

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Community Commons Building, Room 2100
1500 W. Raab Road, Normal, IL
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
3:30 PM**

Members: Janet Hood (Chair), Joshua Crockett, Thomas Whitt, Laura Hughs, Noah Lamb

Others: Rebecca Ropp-Chair, Board of Trustees; Laurie Bergner-Trustee; Aemun Lopeyok-Student Trustee; Keith Cornille-President; Jd Davis-Director, Purchasing and Auxiliary Services; Joyce Tucker-Controller; Brandy O'Grady-Director, Human Resources; Kaitlyn Cope-Program Assistant, Executive Office; Andy Litwiller-Executive Director, Facilities; Amy Pawlik-Associate Vice President, Enrollment and Student Services; Jean-Marie Taylor-Distinguished Adjunct Professor; Trevor Hoberly-Director, Financial Planning & Analysis

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Chair Janet Hood.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Crockett moved to approved the minutes from January 20, 2026 as presented; Ms. Hughs seconded; motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Whitt moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Mr. Crockett seconded; motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 AY2026-2027 Tuition and Fees

Mr. Lamb presented, focusing on the input from the SGA and their recommendation for a \$3 tuition increase, and administration's recommendation for a \$5 tuition increase in order to decrease the projected deficit. Discussion ensued, focusing on the implications of what the negative effects of a \$3 increase instead of a \$5 increase would be (reliance on reserves, lean operating non-personnel budget, and more difficulty balancing the budget), the potential effects on enrollment, and the impact on students. The average tuition increase for Illinois community colleges is \$5, with several increasing \$7-\$10 or more.

7.2 FY2025 Prelim Audit Update

Mr. Lamb will provide a full update at the meeting tonight. Highlights include that there were no findings on the single audit (compliance and federal funding). There are three potential findings for the financial statement audit. These findings are all procedural and fixable, and none were related to any misuse of

funds. We will have a clean, unmodified opinion audit. Steps that are already being taken to remedy these findings were also noted. Discussion ensued, focusing on whether a new ERP will help with these and process improvements.

7.3 Project Labor Agreement Update

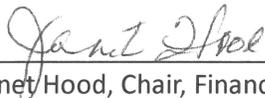
Mr. Lamb presented, thanking Jd Davis for working to get the initial PLA drafted as well as meetings with local governmental agencies. The Board will see the first draft in March. Discussion ensued.

7.4 Employee Benefits Discussion

Mr. Lamb presented. Ms. O'Grady has been working closely with R&R Insurance, and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) will have our renewal ready by the end of the month. Mr. Lamb is anticipating a large increase in our renewal and hopes to have more information to present in March. Mr. Lamb asked for the committee's input on GLP-1s. Discussion ensued, focusing on the value of paying for them upfront as a preventative of obesity-related conditions, the cost of these to the College, the cost differential between GLP-1s and other diabetic medications, generic substitutions, partial vs. full coverage, and the impact on employees. Mr. Crockett voiced his opposition to the full denial of coverage of GLP-1s for weight loss. Ms. Ropp noted that she would like a fair solution that does not distinguish between reasons for taking GLP-1s. Further research and analysis will be done and presented in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Whitt moved to adjourn; Mr. Crockett seconded; motion passed; meeting concluded at 4:38 PM.



Janet Hood, Chair, Finance Committee



Thomas Whitt, Member, Finance Committee