

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Regular / Annual Meeting  
Monday, May 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM  
Ira H. Rubenzahl Learning Commons, B19/Forum**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Present: Marikate Murren, Chair  
Jynai McDonald, Vice-Chair  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Secretary  
Glerisbed Garcia-Figueroa, Student Trustee  
Tonia Butler-Perez, Trustee  
Samalid Hogan, Trustee  
Bill Johnson, Trustee  
MacArthur Starks, Jr., Trustee

Unable to Attend: Norman Roldan, Trustee  
Jeff Sattler, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President  
Nanette Flores, Executive Assistant to the President & Board Clerk

**I. Call to Order**

Trustee Chair Marikate Murren called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Marikate Murren, Trustee Vice Chair Jynai McDonald, Trustee Secretary Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Student Trustee Glerisbed García-Figueroa, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee Samalid Hogan, Trustee Bill Johnson, and Trustee MacArthur Starks. Eight Trustees present, constituting a quorum.

**III. Approval of Minutes – Board of Trustee Meeting – Monday, April 24, 2023**

Trustee Jynai McDonald moved to approve the minutes from the April 24th Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Tonia Butler Perez. After no further discussion, unanimously approved.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**a) Executive Committee Meeting to Discuss Presidential Evaluation – Held on April 27, 2023**

Board Chair Marikate Murren informed that the Executive Committee met on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the process for this year's Presidential Evaluation. Questions/focus areas, along with Dr. Cook's self-assessment, were distributed on May 8<sup>th</sup> to all Trustees, with a request

for feedback from all Trustees by Friday, May 26. After written feedback, as well as individual discussions between an Executive Committee member and individual Trustees using the questions/focus areas, a draft of the Presidential Evaluation will be sent for review. Approval of the finalized evaluation anticipated at the June 26<sup>th</sup> full Board of Trustee meeting, and then submitted to the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Trustee Samalid Hogan moved to approve the minutes from the April 27<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, seconded by Trustee Tonia Butler. After no further discussion, unanimously approved.

**b) Committee on Ways and Means – Held on May 10, 2023**

Committee Chair MacArthur Starks referred to the May 10<sup>th</sup> Ways and Means Committee report to highlight topics discussed. Attached to this report is the May 4<sup>th</sup> Investment Sub-Committee report with highlights from Committee Chair Norman Roldan. Other topics discussed is the FY 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Trust Fund report, followed by the regular financial update and outlook which include the cash flow projection and FY 2023 Budget Outlook. The most notable update was the use of reserves being reduced from an original budget of \$4m to a projection of \$911k.

These topics were followed by a presentation of the final iteration (draft #3) of the FY 2024 Budget, and by Motion 2023-07 FY 2024 Student Fees & Motion 2023-08 FY 2024 Budget, approved to move to the full Board.

Trustee Jynai McDonald moved to approve the minutes from the May 10<sup>th</sup> Ways and Means Committee meeting, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito. After no further discussion, unanimously approved.

[MOTION 2023-07] FY 2024 Student Fees

Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito moved:

That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 15A, Section 22, authorize the President of the College and/or his designee(s), to increase the General Education Fee by \$10 per credit starting in Winter/Spring 2024 and establish a STEM Program Fee in the amount of \$100 per semester starting in Winter/Spring 2024. All other College fees for FY 2024 will remain at the same level as FY 2023. Should the final General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024 contain appropriations for Springfield Technical Community College at or above the levels recommended in the Governor’s House 1 budget filed on March 1, 2023, and these appropriations are not otherwise reduced mid-year, the Board shall make no increases to the per-credit mandatory (general support/college) fees through FY 2024. This Board action does not apply to increases in other fees that are specific to courses, programs, labs, technology or facilities.

Motion was seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson, and unanimously approved.

Before presenting the motion for approval of the FY 2024 Budget, Dr. Cook went over highlights of the final draft of the FY24 Budget. One key note as part of budget drafting was reduction of Reserves use to \$2.5 million in the final (from a forecasted \$3 million).

[MOTION 2023-08] FY 2024 Budget

Trustee Samalid Hogan moved:

That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Section 22, Chapter 15A, approves the FY 2024 College Spending Plan and the FY 2024 Trust Fund Budgets, and further authorizes the President of the College and/or his designee(s) to take any and all prudent steps necessary to award contracts for capital projects.

Motion was seconded by Trustees Bill Johnson and Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, and unanimously approved.

**V. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook**

**a) Legislative Update (Free Community College)**

Very likely to happen; a lot of collective effort to help move forward MassReconnect/Free Community College. Will keep the Board updated if and when there is final legislation/budget.

**b) Advancement / STCC Foundation Outlook**

Considering the appointment of an Interim Assistant Vice President with the potential to launch a new search. Updates to follow and Trustee Tonia Butler Perez has been part of finalist interviews, and continues as liaison to STCC Foundation Board.

**c) Status / STCC Strategic Plan**

After approval by Trustees, engagement with the Department of Higher Education continues. Seeking Board of Higher Education/Secretary of Education approval before end of June.

**d) Shared Governance Council: Questions-Feedback on Decisions / Actions**

See below under Chair's report; per decisions issued by President Cook, all Shared Governance Council (SGC) memoranda generated prior to the meeting were shared with Trustees.

**e) (Early) Fall Enrollment**

Dr. Cook noted that most enrollment happens two weeks before the start of the new semester. At this point it's too soon to predict, but Fall enrollment is up about 3% year-over-year.

## **VI. Chair's Report – Trustee Marikate Murren**

### **a) Presidential Evaluation**

As mentioned during the discussion of the April 27th Executive Committee Meeting report, Trustee feedback due by the end of Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **b) Commencement (Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>) RSVP with Nanette**

### **c) 2023-2024 Committee Assignments / TBD (still waiting on Alumni Trustee appointment)**

### **d) Shared Governance**

Chair Murren first formally acknowledged an email received May 9, 2023 from one of the All-Unit Congress Co-Chairs. The letter/resolution requested feedback regarding the denial of a recommendation submitted to the Shared Governance Council. The decision by President Cook was shared with Trustees; Chair Murren shared that no action is needed from the Board – an appeal process does not exist, but she welcomed questions or comments from Trustees. Board Vice Chair and Internal/External Committee Chair Jynai McDonald noted that the board has been clear on the topic of governance and Trustee engagement; a consultant was utilized; and ultimately Trustees are looking for recommendations specific to work and student engagement. Reiterated by Chair Murren, the Board is clear regarding the function of the Shared Governance Consultant, the delegation of responsibilities to administration, and again, is ready to consider high-level recommendations that impact students. As shared previously with the Board, given collective bargaining agreements, it is important for Trustees to understand that administration manages those considerations.

President Cook noted that he was obligated to issue a denial, and as was described in the memorandum, faculty need not feel they do not have the interest and support from Trustees or administrators; working with Deans, faculty can host program tours and otherwise showcase and highlight their program.

Trustee Jynai continued to encourage inclusion of student voices, and that the goal is to move forward with changes to policies that benefit students in clear ways.

## **VII. Old/New Business**

- ### **a) Draft Trustee / Committee Schedule for 2023-2024**
- No questions – schedule approved.

## **VIII. Date of Next Annual Board Meeting – Monday, June 26, 2023 in-person B19/Forum**

## **IX. Adjournment**

At 5:53 p.m., Trustee Tonia Butler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, and unanimously approved.

  
Marikate Murren  
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees

  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito  
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees