

Sisseton Wahpeton College
Regular Meeting
Conference Room
Board of Trustees Minutes
4/23/2024

Meeting called to order at 5:15 PM.

Roll Call:

Big Coulee	Marijo Keeble	Present
Buffalo Lake	Heather Larsen	Present
Enemy Swim	Janel Williams	Present
Lake Traverse	Jessica Redthunder	Present
Long Hollow	Izola Flyinghorse	Present
Old Agency	James Bird Jr.	Present
Heipa	Marie Renville	Present
Tribal Council Ex. Officio	Gypsy Wanna	Absent
Student Council	Aja Redwing	Absent

Others Present: President Dr. Erica C. Holmes, Dean of Students Vince Owen, Dean of Academic's Scott Morgan, Comptroller Rhonda LaBatte, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate's Education Director Dr. Sherry Johnson and Sisseton Wahpeton College Recorder Lauren E. Owen.

Opening Prayer given by Trustee Flyinghorse.

Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Chairwoman Williams opened the floor for public comment and there were none.

Reading of the Mission Statement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Board of Trustees Chairwoman William's Reported:

Chairwoman requested all trustee members attend graduation May 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM located at Dakota Magic Casino.

Board Retreat:

A doodle poll survey will be sent to the trustees for the dates that will work for all trustees to attend.

HLC Conference Reports from Trustee Flyinghorse and Trustee Keeble were given:

Trustee Flyinghorse gave her report on her attendance to the HLC Conference.

Trustee Keeble gave her report on her attendance to the HLC Conference.

Board of Trustees Approved on May 21, 2024: Motion #2.

HLC Focus Follow-up:

Dr. Erica gave a powerpoint presentation on the topic and informed the board that the follow-up visit will be in September 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

College Reports:

President Dr. Erica Holmes gave her monthly Report:

- A request was extended for all of the Trustees to attend the May 11, 2024 Graduation at 10:00 AM.
- President Dr. Erica Holmes will be placed on Tribal Council's Agenda May 8, 2024 for Tribal Council support and adoption of the changes to the Sisseton Wahpeton College Charter. All trustees will be in attendance.

Comptroller Rhonda LaBatte gave her monthly report and requested a motion for signature authority to be changed.

Approval of Bank Signor.

Motion 1: Motion made by Trustee Flyinghorse to add President Dr. Erica Holmes as the signor authority for banking on behalf of Sisseton Wahpeton College and restore Rhonda LaBatte back to original signer authority as the Sisseton Wahpeton College Comptroller. Second by Trustee Keeble. Question by Trustee Redthunder. Motion voted passed.

- Trustee Larsen had questions about the misc. Section of her financial spreadsheet and asked what the expenses were.
 - Comptroller Rhonda LaBatte said that part of it was a graduation expense and the rest she did not have an answer for.
- Trustee Renville asked if any repairs were being made to the Voc. Ed. building and if it is going to be fixed.
 - Dean Owen said yes it is being worked on.
 - President Dr. Erica said in-house repairs and RFP will be done to make repairs to damages with an end of the year goal.

Human Resource Manager Deb Anderson was absent and did not offer a verbal report but a written one was provided.

Dean of Academic's Scott Morgan gave his two reports on Academics and the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Programs:

Dean Morgan said the Fall Academic Schedule is complete.

- Trustee Larsen asked about the online registration and to see if it could be available as a trial run and if a survey has ever been sent to students on when they would prefer classes, online, evening or during the day. She has suggested that if one has not, that the college should consider sending one out.
 - Dean Morgan said there is an issue with doing it because the accuplacer test needs to be completed and the college does not have the capability to put that online yet for registration.
 - Dean Morgan said a survey has not been sent out but could be sent to students.
- Trustee Larsen asked when did the multimedia program get up and going as published in the catalog.
 - Dean Morgan said the program is not and it was printed in error.
- Trustee Larsen asked about the class limit for the CDL program and why some students were turned away.
 - Dean Morgan said he capped the class size to 6 due to one simulator needing repairs and a semi-tractor.
- Trustee Larsen asked if the college was aware that the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate's TERO office offers an incentive of \$250.00 to students completing the CDL test.
 - Dean Morgan said he was aware and will ensure students are told about this incentive.
- Trustee Larsen asked if the CDL students could receive financial aid.
 - Dean Morgan said that CDL students are not eligible for financial aid due to only being a 3 credit program and in order for students to be eligible for financial aid, they must be taking a minimum of 15 credits.
- President Dr. Erica said there have been Financial Aid meetings.

Dean of Students Vince Owen gave his Report:

Dean Owen reported that accuplacer scores have been an issue with high school students and his department is working with the school in preparing students for taking the test. This process has just started.

