

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
DISTRICT NO. 537  
RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**February 18, 2020**

**CONVENING OF THE MEETING**

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2020, in the Board Room of Richland Community College by Chairman Coopriders. Chairman Coopriders also recited the College Vision, Mission, and Core Values.

Roll Call

Trustees Present: Tom Ritter, Dr. David Coopriders, Dale Colee, Vicki Carr, Bruce Campbell, and Michaila Long

Trustees Absent: Randy Prince and Bishop Wayne Dunning

Also present: Dr. Cris Valdez and other staff members

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 21, 2020 had been distributed to the Board prior to this meeting.

**Ritter moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 21, 2020. Campbell seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Coopriders declared the motion carried.**

**APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Dr. Valdez and the Board of Trustees welcomed David Shiley, Outreach Coordinator, Ag Programs.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Personnel Update

New Employees

- Julie Melton, Executive Director, Foundation & Development, effective January 8, 2020
- Annetta Evans, ASC Administrative Assistant, effective January 13, 2020
- Dennis Arnold, Basic Law Enforcement Class Coordinator, effective January 27, 2020

- Jonathon Hawk, Maintenance II – Grounds, effective January 27, 2020
- Jacob Gulso, Solutions Specialist, effective January 29, 2020

#### Changes

- Noah Tate, Student Success Coach, effective January 27, 2020

#### Retirements, Resignation, and Terminations

- Kathryn McAlpine, Library Technical Assistant, effective January 24, 2020

#### College Activities Report

- State University Transfer Day – Mueller Student Center – February 20, 2020 - 10:30 a.m.
- Army Deployment Event – Shilling Auditorium – February 27, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.
- Girls Empowerment and Leadership Camp – NSEC – February 28, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.
- Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Conference – No classes – March 6, 2020
- Board of Trustees Meeting – Board Room, March 10, 2020
- Other activities listed in the Board Book

#### **SPECIAL REPORTS**

#### **COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT**

Genna Warnick and Abigail Kopp presented the College Spotlight and introduced the Richland mascot.

#### **REPORT OF ICCTA**

Bruce Campbell gave highlights of the last meeting held on February 10, 2020:

- Paid respects to former trustees Dr. Richard Bodie (Waubensee), Ron Dedert (John Wood), Cinda Edwards (Lincoln Land), Dr. Joseph Morrissey (DuPage), Marvin Scott (Rend Lake), and Dale Von Ohlen (Waubensee);
- Reviewed new state laws affecting higher education, including the [Illinois Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act](#). ICCTA is working with NAMI Chicago on securing state funding for this new mandate;

- Heard an update on the Illinois General Assembly's upcoming spring 2020 session. Conversations continue regarding community college baccalaureate degrees, especially in the area of early childhood education;
- Acknowledged the retirement of longtime ICCTA legislative counsel Tom Ryder. Jessica Nardulli will continue to represent the Trustees Association at the State Capitol, joined by ICCTA executive director Jim Reed;
- Discussed the possibility of pursuing legislation to allow the issuance of a specialty license plate decal to promote Illinois community colleges. The proceeds could be used to support ICCTA projects, such as trustee training or diversity initiatives;
- Debated a proposal to modify mandated trustee training requirements to include equity and student success;
- Informed trustees that ICCTA's 2020 Lobby Day will take place on April 29 in Springfield;
- Received information on community colleges' [2020 federal legislative priorities](#);
- Were reminded of ICCTA's February 11 group meetings with U.S. Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth during the February 9-12 [Community College National Legislative Summit](#) in Washington, D.C.;
- Learned that ICCTA has selected MemberClicks from among four potential vendors to undertake an overhaul of the association's website and database management system;
- Noted that ICCTA's [March 13-14 meetings](#) in Bloomington/Normal will feature a [panel discussion on campus security](#), featuring experts from Parkland College, Waubensee Community College, the Illinois State Police, and Vector Solutions' Safe College program; and
- Heard updates on the activities of the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, and the Association of Community College Trustees.

The next ICCTA meeting will be held in Bloomington at Heartland Community College on March 13-14, 2020. Trustee Campbell encouraged all the other Trustees to attend.

## **MONITORING REPORT**

John Oliver presented the Monitoring Report – Community/Partnerships

## **FACULTY REPORT**

None

## **REPORT OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Student Trustee Michaila Long presented the Student Leadership Council Report.

## **FOUNDATION REPORT**

Julie Melton reported on top accomplishment, projects in progress and new opportunities on the horizon. She also provided the Trustees with an event brief on the Culinary Scholarship Dinner that will be held on March 21, 2020.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUANCE**

The Board of Trustees were asked to approve the Recommendation for Continuance for Brandon Clark, Instructor, Diesel Medium/Highway Truck, Dr. David Larrick, Associate Professor, Biology and Sequestration, Christopher Schmersahl, Associate Professor, English, James Udulutch, Instructor, Culinary Arts, Paula Rudolph, Associate Degree Nursing Instructor, Trevor Smith, EMS Program Director, Instructor, and Rachel Walton, Medical Assisting Program Director and Practical Nursing Instructor, as presented.

