

Sauk Valley Community College
April 27, 2026

Action Item 4.7

Topic: Faculty Appointment – History and Humanities

College Health Metric: Academics – The College provides quality, contemporary, and relevant educational opportunities to the community.

Presented By: Drs. David Hellmich and Jon Mandrell

Presentation:

The administration has been in the process of hiring a History and Humanities Faculty. The position was advertised online on Sauk Valley Community College’s website. The college received sixty-nine applicants. Recorded interviews were requested of sixteen candidates. Four candidates were invited for an on-campus interview. A committee was composed of Kelsey Head, Evan Hunziker, Monica Queckborner, and Therese Wood. Dr. Patrice Hess, Dean of Transfer Programs and Academic Support Services, served as Chair.

Academic Background: Riley Gober received his Bachelor's in History with a minor in Political Science and his Master's in History from Western Illinois University.

Professional Background: Riley is the Academic Support Coordinator/Advisor and an Adjunct Faculty member for SVCC. While at WIU, he was a Teacher Support Assistant and an Archival Intern. He was also an Archival Intern-IRAD for the Illinois State Archives.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board approve the appointment of Riley Gober as an Assistant Professor of History and Humanities beginning August 14, 2026, at an annual base salary of \$55,064.70.

January 30, 2026

Sauk Valley Community College
173 IL-2
Dixon, IL 61021

Dear Members of the History and Humanities Adjunct Faculty Search Committee:

I am writing to express my interest in the History and Humanities Adjunct Faculty position at Sauk Valley Community College. I currently work at SVCC as a TRIO Academic Support Coordinator/Advisor and as an adjunct instructor, where I teach First Year Experience and College Success Skills. After reviewing the duties, responsibilities, and qualifications for the History and Humanities Adjunct Faculty position, I believe I am an excellent fit for this position because I care about the success of students, pursue leadership, committee, and task force opportunities to improve Sauk, and I believe in the mission, vision, and ethical values at Sauk.

First, the ideal candidate should possess a Master's degree in History with the ability to teach History, Humanities, and Art History from various modalities. I obtained my Master's Degree in History from Western Illinois University in May of 2021. The courses I took during this time provided me the knowledge and skills to teach the Western Civilization, American History, African American History, Introduction to the Humanities, and American Ethnic Cultural Expressions. While I have not taken courses that allow me to teach Art History at this time, I am eager to enroll in the coursework needed to expand my course offerings. Moreover, my experience as an adjunct instructor at SVCC has provided me with the necessary skills to offer courses in-person and online, and to adapt my materials and approach to fit different learning styles. For example, I provide visual aids for spatial learners, lecture and group discussions for aural learners, and hands-on experiences for physical learners.

Second, the ideal candidate should be mission focused; and adaptive. I firmly believe in Sauk's mission, vision, and ethical values because it emphasizes student achievement, access, dignity for all, and community engagement. Similarly, I believe that every student has the ability to do great things when offered consistent guidance and support. In my current role as an academic advisor, I adapt my advising practices accordingly, based on metrics such as: engagement, academic performance, retention, and graduation rates. For example, if a student is under performing in these metrics, I create a guided plan with the student and ensure they receive the resources and support in order to recover and make adequate progress towards their education goals. This approach of using data to adjust advising practices translates directly to instructional practices, where constant assessment and reflection is needed to guide teaching instructions. Additionally, I pride myself on staying current with advising trends and philosophies, which led to earning a certification as an Appreciative Advisor, to refine my approach and meet students and their ever-evolving needs. These examples show my commitment to being mission focused and adaptive, and I am confident I can seamlessly transfer these skills into the History and Humanities Adjunct Faculty position.

Third, the ideal candidate should have experience in student support and advising. Progress monitoring, early intervention, office hours, and offering guidance are experiences that are essential and which I possess. I have experience in keeping student records within Navigate 360, Banner, and File Bound. I also have experience in early intervention by means of 5th week

progress reports and proactive advising methods. I currently create a welcoming environment so students feel encouraged to visit my office hours. Finally, with the experience as an advisor, I offer insight and assistance to students with any and all issues they are currently facing. My time as an advisor has given me a good working knowledge of the obstacles SVCC students face and the resources SVCC offers to help students overcome them.

Finally, the ideal candidate has administrative and service experience. I bring strong experiences in administrative and service responsibilities. For example, at SVCC, I took the initiative to lead a task force to revise and update the curriculum of the First-Year Experience course, FYE. This task force met weekly for sixteen weeks to improve FYE for the instructors and students. This required quality organization skills and communication with various stakeholders within SVCC to ensure a successful revamp of FYE. Moreover, I also co-chair the Sauk Cares Committee to foster and promote a sense of community and belonging for Sauk students. I also assist in organizing grant writing efforts and the annual Equity Plan report to the State of Illinois.

Beyond Sauk, I have taken the initiative to seek leadership positions. I ran for and was elected President of ILACDA, the Illinois Academic Advising Association, which represents community college and university advisors across Illinois. As president, I work closely with the Executive Board and association members to provide quality professional development opportunities to further strengthen and advance academic advising statewide. In this position I also submitted and secured the bid for Sauk to host ILACDA's annual conference. The annual conference brought over one-hundred and fifty of Illinois's finest advisors to Sauk Valley Community College to network, and gain valuable advising practices. Collectively, these experiences have honed my skills in goal-setting, reporting, and collaborating with different stakeholders, which align directly with the expectations as a adjunct faculty member at Sauk Valley Community College.

