Sisseton Wahpeton College

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2025 - 5:00 PM (4:30 PM meal)

Meeting called to order at 5:08 PM Roll
Call:

Big Coulee	Marijo Keeble	Present
Buffalo Lake	Heather Larsen	Present
Enemy Swim	Janell Williams	Present
Lake Traverse	Jessica Redthunder	Absent
Long Hollow	Vincent Owen	Present
Old Agency	Rhonda Kampeska	Present
Heipa	Marie Renville	Present
Tribal Council Ex. Officio	Francis Crawford	Present

Others Present: Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman, William Laroque, Josh Flute, Heather Flute, Etta Jo Marks, Dr. Samuel Bonsu, Dr. Alessandro Jaker, Gretta Lavergne, SWC Recorder Kenyon Budack Jr.

-If you Attended and your name is not documented, your name was not legible on the sign-in sheet. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM. Roll call was taken ,and a quorum was established.

Public Comments:

- William Laroque – Enquired about the forensic audit being finished, The issues with PELL, and BIE Funding.
    - Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman confirmed that students will be receiving their PELL funding and BIE funds.
    - Vice President of Administrative Services Gretta Lavergne
- William Laroque – Asked if the forensic audit was still in progress, and that he would like a copy of it as a community member. Additionally, he also announced that he had given the Board of Trustees a written letter of concern and gave one copy to each of the board members.
    - He also had questions on the status of BIE funding and PELL Grants and asked if the students were receiving either. To which Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman responded that the students will receive their PELL grant money and BIE funds. VPAS Gretta Lavergne discussed both PELL and BIE funding with Katherine Campbell.
    - Regarding the forensic audit, Gretta responded that she had submitted everything that needed to be submitted to them.
    - Furthermore, the Board of Trustees Chairwoman stated that once they received all the information they would disseminate it to the SWC Board of Trustees and Tribal Council.

- Etta Jo – Discussed how her Board of Trustees member was waving her copy of the audit around in the air, but when questioned the representative would not share it. She questioned if everything was in for the audit, and asked how they get their questions answered, because there is lot of giyapi out there, and would like to know the truth, because they have strong concern for the college.
  - Chairwoman Williams Responded, that when you ask some questions you need to write letters for a response, and you need to have an address on it, so that they are able to have some kind of contact information, so that they are able to respond to the concerns.
  - Chairwoman Williams also stated that, what was being waved was an update report given to the Board of Trustees, as the CPA firm is required to give updated reports as they work on the audit. The Board of Trustees is actively waiting to be given the finalized audit report and look at it wholly before they make any decisions on the matter.
- Chairwoman Willaims asked if there was any other questions for the Board of Trustees. To which there were none.

Reading of the Mission Statement

- Chairwoman Williams read the mission statement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Discussion Item #1 HLC:

- Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman reported that HLC came last Monday and Tuesday to approve the two education Bachelor of Science Programs.
- The HLC committee are working to see if it will make it on the Agenda.
- The HLC visit did go well, and every meeting we had was good.
- Kelsey Stadtler added – One important note that they gave us was that our students and faculty are the heart and soul of our college. As quite a few students did show up and visit with them over the course of their visit.
- Marie Renville asked Kelsey Stadtler if the students thought it was good. To which Kelsey replied that the students were very happy with the college, she thought that the students did great, and that HLC said they were the heart and soul of the college, so they did a very good job answering questions and asking questions.

Discussion Item #2 HLC:

- Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman reported that the Welcome back Bash was Open to different venders, lots of students showed up and enjoyed it, and they loved the mustang mascot. Additionally, the mascot will be showing up for games and events. The students loved the free food, the venders, and the event.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President's Report:

- Title 3: Part F Grant: Approved, covers salaries and professional development.
- Recruitment: FUN Committee parades in Brown's Valley and TZ.
- New Hires: Business Office Manager, Security Officer, and Athletics Director.
- BIE – Application was Submitted with all information required.
- Questions: Trustee Larsen asked what grant was awarded. To which Dr. Buckman responded that it was the Title 3: Part F Grant. The grant deals a lot with salaries, and a little bit with travel for professional development.

Vice-President of Academic and Student Affairs Report:

- Deans: Working to define their roles and recruitment strategies.
- Upcoming Emergency All Staff Meeting: The Emergency Training was cancelled. In lieu of that we had a meeting about stress management for the staff. The training was done by Patricia Roth. After that the deans got together with their faculty and gave updates.
- Financial Aid: Aquila G. has been helping us with our financial aid problems.
- Extension Grant – Is nearly complete, and the grant will be done soon. Updated the PI on the grant.
- AICF: We have received funding for professional development travel for our instructors.
    - Dr. SingingEagle is going to Spearfish and both Mr. Lee and Dr. Li are going to Minneapolis for a math.
- Questions: There were no questions or comments on the VPASA's Report.