- Trustee Bird asked which schools were better assisting the summer bridge student recruitment process that Dean Owen spoke of.
 - Dean Owen listed Wilmot and Tiospa Zina Tribal School as two schools that will assist students in preparing for the accuplacer testing.
- Trustee Bird asked how many students had taken the new GED tests.
 - Dean Owen and Dr. Erica Holmes said 11 students completed the GED testing.
- Trustee Larsen asked how many students are graduating on May 11, 2024.
 - Deans Owen and Morgan said roughly 53 will be graduating and the number could potentially increase.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Minutes: March 19, 2024.

Motion 2: Motion made by Trustee Flyinghorse to approve the March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Second by Trustee Renville. Question by Trustee Bird. Motion voted passed.

(Actions Item documents were presented to the Trustees for approval.)

Motion 3: Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Trustee Flyinghorse. Question by Renville. Motion voted passed.

Approval of Charter Change.

Discussion was held and President Dr. Erica informed the board that she was invited to the tribal council suite to meet the council members. This was organized by the Ex. Officio Gypsy Wanna. President Dr. Erica explained to the board that the charter was brought up in conversation as the council asked what they could do to assist the college in moving forward. She explained that the wording of the Charter needs to be changed in reference to Tribal Council's involvement with the college and the hiring or dismissing of the President. The Tribal Council agreed and Dr. Erica said she would start on making the changes and present it to the board at the next board meeting. She informed the trustees that the council said they would put the college on the agenda and approve the changes formally.

The following questions were asked by the board in regards to the Action Item documents presented to the board by Dr. Erica:

Question by Trustee Larsen: What replaces that Section 3?

Answer: Dr. Erica said, the Board of Trustees can remove the statement regarding the Tribal Council's ability to remove the President.

Answer: Trustee Redthunder said that section would be removing Tribal Council from making decisions.

Answer: Dr. Erica said the Board of Trustees has one employee and that is the college President.

Question by Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Education Director Dr. Sherry Johnson: She asked if 4 & 5 of the Charter would remain the same?

Answer: Dr. Erica responded that the board approves its own bylaws. She said on page 5, the council can take action for the removal of the Board but cannot remove the President.

Question by Trustee Redthunder: She asked who was all present from council at the meeting?

Answer: Dr. Erica and Lauren said they were all present except for Lexi Fancher the Tribal Vice Chairwoman.

Question by Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Education Director Dr. Sherry Johnson: She asked if the bylaws would also be amended at this time.

Answer: President Dr. Erica said those would be worked on at a later time.

Trustee Larsen said they will also be working on policies and the employee handbook at the retreat.

Trustee Larsen wanted to extend the review process of changes to the charter as her suggestion.

Question by Trustee Keeble: What about all of the different bylaws out there currently and not knowing which one is correct.

Answer: Dr. Erica said all previous amendments will be rescinded when the changes are approved.

Question by Trustee Bird: How do other colleges work with their tribal councils?

Answer: Dr. Erica said she has had conversations with other tribal college presidents and they go through similar issues and they work through them.

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Education Director Dr. Sherry Johnson said page 4 and page 5, the Charter and Bylaws are companion documents.

Trustee Larsen suggested a calendar be kept with policy revision dates when policies are being reviewed.

Response: Dr. Erica said that compliance needs to come first and after that time, at the retreat there will be a calendar, data needed and requested and they will cover data points. The board will start having working meetings, study sessions and working committees within the board.

Motion 4: Motion made by Trustee Keeble to approve the Charter Change. Second by Trustee Renville. Question by Trustee Flyinghorse. Motion voted passed.

Approval of New Policy: Policy Governance.

Dr. Erica explains the need for Policy Governance. No questions were asked.

Motion 5: Motion made by Trustee Larsen to approve the Policy Governance Policy. Second by Trustee Keeble. Question by Trustee Redthunder. Motion voted passed.

Approval of New Policy: Consent Agenda.

Dr. Erica explains the need for a consent agenda. No questions were asked.

Motion 6: Motion made by Trustee Bird to approve the Consent Agenda Policy. Second by Trustee Flyinghorse. Question by Trustee Redthunder. Motion voted passed.

DISTRICT CONCERNS:

Big Coulee District:

→ None.

Buffalo Lake District:

→ Questions were answered while reports were being given.

Enemy Swim District:

→ None.

Old Agency District:

→ Questions were answered while reports were being given.

Long Hollow District:

→ Trustee Flyinghorse would like to begin the process of staggering Trustee term limits.

Lake Traverse District:

→ None.

Heipa District:

→ None.

Motion 7: Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to adjourn. Second by Trustee Bird. Motion voted passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Recorder, Lauren E. Owen.