

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Community Commons Building, Room 1406/07
(Gregg Chadwick Community Board Room)
1500 W. Raab Road, Normal, IL
June 17, 2025, 6:00 pm**

Members Present: Josh Crockett, Janet Hood, Aemun Lopeyok, Becky Ropp, Tom Whitt, Cecelia Long, Laurie Bergner

Members Absent: Mary Campbell

Others Present: Keith Cornille, Nora Dukowitz, Andy Litwiller, Melanie Fata, Laura Hughs, Trevor Hobarty, Steve Fast, Jennifer O'Connor, Chris Downing, Rick Pearce, Noah Lamb, Megan Rolfs, Terrance Bond, Scott Bross, Josh Woods, Jason Nelson, Mateusz Janik (Pantagraph), other members of the public

Chair Becky Ropp called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Adopt Agenda

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

President's Report

President Keith Cornille thanked Trustee Aemun Lopeyok for presenting at the preceding Board dinner/workshop. The topic was student belonging, including an update from Jennifer O'Connor on the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Quality Initiative and the relationship between belonging and learning.

The President reviewed the agenda for this evening's meeting. In addition to the items on the agenda, he mentioned that Kids@Heartland is well underway for the summer.

Chair Becky Ropp read a proclamation acknowledging Dr. Rick Pearce, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and his contributions to the College. He is retiring at the end of June.

Chair Becky Ropp announced that Trustee Cecelia Long tendered her resignation from the Board. Chair Ropp thanked Trustee Long for her service to the College. Trustee Long made remarks regarding her time at Heartland and how she has valued it greatly and has appreciated the people she has worked alongside.

Cabinet Reports

Associate Vice President Amy Pawlik gave a report on undergraduate credit enrollment for summer 2025. Enrollment numbers look positive. Undergraduate headcount and credit hours have both increased 12%. Dr. Pawlik then shared some numbers about more specific student segments, which also saw increases. Questions and discussion ensued.

Financial Report

Trustee Janet Hood gave the Finance Committee report and reviewed their agenda from the June Finance Committee meeting.

Noah Lamb, Vice President of Finance and Administration, gave an update on the College's property and casualty insurance renewal for FY2026 and some reasons for a slight increase this year; for example, new College vehicles. He then presented the Strategic Budget Update and tentative FY2026 budget, which the Board will consider later this evening. The proposed budget is a balanced one. Finally, Associate Vice President Laura Hughes presented on the FY2025 audit timeline.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Tom Whitt gave an update on the recent ICCTA convention that was held in Normal. Heartland had several award winners:

- Simran Sandhu- Distinguished Alumnus Award
- Ella Brownlee- Gregg Chadwick Student Service Scholarship
- Auston Koch- Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Scholarship
- Tom Whitt- Trustee Education Award
- Keith Cornille- Advocacy Award

Community colleges could get an increase of 1-3% in state funding. Colleges also had success with dual credit legislation. Trustee Whitt gave other legislative updates, such as the removal of cuts to Pell grants from the Big Beautiful Bill. The next ICCTA meeting is in September in Springfield.

Trustee Aemun Lopeyok gave the Student Trustee's report. A group of students will be attending the Chicago Pride Festival. There is a Hawk Food drive ongoing throughout the summer and it is doing very well with over 500 items collected.

Chair Becky Ropp mentioned the upcoming Board Development Retreat, which is occurring on July 29, 2025. The Board will perform its self-assessment, especially as it relates to the new Strategic Plan that is currently under development.

Trustee Cecelia Long gave a report on housing in the community. This has been an initiative of Trustee Long's over the past few years. She noted that affordable housing is essential for a community's health and sustainability, and finding affordable housing in the district continues to be a challenge. She believes this should continue to be an area of attention.

Consent Agenda Action Item

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- Bills
- Minutes: Board Workshop and Regular Meetings – May 20, 2025
- Travel Expenses
- Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal FY2026
- Prevailing Wages
- Transfer Resolutions FY2025
- Approval of Athletics Transportation Bids

Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-Personnel Action Items

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve the tentative FY2026 budget. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to approve the cooling tower replacement projects bids. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve the Chiller 1 replacement project bids. Trustee Janet Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session: Section 2(c)(1) of 5 ILCS 120 - Personnel

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to go into Closed Session, per Section 2(c)(1) of 5 ILCS 120: Personnel. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board entered Closed Session at approximately 7:12 pm.

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to end Closed Session. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to return to Open Session. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 7:25 pm.

Monthly Personnel Action Items

Trustee Josh Crockett made a motion to approve the monthly personnel action items. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjunct Faculty Promotions

Trustee Cecelia Long made a motion to approve the adjunct faculty promotions. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Employment Contracts

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve the employment contract of Sarah Diel-Hunt, VP, Enrollment & Student Services, Annual Base Compensation of \$183,467.90. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to approve the employment contract of Noah Lamb, VP, Finance & Administration, Annual Base Compensation of \$175,003.36. Trustee Janet Hood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6/17/2025

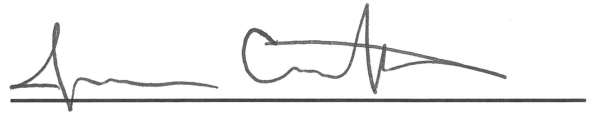
President Keith Cornille talked about the process to fill the vacancy on the Board created by Trustee Cecelia Long's resignation. Applications will be accepted through July 14 at noon. Chair Becky Ropp again wished Dr. Rick Pearce well.

Adjournment

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Laurie Bergner seconded. With no opposition to adjournment, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:33 pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rebecca L. Ropp", written over a horizontal line.

Becky Ropp, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Josh Crockett", written over a horizontal line.

Josh Crockett, Secretary

