Southwestern Michigan College Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2026
Dale A. Lyons Building, Foundation Room 906 – Dowagiac Campus
5:00pm

PROPOSED

Minutes

Welcome: Tom Ellspermann, Foundation President

The meeting was convened at 5:00pm by Board President Tom Ellspermann.

Members Present: Tom Ellspermann, Michelle Kite, Becky Moore, Greg Lozeau, David Tate, Patty Patano, Klint Pleasant, Tom Jerdon, Bruce Springsteen, Emily Schrock, Scott Samuels, Susan Dobrich

Members Absent: Julie Dye, Jan Barkell, Dick Judd, Krin Jurgensen, Ron Gunn, Terry Groth, Bill White, Bruce Watson

Approval of Agenda

The October 2026 agenda required a change of time from 12:00pm to 5:00pm. Greg Lozeau moved, seconded by Becky Moore, to approve the October 2026 agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the July 2026 regular convened meeting required no changes. Patty Patano moved, seconded by David Tate, to approve the July 2026 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

College Update: Dr. Klint Pleasant, SMC President

Gave update on increased fall enrollment and plans on what audiences will be targeted in next enrollment cycle.

Foundation Board Update: Tom Ellspermann, Foundation President

By-law changes were presented to replace The Executive Administrative Assistant with the Manager of Development in three separate sections (V.5.3, VI.6.1, VI.6.3). xxx moved, seconded by xxx, to approve the by-law changes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott Samuels, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations was appointed Executive Director of the SMC Foundation.

Resignations of SMC Foundation Board Members: Honorable Susan Dobrich, Dr. Carole Schmidt and George Wehrle were accepted.

Patty Patano was appointed the new chairperson of the Recruitment and Membership Committee.

Executive Director Update: Scott Samuels, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations

Reviewed the new structure of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations including roles for Scott and Emily, fundraising buckets for donations, the difference between capital projects and campaigns and the addition of Blackbaud Raisers Edge Client Relationship Management (CRM) Software.

Founders Weekend events were reviewed, and members were encouraged to invite interested individuals.

Financial Report/Quarterly Donations: Michelle Kite, Foundation Treasurer

Members reviewed the financial report and quarterly donations which are now reported on an accrual basis. Total donations were received, for the quarter, in the amount of $33,732. Patty Patano moved, seconded by Greg Lozeau, to accept the quarterly donations. Motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Committees Updates

Investment Committee Update: Michelle Kite
-Members reviewed the fiscal year 2028 scholarship allocation. Greg Lozeau moved, seconded by David Tate to accept the fiscal year 2028 scholarship allocation. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Meeting dates for 2027 were presented. David Tate moved, seconded by Patty Patano to accept the 2027 meeting dates. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Adjournment

Patty Patano moved to adjourn at 6:34pm. Greg Lozeau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Founders Weekend: November 13 & 14, 2026

PROPOSED