Vice-President of Administrative Services Report

- Single Audit: The audit is in progress. The audit includes previously excluded credit card records. Gretta explained that there are going to be findings, because some procedures were not followed. Further, if they have findings we will know where to improve going forward.
- Audit Firm: Would like to reuse the same auditing firm again for consistency (allowed for up to 3 years). (We have only used them for one year.)
- Missing Documentation: The auditors want all of the information, they could not find them all at that time, but they are going to submit them all when they hopefully find all of the documents.
- USDA GRANT 41: Will fund software for payroll, HR, Anti Plagiarism detection, etc.
- E-Civis System: Is almost done. It will improve financial tracking and grant management and will expedite reports when needed.
- Questions:
    - William Laroque asked what if she had the credit card policy to which Gretta explained that they usually have a week to turn receipts in for the credit cards after use.
    - Trustee Keeble asked if Gretta could look into the 2014 forensic audit that had to deal with Randy Smith and Scott Morgan. Specifically, she believed that there was a motion #7 that had to deal with administrative action against Scott Morgan. Gretta responded that she could look into it and bring it back to her.

  - Tribal Council Ex. Officio Crawford asked why the credit card was not cancelled. To which Interim President Dr. Buckman responded that all of the people who used that credit card before are no longer employed at SWC.
  - Trustee Owen commented that there are three credit cards located in the President's Room, Vice-President's Room, and in the other hall. Interim President Buckman responded that, they are all inside of a locked safe, and that there is a paper sign-in sheet inside of the vault to see who has the cards
  - Ex Officio Crawford asked why they don't have the credit card requests. To which Interim President Buckman responded that the paperwork had disappeared when they left.
  - Trustee Larsen asked, and those people are no longer employed here? To which Interim President Buckman responded that Yes, they no longer work here.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Motion #1: To reinstate Mary Jo Keeble as the representative from Big Coulee. Made by Trustee Larsen, Seconded by Trustee Kampeska, Questioned by Trustee Owen. 6/0 MVP. Motion Passed.

- Motion #2: Motion to approve the agenda. Made by Trustee Kampeska, Seconded by Trustee Keeble, Question by Trustee Owen. 6/0 MVP. Motion passed.

- Motion #3 To approve the Special BoT Workgroup Session Meeting minutes for August 14, 2025, and to include the changes in the minutes. By Trustee Keeble, Seconded by Trustee Owen, Question by Trustee Larsen. MVP 6/0. Motion Passed.
  - Fixing errors in minutes and approving.

- Motion #4: To Approve the Regular BoT Meeting minutes for August 19, 2025. By Trustee Larsen, Second Trustee Kampeska, Question by Trustee Keeble. MVP 6/0. Motion Passed.

- Motion #5: To approve the minutes for September 2, 2025, Special Board of Trustees Meeting and to include the changes in the minutes. By Trustee Kampeska, Second by Trustee Larsen, Question by Trustee Keeble. 5/0. 1 not voting. Motion passed.
  - Trustee Keeble questioned why there was a need for this motion for November and December. Chairwoman Williams explained that HLC needed a motion to have Board of Trustee's approval reflected in minutes, because at that time, they were presented to the board through reports.
    Discussion: The changing in minutes in this motion means that after these motions are fixed of errors they are approved.

- Motion #6: To advertise the Sisseton Wahpeton College President's position, and to have it open until it is filled. Motion by Trustee Larsen, Seconded by Trustee Kampeska, Questioned by Trustee Owen. Vote:6/0 MVP. Motion passed.
  - Discussion: They would like to have it advertised everywhere the last one was previously advertised. Tribal College Journals, advertising location, and job description.

- Motion #7 To Adjourn the meeting. By Trustee Owen. 6/0 MPV. Motion Passed.

Board of Trustees Approved on October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting: Motion #2

DISTRICT CONCERNS:

Big Coulee:

- Mary Jo Keeble said that they have given their concerns to Jerry, so after she receives any concerns or updates she will bring them to the following meetings.

Buffalo Lake:

- Trustee Larsen shared that her district would like to have minutes summarized more.
- Recommended another round table on the changing of HLC Bylaws.
- Asked why the MBA was not included.
    - Interim President Julie Buckman responded that it was rejected by the Curriculum Committee, as they want higher level of classes it will be resubmitted again later.

Enemy Swim:

- Chairwoman Williams shared that her district protested against the severance and said that if any contract that comes up further should not include any type of severance.
- Student transportation for Enemy Swim students to and from the college, especially in winter.
- Elderly Vehicle use for their conference.

Long Hollow:

- They would like to see the forensic audit.

Old Agency:

- Trustee Kampeska shared that she had shared the cover page of the audit in progress with her district to show that the audit is in progress to counter misinformation that was being shared.
- Shared with her district that there was stealing and theft at the college previously, and that hopefully it will be stopped from continuing further and change for the better.

Heipa:

- Heipa had their meeting on the 23rd, and they wanted a motion to have other felons removed from the college due to the removal of one employee that was a felon.

Discussion:

- William Laroque
    - Cited that there is a federal law regarding safety for the dorms and requested that compliance.
    - Asked for future special meetings to be held in rooms 1 & 2 and should be open to the public.
    - Chairwoman Williams responded that special meetings are short and consist of closed meetings or are very short in nature with a motion to adjourn or very few motions at all. So, that’s why they are held upstairs.

- Trustee Keeble inquired about access to the audit. Chairwoman Williams responded that. Yes, she will have to speak with Gretta.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
SWC Recorder: Kenyon Budack Jr.