

Sisseton Wahpeton College
Regular Meeting
Classrooms 1 and 2.
Board of Trustees Minutes
5/21/2024

Meeting called to order at 5:07 PM.

Roll Call:

Big Coulee	Marijo Keeble	Present
Buffalo Lake	Heather Larsen	Present
Enemy Swim	Janell Williams	Present
Lake Traverse	Jessica Redthunder	Present
Long Hollow	Izola Flyinghorse	Present
Old Agency	Joey Bird	Present
Heipa	Marie Renville	Present
Tribal Council Ex. Officio	Gypsy Wanna	-
Student Council	None	Absent

Other Present: President Dr. Erica C. Holmes, Dean of Students Vince Owen, Dean of Academic’s Scott Morgan, Comptroller Rhonda LaBatte, Human Resource Manager Deb Anderson, Business Office Staff Jennifer Pelzel and Sisseton Wahpeton College Recorder Lauren E. Owen.

Opening Prayer given by Trustee Flyinghorse.
Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Motion 1: Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to approve the Agenda. Second by Trustee Flyinghorse. Question by Trustee Bird. Motion voted passed.

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 Williams did not have anything to report.
Question: Trustee Larsen asked if the Tribal Council had a roundtable discussion yet.
Answer: Chairwoman Williams said she did not hear back from Tribal Council and there is none yet.

Board Retreat:

President Holmes said a survey was sent out and she presented a powerpoint reflecting the results. A brief discussion was held and they decided to discuss the topic later in the meeting. Two dates had the most votes and they were June 14 - 15, 2024 and June 28-29, 2024 at Dakota Magic Casino and Hotel.

Enrollment Updates:

Dean Owen said there were currently 20 students enrolled as of today with a total of 36. Nine of the students were Summer Bridge Students from Tiospa Zina Tribal School, Summit School, Wilmot School, Sisseton School and Rosholt School. There are currently 7 students enrolled for the Fall of 2024 but that number will continue to increase.

Dean Owen asked if there were any questions regarding enrollment and there were none.

Audit Financial Statements:

President Holmes provided a copy of the 2023 Audit report findings to the Board of Trustees and Comptroller LaBatte reported:

On page 4 of the audit focussing on SBITAs (Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements) is a new requirement and has to now be recorded. It is seen in the ASSETS Section, subsection CAPITAL ASSETS (SBITAs \$424,040.00) and under LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION subsection CURRENT LIABILITIES Current Portion (SBITAs \$28,451.00) and NONCURRENT LIABILITIES SBITA'S, net of current portion (\$227,419.00). (See attached).

Comptroller LaBatte discussed page 21 of the audit focussing on 2 Findings. Under Section 1 – Summary of Auditor's Results; Financial Statements: Type of auditor's report issued: Internal control over financial reporting: Material weakness (es) were identified. Under Federal Awards (NSF Grant - National Science Foundation): Significant deficiency (ies) identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses.

This is a repeated offense due to limited expertise on governmental changes that occur with grants.

Question: Trustee Redthunder asked if this would affect anything?

Answer: Comptroller LaBatte said not the grants.

Answer: President Holmes said there will be some process changes.

Chairwoman Williams asked if there were questions and there were none further.

Department Reorganization:

President Holmes informed the Board of two employee resignations, Rhonda LaBatte Comptroller and Scott Morgan Dean of Academics/Institutional Research, Planning and Programs.

Chairwoman Williams asked for questions and there were none.

President Holmes presented a powerpoint about the changes in reorganization and provided a folder to the Board outlining the Employee handbook and College Bylaws and explained the need to review and update policies pertaining to hiring personnel and rescind old versions.

A brief discussion was held.

President Holmes asked for questions and there were none.

Construction Project:

President Holmes presented a powerpoint presentation regarding the Hickory Street Building Purchase and its potential use. She had met with the CEO and GM of Dakota Magic Hotel and Casino and discussed training for casino employees at the college. This will encompass 30-60 casino employees.

- It would be rebranded with the college logo.
- Culinary Instructor Sing would hold classes there with a larger area and offer a front of house and back of house training experience for students.
- There are areas for office space for instructor/s.
- It will become a “business” run by Sisseton Wahpeton College Students in Business and Culinary.
- It would be a training location for the tribe's three casinos in the areas of culinary, gaming and hospitality, as it is in a central location of the three casinos.
- An inspection would be completed before the purchase.

