

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

**March 17, 2025**

Call to Order: Chair Bob Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the following members answered roll call:

Brian Duncan	Danelle Burrs
Margaret Tyne	Tom Demmer
Sam Ramirez	Student Trustee James Curl
Lisa Wiersema	

SVCC Staff:

President, Dr. David Hellmich  
Vice President of Academics and Student Services, Dr. Jon Mandrell  
Vice President of Advancement, Dr. Lori Cortez  
Vice President of Business Services, Kent Sorenson  
Dean of Information Technology, Kathy Dirks  
Director of Facilities, Rich Groleau  
Director of Human Resources, Kathryn Snow  
Director of Research and Planning, Aaron Roe  
Board Assistant, Peggy Eshleman  
Professor, Communication/Political Science, Dr. Paul Edleman  
Professor, Mental Health and Academic Counselor, Valerie Kern-Lyons  
Dean of Transfer Programs and Academic Support Services, Dr. Patrice Hess  
Dean of Health Professions, Pam Eubanks  
Professor, Radiologic Technology, Dianna Brevitt  
Adjunct Faculty, Biology, Dr. James Sanders  
Software Application Support Specialist, Devon Plachno  
Foundation Coordinator, Ken Burn  
Director of Financial Assistance and Benefits Navigator, Jennifer Schultz  
Financial Assistance Specialist, Lisa Brininger  
Financial Assistance Advisor-Loans and MAP, Cassie Kissee  
Financial Assistance Advisor and Coordinator of Veteran's Services, Eric Valdez  
Financial Assistance Advisor-Scholarships and Workstudy, Kari Whittenberg

Guests:

George Howe, Shaw Media  
Haylee Richardson  
Elijah Plachno  
Lilyann Plachno  
Joe Bittorf

Consent Agenda: It was moved by Member Duncan and seconded by Member Wiersema the Board approve the consent agenda. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

President's Report: Dr. David Hellmich acknowledged Phyllis C. Barnes, who passed away on March 5 at the age of 99. Phyllis had been employed as part-time clerical support for Sauk's Community Services from November of 1978 to July of 1988, and was well known in the Dixon community for her volunteerism.

Dr. Hellmich asked Dr. Jon Mandrell to introduce and recognize the faculty and students who traveled to Lahore, Pakistan for a study-abroad experience. Dr. Paul Edleman, Dr. Steve Miko, Professor Valerie Kern-Lyons, and students, Tasha Selden, Emily Hinrichs, and Emma Oswalt reconnected with our partners at Kinnaird College. The attendees spoke about the activities they participated including a meeting at the US Consulate and meeting with folks in their homes. Students answered Trustees questions, and all attendees thanked the Trustees and SVCC's administration for the travel opportunity.

Dr. Jon Mandrell continued by announcing Emma Oswalt as the 2025 awardee of the Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar as bestowed by Phi Theta Kappa. Val Kern-Lyons added that Emma is a "hallmark" member of PTK.

Dr. Hellmich presented certificates to the awardees of the 2025 Outstanding Awards: Dianna Brevitt, full-time faculty member; Dr. James Sanders, adjunct faculty member; Devon Plachno, full-time staff; Ken Burn, part-time staff; and the Financial Assistance team (Jennifer Schultz, Lisa Brininger, Eric Valdez, Cassie Kisse, and Kari Whittenberg), winner of the Shared Team Achievement Award.

Student Trustee James Curl reported on recent activities: *Life Beyond* SVCC, a presentation by Dr. Jon Mandrell; SGA updates; ICCB SAC updates; and upcoming events for the month of March.

Reports/Comments from Board Members and the SVC Foundation:

Dr. Lori Cortez reported on the most recent points of pride: the upcoming April 1 registration for the *Impact* Program; the Nursing students' success in completing the National Council Licensure Examination; and the awarding of the 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholarship to Emma Oswalt. She thanked everyone who has been voting for the impact program for the SFB challenge.

Chair Thompson reported on the training at the March ICCTA meeting and that meeting attendees are excited about the possibility of the community college baccalaureate degree legislation. He reported Jim Reed will continue as ICCTA Executive Director for a third year.

Board Policy 507.02  
*Archives* – Second  
Reading:

It was moved by Member Wiersema and seconded by Member Burrs the Board approve the adoption of Board Policy 507.02 *Archives* as presented for a second reading. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Board Policy 117.01  
*Board Orientation* – First  
Reading:

It was moved by Member Demmer and seconded by Member Ramirez the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy 117.01 *Board Orientation* as presented for a first reading. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Board Policy 403.01  
*Affirmative Action and  
Non-Discrimination in  
Equal Opportunity in  
Employment and Student  
Relations* – First Reading:

It was moved by Member Duncan and seconded by Member Wiersema the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy 403.01 *Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination in Equal Opportunity in Employment and Student Relations* as presented for a first reading. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Honorary Degree:

It was moved by Member Tyne and seconded by Member Wiersema the Board award an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree – Accounting to John Berge for exceptional and lasting contributions to his profession and community. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Outstanding Full-time  
Faculty Member Award:

It was moved by Member Demmer and seconded by Member Burrs the Board approve the nomination of Professor Dianna Brevitt for the 2025 ICCTA Outstanding Full-time Faculty Member Award. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Outstanding Adjunct  
Faculty Member Award:

It was moved by Member Wiersema and seconded by Member Demmer the Board approve the nomination of Dr. James Sanders for the 2025 ICCTA Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Retirement – Director of Human Resources:	It was moved by Member Tyne with regret and best wishes and seconded by Member Duncan the Board approve the retirement of Kathryn Snow, Director of Human Resources, effective April 30, 2025. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.
Full-time Faculty Appointments 2025-2026:	It was moved by Member Demmer and seconded by Member Wiersema the Board approve the promotion of Lois Hinton from Instructor II to Assistant Professor I for 2025-2026. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.
Faculty Appointment – English and Language Arts:	It was moved by Member Ramirez seconded by Member Duncan the Board approve the appointment of Christopher Lowe as a Professor of English and Language Arts beginning August 8, 2025, at an annual base salary of \$78,962.76. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.
Faculty Appointment – Mathematics:	It was moved by Member Wiersema and seconded by Member Tyne the Board approve the appointment of Jorge Gavillan as a Professor of Mathematics beginning August 8, 2025, at an annual base salary of \$77,175.32. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.
Faculty Appointment – Mathematics:	It was moved by Member Wiersema and seconded by Member Demmer the Board approve the appointment of Andreas Soemadi as a Professor of Mathematics beginning August 8, 2025, at an annual base salary of \$92,421.13. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.
RESOLUTION expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by Community College District No. 506, Counties of Whiteside, Lee, Carroll, Ogle, Bureau and Henry and State of Illinois:	It was moved by Member Duncan and seconded by Member Tyne the Board approve the RESOLUTION expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by Community College District No. 506, Counties of Whiteside, Lee, Carroll, Ogle, Bureau and Henry and State of Illinois as presented. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried. Kent answered trustees’ questions.

*Sauk Ready* Textbook  
Program Rate:

It was moved by Member Ramirez and seconded by Member Wiersema the Board approve the implementation of the *Sauk Ready* Textbook Program with a per-credit-hour rate of \$27.50 for participating students, effective for terms beginning after July 1, 2025. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

IncludEd Course Material  
Fee:

It was moved by Member Duncan and seconded by Member Burrs the Board approve these additional course material fees as presented for the summer 2025 semester. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

Since the scheduled business was completed, it was moved by Member Duncan and seconded by Member Wiersema the Board adjourn. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Next meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025, in the Riverview Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

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Margaret Tyne, Secretary