

Sisseton Wahpeton College

Regular Meeting

Classrooms 1 & 2

Board of Trustees Minutes

2/18/25 (4:30 PM meal) – Rescheduled to February 19, 2025

Meeting called to order at 5:14 PM.

Roll Call:

Big Coulee:	Mary Jo Keeble	Present (late)
Buffalo Lake:	Heather Larsen	Present
Enemy Swim:	Janell Williams	Present
Heipa:	Marie Renville	Present
Lake Traverse:	Jessica Redthunder	Present
Long Hollow:	Vincent Owen	Present
Old Agency:	Rhonda Kampeska	Present (late)
Tribal Council Ex. Officio:	Francis Crawford:	Present
Student Council:	Emily Johnson:	Present

Others Present: SWC President Dr. Erica C. Holmes, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Julie Buckman, Internal Auditor Lisa Jackson, Interim Vice President of Administrative Services, Interim Human Resources Manager, Business Office Specialist Merlin Jay Renville, Gypsy Wanna, SWC Recorder Terrell (TJ) Shellman.

Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 5:14 PM. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Motion 1: Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to approve agenda. Second by Trustee Renville. Question by Trustee Larsen. Motion voted passed.

Motion 2: Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to approve Long Hollow Minutes. Second by Trustee Renville. Question by Trustee Larsen. Motion voted passed

Chairwoman Williams opened the floor for public comment.

Gypsy Wanna asked about “rumors of who got free tuition”. Chairwoman Williams allowed President Holmes to address this question. To which Dr. Holmes stated that no particular students received free tuition.

Gypsy Wanna asked “Why are there two board meetings per month”. Chairwoman Williams responded by informing Gypsy Wanna that there are two meetings per month due to all portions of the bylaws being active at this time.

Reading of the mission statement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

AIHEC Legislative Summit, Washington DC:

The President attended the 2025 AIHEC Legislative Summit alongside three members from student senate. Student Senate President, Emily Johnson, spoke about what she learned during the Legislative Summit. She learned about how the freezing of federal funding affects Tribal Colleges and Universities. Also, added that she learned more about TCUs in general. The President informed the board that the freeze affects SWC directly by not allowing the college to draw down on certain funds such as equity. Also denies the college from getting funding from head start. A judge in a federal court issued a stay making funds available as of right now. If there were to be lawsuits, they would be class-action lawsuits, also there would not be payouts to colleges or universities only to students and employees. The President left Washington knowing for sure that funding will be cut eventually. The question to be answered is where will the cuts be and how much. At the AIHEC Legislative Summit the President was issued a “request for resolution to support Tribal Colleges and Universities.” She presented it to the board. Madam Chair instructs the Tribal Council Ex. Officio to speak to the tribe in regards to this form and ask if the tribe is willing to adopt the resolution. Madam Chair also instructed the President to present it to the SWO Board of Regents. Tribal Council Ex. Officio suggests that the President gives create a list of possibilities and how this affects SWC.

HLC Conference- April 2025

The new criteria for accreditation goes into affect September 1, 2025. The college is gearing up and preparing for the visit with the Higher Learning Commission in 2027 for accreditation purposes. At the 2025 HLC Conference 2/3 of the special sections are designated for TCUs. The President, 3 board members, and 6 staff members will attend the HLC Conference in April 2025.

HLC Focus Follow Up Visit Letter

The visit with the HLC is in 2027. All documents must be turned in by 2026 at least 3-4 months before the scheduled visit. There’s normally a minimum requirement of 5 years of data.

Board of Trustees Annual Conflict of Interest Statement

The conflict of interest statement is looked over each year. Signatures of each board member are required. **The BOT Annual Conflict of Interest Statement was tabled by a Trustee.**

CONSENT AGENDA

College Reports:

President’s Report

- There are new and exciting community outreach activities going on. Such as recruiting at the Tiospa Zina basketball playoff game vs Wilmot.
- The salad bar has been getting lots of buzz and compliments.
- There was an outreach program with attorneys at the tribe who offered paralegal advice.
- The President has attended meetings with Julie Buckman and TZ High School in hopes to collaborate with each other's culinary programs.
- There is a brand new one-stop shop so students registering are all in one place.
- The carpentry students helped build the new one-stop shop.
- The fun committee has events planned for Black History Month.
- There was a poster event for MLK Day, allowing student to list their favorite Dr. King quote.
- There is excitement around athletics and the new E-Sports Gaming team that will be up and running soon.

