Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Room 2112, David C. Briegel

8 a.m. Regular Meeting

General Business

Members of the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees met on September 10, 2025 for a regularly scheduled meeting.

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

Members Present: Tom Jerdon, Beth Cripe, Tracy Hertsel, Skip Dyes

Members Absent: Dr. Elaine Foster, Todd Obren, Becky Moore

Minutes of the August 13, 2025 regular convened meeting required no changes and were placed on file.

Tracy Hertsel moved, seconded by Skip Dyes, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Five individuals were recognized for their service at the College:
Walter Pabis was recognized for his years of service and trustee Beth Cripe presented him with a 5-year pin.
Deirdre Kirk was recognized for her years of service and trustee Skip Dyes presented her with a 10-year pin.
Gail Shirey was recognized for her year of service and trustee Beth Cripe presented her with a 15-year pin.
Eric Clayborn was recognized for his years of service and trustee Tracy Hertsel presented him with a 20-year pin.
Andrew Dohm was recognized for his years of service and trustee Skip Dyes presented him with a 25-year pin.

Public Input

No individual requested to speak.

Other

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending August 31, 2025 was received and placed on file.

Interim President Brewer gave his President's Report. Interim President Brewer reported that "Welcome Week" has been completed, and the fall semester is officially underway. Interim President Brewer discussed the SMC's strategic plan and highlighted the "Top 5 Accomplishments" from the past two years. He began with the Economic Impact Study showing SMC generating a positive economic impact of over $58.4 million per year for the taxing district. Mr. Brewer noted the recent three capital projects with housing, wrestling and the Lyons building and the impact the construction has had on the housing shortage, the growing wrestling program and the upgrades to the arts facilities. Interim President Brewer reported on the enrollment growth in both headcount and contact hours up 11.6% in comparison to a year ago. Brewer discussed the Improvement of Student Success. The success of the Roadrunner Ready

program has led to the institutional funding, highlighting its significant impact on student outcomes from the Summer 2023 cohort to the Summer 2024 cohort. Lastly, Interim President Brewer discussed Enrollment in Academic Programs and the launching of 12 new programs over the past few years. Student enrollment has increased annually, and the trend continues in the new program areas.

Discussion Items

Trustees reviewed the list of gifts given to the Foundation, with four individual donations for a grand total in the amount of $10,500.

Action Items

Skip Dyes moved, seconded by Tracy Hertsel, to approve the Strategic Value to the Community Resolution (attachment 5A). Motion passed unanimously.

Beth Cripe moved, seconded by Tracy Hertsel, to accept with gratitude the gift shown in attachment 5B, with one individual donation in the amount of $1,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Follow-up Requests

No follow-up requests were made of the administration.

Adjournment

Tracy Hertsel moved to adjourn at 8:31 a.m. Skip Dyes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Beth Cripe, Secretary

Thomas F. Jerdon, Chairman