.

As a follow up after the forum, I shared with the candidates in email that the college currently uses Zoom in "webinar" mode, which limits the audience's ability to interact to whatever manner is appropriate to the situation, while still allowing for full participation from those who require it. For example, if it were necessary to have a contractor participate remotely due to a conflict, they could be allowed to share their video and engage in discussion with other members; for other types of meeting attendees, the communication could simply be made "one-way" – strictly in an observation role without the ability to "participate" in the meeting.

It is my sincere hope that the board will consider this option for the next fiscal year.

As I wrap up, HAFA would like to congratulate our two Outstanding Faculty winners, Becca Shaeffer, an amazing member of the part-time faculty, and Tom McCully, for the full-time faculty.

Also, [congratulations](#) to our:

- New Student Trustee: Aemun Lopeyok – we are so excited that we get to keep you for another year after your successful term as President!
- Student Body President Sara Quiceno-Sandoval
- Vice President Luis Bazan
- Chief Communications Officer Lizeth Sandoval

We look forward to working with you!

Last, congratulations to all of the students I see here in the room tonight, who I'm guessing are here to be recognized for their various awards and accomplishments this year.

You make the faculty so very proud!