



# Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Room 2112, David C. Briegel

8 a.m. Regular Meeting

## General Business

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Members of the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees met on May 14, 2025 for a regularly scheduled meeting.

The meeting was convened at 8:00 a.m. by Board Chairman Tom Jerdon.

Members Present: Tom Jerdon, Tracy Hertsel, Becky Moore, Skip Dyes, Dr. Elaine Foster, Todd Obren

Members Absent: Beth Cripe

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the April 9, 2025 regular convened meeting required no changes and were placed on file.

Tracy Hertsel moved, seconded by Dr. Elaine Foster, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

One individual was recognized for their service at the College:

Mr. David Carew was recognized for his years of service and Trustee Tracy Hertsel presented him with a 20-year pin.

## Public Input

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Two individuals requested and was given an opportunity for public input: Naomi Ludman and Julie Dye.

## Other

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The Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, 2025 was received and placed on file.

Michelle Kite, Chief Financial Officer, presented the March 31, 2025 Interim Financial Statements.

Mr. Brent Brewer gave his Interim President's Report and provided the following:

- 2024-25 produced 365 graduates
- Enrollment for summer is tracking ahead with +39 students and +4% in contact hours
- 100+ additional students have signed up for orientation ahead of the previous year
- IPEDS informed SMC that the fall over fall graduation rates improved 11%
- Construction projects are underway including Phase 2 of the housing project and the Wrestling Room expansion of the Charles O Zollar Building

## Discussion Items

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Contracts for the Lyons Fine Arts Project from CARMI Design Group, Inc. were discussed.

Trustees reviewed the list of gifts given to the Foundation, with twenty-eight individual donations for a

grand total in the amount of \$13,971.

The President search process was discussed.

## Action Items

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Dr. Elaine Foster moved, seconded by Skip Dyes, to adopt the recommendation to hold the Public Budget Hearing at the next Regular meeting scheduled for June 11, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and to proceed with the noted items on the Notice of Budget Hearing attachment at 5A. Motion passed unanimously.

Tracy Hertsel moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to accept the contracts for the Lyons Fine Arts Project Phases I, II, III from CARMI Design Group, Inc. Motion passes unanimously.

Skip Dyes moved, seconded by Becky Moore, that Financial Aid for Student Scholarships be designated as approved projects for the SMC Foundation for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as shown in attachment 5C which totals \$590,000 (\$500,000 from the General Scholarship and \$90,000 from the Edward Guse Scholarships). Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Jerdon moved, seconded by Todd Obren, to approve the appointment of Dr. Bruce Watson, PhD as a member of the Foundation Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Becky Moore moved, seconded by Todd Obren, to accept with gratitude the gifts to the College shown in attachment 5E, with three individual donations to the College in the amount of \$300. Motion passed unanimously.

Todd Obren moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to establish an Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee of Dr. Jeff Dennis, Tom Ellspermann, Dr. Elaine Foster, Tracy Hertsel, and Tom Jerdon, to conduct a search with the SMC HR Director and present the Board of Trustees with a list of finalist candidates for consideration. Motion passed unanimously.

## Review of Follow-up Requests

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No follow-up requests were made of the administration.

## Adjournment

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Tracy Hertsel moved to adjourn at 8:49 a.m. Skip Dyes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Becky Moore, Acting Secretary

Thomas F. Jerdon, Chairman