Members of the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees met on October 11, 2023 for a regularly scheduled meeting.

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

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

Members Absent: none

Minutes of the September 13, 2023 regular convened meeting required no changes and were placed on file.

Becky Moore moved, seconded by Dr. Elaine Foster, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Six individuals were recognized for their service at the College:
Danny Cunningham was recognized for his years of service and trustee Skip Dyes presented him a 5-year pin.
Keely Williamson was recognized for her years of service and trustee Tracy Hertsel presented her a 5-year pin.
John Eby was recognized for his years of service and trustee Becky Moore presented him a 10-year pin.
Mark Pelfrey was recognized for his years of service and trustee Dr. Elaine Foster presented him a 10-year pin.
Stephanie Lyons was recognized for her years of service and trustee Beth Cripe presented her a 15-year pin.
Michelle Orlaske was recognized for her years of service and trustee Todd Obren presented her a 15-year pin.

Public Input

No individual requested to speak.

Other

The Treasurer’s Report for the month ending September 30, 2023 was received and placed on file.

Dr. Odenwald gave his President’s Report. Dr. Odenwald shared the current successes of academics, arts and athletics with the Board. He reported that fall to fall retention for June graduates is up 60% from fall 2022 to fall 2023. Additionally, applications are up significantly in comparison to 2022.
Discussion Items

Vice-President Susan Coulston presented an overview of current health insurance costs and gave administration’s proposal for the calendar year 2024. After a review and consideration of increased costs, the recommendation is to consider the 80/20 Health Care Cost Sharing for 2024. The proposal would benefit both the College and the College employees.

Dr. Odenwald reviewed the Incremental Housing Expansion Study and discussed options for where and how to expand housing due to increasing enrollment.

Trustees reviewed the list of gifts given to the Foundation, with thirteen individual donations for a grand total in the amount of $21,913.80.

Action Items

Tom Jerdon moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to approve the Employee 80/20 Health Care Cost Sharing Resolution for the coming year. Motion passed unanimously.

Tracy Hertsel moved, seconded by Dr. Elaine Foster, to direct the administration to review and analyze the Incremental Housing Expansion in the Lyons Building and resident halls. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Chairman Jerdon stipulated: This morning, the Board of Trustees is scheduled to consider and review one item that necessitate closed session. The College President’s Annual Performance Review, which the President has requested be done in closed session, also covered under the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 (a) and pursuant to Section 3.3 of the President’s Employment Agreement. Do we have a motion to enter into a closed session to consider the review of this item? Motion made by Beth Cripe. Support for the Motion made by Becky Moore. There was no discussion. Secretary Cripe took individual roll call vote on the motion with Todd Obren, Tom Jerdon, Beth Cripe, Tracy Hertsel, Becky Moore, Dr. Elaine Foster and Skip Dyes voting yes. Entered closed session at 9:02 a.m.

Following the end of discussion in closed session, Dr. Elaine Foster made the motion to reconvene in open session, seconded by Skip Dyes. Secretary Beth Cripe took individual roll call vote on the motion with Todd Obren, Tom Jerdon, Beth Cripe, Tracy Hertsel, Becky Moore, Dr. Elaine Foster and Skip Dyes voting yes at 10:15 a.m.

Review of Follow-up Requests

No follow-up requests were made of the administration.

Adjournment

Becky Moore moved to adjourn at 10:17 a.m. Skip Dyes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Beth Cripe, Secretary

Thomas F. Jerdon, Chairman