**Ritter moved to approve the Recommendation for Continuance for Brandon Clark, Dr. David Larrick, Christopher Schmersahl, James Udulutch, Paula Rudolph, Trevor Smith, and Rachel Walton, as presented. Carr seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Coopriider declared the motion carried.**

### **RESOLUTION REDUCING NUMBER OF FACULTY**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees to approve the resolutions presented reducing the number of faculty pursuant to the requirement so the Public Community College Act and the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Richland Federation of Teachers Local 4262 for the academic year beginning August 2020, as presented.

**Carr moved to approve the resolutions presented reducing the number of faculty pursuant to the requirement so the Public Community College Act and the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Richland Federation of Teachers Local 4262 for the academic year beginning August 2020, as presented. Campbell seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Coopriider declared the motion carried.**

### **APPROVAL TO PURCHASE VR WELDING SIMULATOR**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees that would authorize College Administration to purchase the RealCareer guideWELD VR and all necessary components from Realityworks, Eau Clair, Wisconsin in the amount of \$13,242.92, as presented.

**Carr moved to approve the purchase of the RealCareer guideWELD VR and all necessary components from Realityworks, Eau Clair, Wisconsin in the amount of \$13,242.92, as presented. Campbell seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Coopridier declared the motion carried.**

### **RECOMMENDATION TO CONTRACT WITH META TELETHERAPY**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees that would allow College Administration to enter into a two-year contract agreement with META, a subsidiary of Ceannate Corp in the amount of \$15,000.00, as presented.

**Ritter moved to approve a two-year contract agreement with META, a subsidiary of Ceannate Corp in the amount of \$15,000.00, as presented. Carr seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes. Chairman Coopridier declared the motion carried.**

### **RECOMMENDATION TO GRANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees to grant Professor Emeritus status to Pixie Fennessey, retired faculty member, as specified in Professor Emeritus Policy 3.9.1, as presented.

**Campbell moved to grant Professor Emeritus status to Pixie Fennessey, retire faculty member, as specified in Professor Emeritus Policy 3.9.1, as presented. Carr seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Coopridier declared the motion carried.**

### **FACULTY PROMOTION**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees to promote Kent Mears, Instructor to Assistant Professor, and Chris Senger, Instructor to Assistant Professor, as presented.

**Ritter moved to promote Kent Mears, Instructor to Assistant Professor, and Chris Senger, Instructor to Assistant Professor, as presented. Campbell seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes. Chairman Coopridier declared the motion carried.**

### **APPROVAL TO PURCHASE MANUAL LATHE**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees that would authorize College Administration to purchase the BASIC 180 SUPER Lathe and all necessary component from Knuth Machine Tools, Lincolnshire, Illinois in the amount of \$13,165.00, as presented.

**Campbell moved to allow College Administration to purchase the BASIC 180 SUPER Lathe and all necessary component from Knuth Machine Tools, Lincolnshire, Illinois in the amount of \$13,165.00, as presented. Carr seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes. Chairman Coopridier declared the motion carried.**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **BILLS AND TRAVEL EXPENDITURES PAYABLE**

The January 2020 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement were presented to and discussed with the Board.

A list of bills paid in the amount of \$1,234,522.08 for January 2020 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

**Ritter moved to ratify the January bills and travel expenditures paid and approve the Financial Statement subject to audit. Campbell seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Coopridier declared the motion carried.**

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

- President Valdez reported that he has spoken to a number of community clubs and shared the Annual Report. If there are any other clubs that would like a presentation, please let us know.
- The corporation that showed interest in purchasing the Foundation farmland has declined.
- ADM and Northwestern University have asked Richland Community College to discuss a biomedical training. Dr. Valdez and John Oliver will meet with both entities in April to talk about a potential partnership.

## **ITEMS FROM THE BOARD**

- Bruce Campbell complimented Dr. Valdez on his presentation at Rotary – it was very well received.
- The March Board of Trustees meeting has been moved to March 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
- Bruce Campbell posed a question if there have been any new opportunities for clinicals with Crossings Healthcare. Ellen Colbeck there are some opportunities currently.
- Tom Ritter congratulated Shannice Berry and Jessica Pickel on their graduation from Decatur Leadership Institute.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Dr. Cooprider moved to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing individual employments, as specified in Section 2 (c) (1); for the purpose of discussing collective negation matters, as specified in Section 2 (c) (2); for discussion of purchase or lease of real property, as specified in Section 2 (c) (5); for discussion of pending or probable litigation, as specified in Section 2 (c) (11); and for self-evaluation as specified in Section 2 (c) (16) of the Open Meetings Act. Carr seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Cooprider declared the motion carried.**

Meeting convened into closed session at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting reconvened into open session at 7:30 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Campbell moved and Colee seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

---

Randy Prince, Secretary