Overall, I believe I am a well-qualified candidate for the History and Humanities adjunct faculty position. I hold a Master's degree in History and bring experience designing and delivering instruction using both traditional and innovative teaching methods to support student success. I am mission-focused and adaptable, with a proven ability to provide personalized guidance through advising and academic support. Additionally, I have experience setting and achieving goals, preparing thorough reports, and pursuing professional development to continually refine my skills. I am confident that my combination of teaching, advising, and service experience will allow me to contribute meaningfully to Sauk Valley Community College and its students as the History and Humanities Adjunct Faculty member.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Best,

Riley Jerome Gober

TRIO Academic Support Coordinator/Advisor

President of ILACADA

Certified Appreciative Advisor

Riley Gober

Email: riley.j.gober@svcc.edu

EDUCATION:

MA in History — *Western Illinois University*
August 2019–May 2021

BA in History — *Western Illinois University*
August 2012–December 2016

Certified Appreciative Advisor — *Florida Atlantic University*
August 2024

Teaching & Advising:

Academic Support Coordinator/Advisor — *Sauk Valley Community College*
May 2023–Present

- Develop individual academic education plans for students in the caseload.
- Develop and supervise TRIO peer tutors.
- Develop and implement various academic, life, and soft-skills workshops.
- Stay current on academic advising trends and theories.

First Year Experience Instructor — *Sauk Valley Community College*
May 2023–Present

- Plan and teach academic topics that are imperative for first-year students to know.
- Plan and integrate lesson plans that foster engaging group discussions.
- Ensure that the course materials are suitable for diverse learners.
- Offer FYE courses either in face-to-face or online modalities.

College Success Skills Instructor — *Sauk Valley Community College*
May 2023–Present

- Plan and teach academic topics that are imperative for students on academic alert or supervision.
- Plan and integrate lesson plans that foster engaging group discussions.
- Ensure that the course materials are suitable for diverse learners.
- Offer CSS courses either in face-to-face or online modalities.

Teacher Support Assistant—*Western Illinois University*

August 2019-May 2021

- Taught sections of Introductory U.S. survey (History to 1865; History since 1865) courses in a substitute capacity.
- Led workshops, graded papers, and exams.
- Held routine office hours to support students with proofreading papers, study skills, test prep, study sessions, historical writing and research workshops, and other general services.

Research Experience:

Teacher Support Assistant—*Western Illinois University*

August 2019-May 2021

- Assistant to Dr. Greg Hall; responsible for researching primary and secondary sources for his book, *Writing Labor's Emancipation: The Anarchist Life and Times of Jay Fox*.
- Assistant to Dr. Richard Filipink; responsible for researching primary and secondary sources that focused on his area of expertise, the Cold War.

Archival Intern—*Illinois Regional Archive Depository*

August 2020-May 2021

- Provided patrons and research partners insight into records, services, and fees for the Illinois Regional Archive Depository.
- Created electronic indexes for Illinois Regional Archive Depository documents and records.
- Completed monthly production and expense reports for the depository headquarters in Springfield, IL.

Archival Intern—*Malpass Library*

January 2021-May 2021

- Provided customer service to patrons with various research, university records, and reference requests within the archive.
- Recorded, cataloged, and indexed newly acquired items.
- Recorded, filed, and cataloged important documents pertaining to Western Illinois University.
- Engaged in preservation techniques to prolong pertinent documents and items.

Oral History Project Lead—*Malpass Library Special Collections*

January 2021-May 2021

- Served as lead interviewing intern on the oral history project on the life and times of WIU professor, Dr. Charlene Callison.
- Transcribed audio recordings.

Conference Presentations:

“There’s No Place Like Advising: A Wicked Twist on the Six Phases of Appreciative Advising,”

ILACADA Fall Conference, Speaker and Lead Organizer. Dixon, IL. 2025.

“Advising 101: An Introduction to Advising,” ILACADA Fall Conference, Speaker. Urbana, IL. 2024.

Professional Service:

President of ILACADA—*ILACADA*

October 2025-Present

- Develop and implement the mission, vision, and ethical values of the ILACADA organization.
- Form partnerships with Illinois institutions and NACADA-affiliated organizations.
- Organize and hold monthly meetings with the ILACADA Executive Board.
- Meet with members of ILACADA and the Executive Board.

Vice-President of ILACADA—*ILACADA*

August 2024-October 2025

- Assisted in the mission, vision, and ethical values of the ILACADA organization.
- Assisted in forming partnerships with Illinois institutions and NACADA-affiliated organizations.
- Assisted in organizing and holding monthly meetings with the ILACADA Executive Board.
- Met with members of ILACADA and the Executive Board.

Community College Service:

Co-Chair Sauk Cares Committee—*Sauk Valley Community College*

May 2025-Present

- Hold bi-weekly meetings to accomplish the committee's mission, which is to foster a sense of belonging for Sauk Valley Community College students.
- Assist in drafting and submitting the annual Equity Plan to the State of Illinois.

Leave Share Committee—*Sauk Valley Community College*

October 2025-Present

- Meet with committee members to review and approve or deny requests to use leave hours that were donated from SVCC employees.

Lead FYE Revamp Task Force—*Sauk Valley Community College*

August 2025-Present

- Meet regularly and lead task force meetings with members to revamp and redesign the face-to-face and online FYE course based on the course objectives.

Taking Back the Trades Grant Writing Task Force—*Sauk Valley Community College*

October 2025-December 2025

- Met with task force members to write a grant proposal to support trade programs, which SVCC was awarded.

Open & Affordable Materials Task Force—*Sauk Valley Community College*

January 2024-August 2025

- Met with task force members to accomplish the goal of providing support to instructors wishing to adopt Open Education Materials in their courses.

Professional Memberships:

- American Historical Association (AHA)
- Illinois Academic Advising Association (ILACADA)
- National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)
- Organization of American Historians (OAH)

Honors & Awards:

- Outstanding Leadership Award, TRIO Student Support Services, Sauk Valley Community College, 2025.