- Tracy Sing would manage it and also provide custodial services as well.

A discussion was held:

President Holmes presented a powerpoint for the New Construction Project and said the new space would provide room for the Nursing Department and Culinary Program. With this construction, there would not be additional space for future growth, however if the Hickory Street Building is purchased, the new construction could be used for more health care related courses.

A discussion was held and the topic was tabled at this time.

Trustee Bird asked about the status of the cafe.

President Holmes said that the cafe staffing has been reorganized and a new position has been created.

Byran Grimmer has been moved into a new position as Campus Dining and Housing Manager and will be managing both and this change will provide stability in the cafe.

A discussion was held.

CONSENT AGENDA

College Reports:

President Holmes gave her monthly Report:

- Graduation was lovely.
- There will be a Farewell party for Scott and Rhonda on Thursday May 23, 2024 at 11:30 AM and the Board is invited to attend.
- She has been doing quite a bit of Community Outreach including meeting with the CEO and GM of Dakota Magic Casino and Hotel, attended Long Hollow District Meeting and met with a few local high schools.
- She had met with the dorm students for pizza with the President and it went well.

President Holmes asked if there were any questions and there were none further.

Comptroller LaBatte gave her monthly Report:

- A discussion was held regarding her report.

Chairwoman Williams asked if there were any questions and there were none further.

Human Resource Manager Anderson gave her monthly Report:

- The Athletic Director and Academic Specialist position that was listed in-house was filled.
- The Vice President of Academics position that was listed in-house was filled.
- The Safety Officer has been filled.

A discussion was held.

Chairwoman Williams asked if there were any further questions and there were none.

Dean of Academics Morgan gave his monthly Report:

- A discussion was held regarding his report.

Chairwoman Williams asked if there were any questions and there were none further.

Dean of Students Owen gave his monthly Report:

- He discussed the orientation process that will take place in the Fall.
- He discussed the new reorganization of the Student Services registration process and that staff will all be relocated to the front area of the building's entrance for a "one stop" inviting atmosphere.

Chairwoman Williams asked if there were any further questions and there were none further.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item: Approve Minutes: April 23, 2024.

A discussion was held and corrections were made to the draft minutes before approval.

Motion 2: Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to approve the April 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Second by Trustee Flyinghorse. Question by Trustee Bird. Motion voted passed.

Action Item: Hickory Street Building Purchase.

A discussion was held and this Action Item was tabled for further research and discussions.

Action Item: New Construction:

A discussion was held.

Motion 3: Motion made by Trustee Flyinghorse to authorize the President of Sisseton Wahpeton College to move forward with the New Construction Project. Second by Trustee Redthunder. Question by Trustee Bird. Motion voted passed.

Action Item: Signor.

A discussion was held.

Motion 4: Motion made by Trustee Bird to approve the addition of Jennifer Pelzel, to online banking authority and authorization for in house bank transfers. To approve the removal of Scott Morgan and Rhonda LaBatte from all bank accounts. To approve the addition of Deborah Anderson, SWC Human Resource Manager, online banking payroll access. To authorize Jennifer Pelzel only, access to the Board of Trustees Signature Stamp for Chairwoman Janell Williams. Second by Trustee Flyinghorse. Question by Redthunder. (1 not voting-Trustee Renville) Motion voted passed.

Action Item: Change to Grading System Policy.

A discussion was held.

Motion 5: Motion made by Trustee Larsen to approve the change to the grading system policy to remove the statement, "NOTE: Any letter grade lower than a "C" is not considered to be passing at SWC". Second by Trustee Bird. Question by Trustee Flyinghorse. Motion voted passed.

Discussion was held regarding the Board of Trustees Retreat.

- The date is set for June 14, 2024 and June 15, 2024.
- Location will be at Dakota Magic Casino and Hotel.
- It will also be via Zoom.

Motion 6: Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Second by Trustee Flyinghorse. Question by Trustee Keeble. Motion voted passed.

Motion 7: Motion made by Trustee Flyinghorse to adjourn. Second by Trustee Redthunder. Question by Trustee Renville. Motion voted passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Recorder, Lauren E. Owen.