



# HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## MINUTES OF THE Business Meeting - Apr 21 2026 OF THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1500 W. RAAB ROAD, NORMAL, IL

Community Commons Building - CCB 1406/07

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

**6:00 PM**

Members Present: Summer Barone, Laurie Bergner, Mary Campbell, Josh Crockett, Janet Hood, Angell Howard, Aemun Lopeyok, Becky Ropp, Tom Whitt

Members Absent: None

Others: Keith Cornille, Nora Dukowitz, Noah Lamb, Sarah Diel-Hunt, Amy Pawlik, Steve Fast, Jean-Marie Taylor, Nathan Ramler, Melanie Fata, Chris Downing, Jason Nelson, Josh Woods, Tyler Yahne, Terrance Bond, Sarah Tipton, Martin Newell, Lauren Hostetter, Jennifer O'Connor, various others

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Becky Ropp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**

**3. Adopt Agenda**

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

**4. [Seating of Incoming Student Trustee and Oath of Office](#) **

Incoming Student Trustee Summer Barone took the Oath of Office and was seated for a one-year term. The trustees welcomed Trustee Barone to the Board.


**4.1 Recognition of Outgoing Student Trustee (Oral)**

The Board thanked Student Trustee Aemun Lopeyok for his service over the past academic year.

**5. Public Comment**

Jean-Marie Taylor gave a public comment thanking the Board for considering Project Labor Agreements, and she also thanked outgoing Student Trustee Aemun Lopeyok for his

service. She congratulated all of this evening's award winners. Ms. Taylor introduced the HAFA bargaining team.

Nathan Ramler gave a public comment regarding the status of negotiations with the part-time faculty union (HAFA). He provided a [copy](#)  of his comments in writing.

## 6. **President's Report**

President Keith Cornille thanked Jill Blair, Grants Director, for presenting in the preceding Board Workshop and thanked outgoing Student Trustee Aemun Lopeyok for his service. He welcomed incoming Student Trustee Summer Barone to the Board. President Cornille shared a recently released report on the economic impact of community colleges. He also shared that the College's annual Service Day is this Friday.

### 6.1 Recognition of Pontiac Dual Credit Students

President Cornille and the Board recognized a group of dual credit students from Pontiac Township High School who worked on a group of significant community projects, including a Route 66 multiuse path, House Bill 4652 which relates to a vape disposal system, and a food as medicine local farm to table program for cancer patients.

### 6.2 **Introduction of AY26-27 Student Government Association Leaders**

Sarah Tipton, Director of Student Engagement, introduced the new Student Government Association Leaders:

- Summer Barone, Student Trustee
- Mia Lescano, President
- Luke Deffenbaugh, Vice President
- Chang Trung Dao, Chief Communications Officer

Sarah Tipton also acknowledged the work of the outgoing SGA leaders.

### 6.3 **Faculty and Student Awards**

6.3.1. Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Award – Chris Miller, Distinguished Faculty, Career & Technical Education

6.3.2. Outstanding Adjunct Faculty – Sonja Workman, Adjunct Faculty II, Health Sciences

6.3.3. HCC Paul Simon Essay Contest Award – Scout Georgas

6.3.4. HCC Gandhi King Essay Contest Award – Mia Lescano

6.3.5. HCC Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award – Aemun Lopeyok

6.3.6. HCC Gregg Chadwick Award – Sara Quiceno Sandoval

6.3.7. Recognition of All Illinois Academic Team – Makayla Faries

6.3.8. Recognition of National Professional Agriculture Student Organization Award

Provost Sarah Diel-Hunt introduced and acknowledged the faculty award winners. Amy Pawlik, Associate Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services, introduced and acknowledged the student award winners.

6.4 Alternative Spring Break Student Report (Oral)

Lauren Hostetter gave an overview of Alternative Spring Break and introduced two students, EJ Jackson and Aemun Lopeyok, to present about their experience on the recent trip, which was to help clean up waterways in Memphis, TN with the Living Land and Waters project.

6.5 [First Reading - Board Policy: 6.7 Official Holidays](#) 

President Keith Cornille gave a first reading of this policy revision, which would make Presidential Election Day an official Heartland holiday.

6.6 Cabinet Reports (Oral)

**7. Financial Report**

7.1 Finance Committee (Oral)

Trustee Janet Hood gave a report on the activities of the Finance Committee, which met earlier today to discuss topics including the revenue recapture abatement resolution, bid approval for the SCB exterior paint project, grounds maintenance professional services contract, and employee insurance.

7.2 [First Reading - Project Labor Agreement](#) 

Vice President of Finance and Administration, Noah Lamb, gave a first reading of the proposed Project Labor Agreement. This is expected to come back to the Board for consideration in May or June.

**8. Trustee Reports**

8.1 ICCTA (Oral) - Lobby Day Reminder - May 6 and 7

Trustee Tom Whitt reported that the Community College Baccalaureate legislation has some forward momentum at the moment. He also reminded the Board that Lobby Day is taking place May 6 and 7, with the primary lobbying sessions taking place on May 6 and ICCTA meetings on May 7. The ICCTA Convention will be held June 5 and 6 in Lombard. The ACCT National Convention is in Chicago in October, and Heartland has several proposals to present under consideration.

8.2 [Student Trustee](#) 

Trustee Summer Barone gave her first Student Trustee report in which she detailed the recent Student Lobby Day in Springfield and various student events upcoming as the end of the semester approaches, including the PTK Research Symposium, Lavendar Graduation, and the Donning of the Kente. She also mentioned the recent installation of SGA Officers.

8.3 [Calendar of Events](#) 

9. [Consent Agenda Action Items](#) 

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.1 [Bills](#) 

9.2 [Minutes](#)  : Board Workshop and Business Meetings - March 24, 2026

[Board Workshop - March 24, 2026](#) 

[Business Meeting - March 24, 2026](#) 

9.3 [Travel Expenditures](#) 

9.4 [Revenue Recapture Abatement Resolution FY27](#) 

10. **Non-Personnel Action Items**

10.1 [Approval of SCB Exterior Paint Bids](#) 

Trustee Angell Howard made a motion to approve the SCB exterior paint bids. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10.2 [Approval of Professional Services - Grounds Maintenance](#) 

Trustee Janet Hood made a motion to approve grounds maintenance professional services contract. Trustee Tom Whitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. [Closed Session: Negotiations – Section 2\(c\)\(2\) of 5 ILCS 120 and Personnel - Section 2\(c\)\(1\) of 5 ILCS 120](#) 

At approximately 7:31 pm, Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to go into Closed Session, pursuant to the sections cited. Trustee Janet Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Tom Whitt made a motion to end Closed Session. Trustee Angell Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Closed Session ended at approximately 8:00 pm.

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to return to Open Session. Trustee Josh Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **Personnel Action Items**

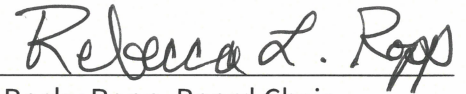
12.1

Monthly Personnel Actions [Monthly Personnel Actions](#) 

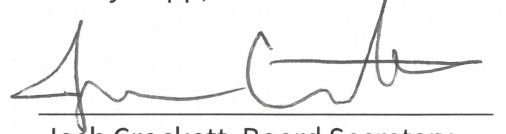
Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to approve the monthly personnel actions.  
Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**13. Adjournment**

Trustee Laurie Bergner made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Mary Campbell seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02 pm.



Becky Ropp, Board Chair



Josh Crockett, Board Secretary