Student Senate's Report

- Student Senate visited Washington DC for the 2025 AIHEC Legislative Summit.
- There are various fundraising events to raise money for the AIHEC Student Conference.
- A television raffle is in the works.
- A bake sale was held, along with a 50/50 raffle.
- The next student engagement event will be St. Patrick's Day.

VPASA's Report

- Dakota studies has a new adjunct.
- The "Voice of Our Ancestors" program is great.
- There have been Dakota dictionaries issued out on behalf of the college.
- The Education Specialist is enrolling more students in tutoring.
- The peer tutor is working 8 hours a week for math.
- Graduation activities are coming up soon.
- Some nursing students from SWC passed their LPN test.
- There are 23 nursing students with nursing as their major.
- There have been inquiries for a summer bridge program.

Vice President of Administrative Services

- Strategic planning starting up in Jenzabar.
- Check requests, credit card requests, purchase orders, etc. are being trained on Jenzabar.
- There are plans to identify each area of the business office.
- The end of the year closeout has been completed.
- The café is training for their new diabetic menu.
- The company that delivers food for the café and the head of SWC's Culinary program Tracey Sing will train café employees.
- The grand opening for the coffee shop is in the works.
- Positions looking to be filled are Interim Office Manager, Director of Alumni Relations, Interim DOA for Dakota Studies.

- There are upgraded computers in the library, replacing the outdated ones before.
- Bookstore online purchases are being worked out to make that a possibility.
- Privacy pods for students have been ordered that will go in the library.
- The IT Department set up computers in the one stop shop area.
- New computer stations at the dorms.
- IT also is helping out with online adjuncts.

ACTION ITEMS:

Action Item: Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion 3:

Motion made by Trustee Keeble to approve the consent agenda. Second by Trustee Redthunder. Question by Trustee Larsen. Motion voted passed. 7/0

Action Item: Approve Minutes: January 21, 2025

Motion 4:

Motion made by Trustee Kampeska to approve the January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Second by Trustee Larsen. Question by Trustee Keeble. Motion voted passed. 7/0

Action Item: Approval of Policy Revisions Employee Categories

Motion 5:

Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to approve the policy revisions employee categories. Second by Trustee Keeble. Question by Trustee Kampeska. Motion voted passed. 7/0

Action Item: Approval of General Administration

Motion 6:

Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to approve the general administration. Second by Trustee Kampeska. Question by Trustee Larsen. Motion voted passed. 7/0

Action Item: Approve Consultant for Audit

Motion 7:

Motion made by Trustee Redthunder to approve the consultant for the audit. Second by Trustee Kampeska. Question by Trustee Keeble. Motion voted passed. 7/0

DISTRICT CONCERNS

Big Coulee District:

- Do students whom of which are tribal members have assistance with tuition issues? – Dr. Holmes responded: “Yes scholarships are available and financial aid specialists are on campus to assist students with applying for scholarships and fasfa.”
- Were 29 employees terminated? – Dr. Holmes responded: “No there were not 29 terminations.”

Buffalo Lake District:

- Requested information about old greenhouses.
- Concerned about plans moving forward with the college's lease expiring in 2032.
- Are "Elderly Tuition Waivers" still active? – Dr. Holmes responded: "Yes they are still in place."

Enemy Swim District:

- None

Old Agency District:

- None

Lake Traverse District:

- Last month a motion was made to require all first-year students to take a Dakota Language course. Referenced how church schools, such as Trinity Bible College (a neighboring college), requires students to take religious courses.
- Inquiry was made for staff tuition to be paid upfront.

Long Hollow District:

- Requesting information about expenditures. Wants to know where money is being spent.
- Requesting information about the qualifications of hirings.
- Requesting information and the layout pertaining to the grievances policy.

Heipa District:

- Questioned how high tunnels will get to their district. Stated that delivery would be adequate and said to reach out to Heipa Chairwoman for details.

Closed Session: 7:28 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

TERRELL J. SHELLMAN