

***Sisseton Wahpeton College***  
***Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes***  
10/21/2025 - 5:00 PM (4:30 PM meal)

Meeting called to order at 5:08 PM Roll

Call:

|                            |                    |                |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Big Coulee                 | Mary Jo Keeble     | Present        |
| Buffalo Lake               | Heather Larsen     | Present (Late) |
| Enemy Swim                 | Janell Williams    | Present        |
| Lake Traverse              | Jessica Redthunder | Present (Late) |
| Long Hollow                | Tami Seiber        | Present        |
| Old Agency                 | Rhonda Kampeska    | Present        |
| Heipa                      | Marie Renville     | Present        |
| Tribal Council Ex. Officio | Francis Crawford   | Present (Late) |

**Others Present:** Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman, SWC Recorder Kenyon Budack Jr., William Laroque, Lorraine Rousseau, Etta Jo Marks, Gina Motah,

-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.

**Motion #1:** Motion to approve the agenda. Made by Trustee Seiber, seconded by Trustee Kampeska, question by Trustee Keeble. MVP 6/0. Motion Passed.

**Public Comments:**

- William Laroque – Mr. Laroque expressed that he had concerns regarding his September 16<sup>th</sup> written request for the findings of the forensic audit, stating that he had submitted the request with his address to both the Recorder and the Chairwoman. He noted he has not received a response.
  - The board responded that the forensic audit is still in progress and no decisions or findings are available at this time.
- Lorraine Rousseau – Concerned about rumors of theft and embezzlement related to the forensic audit findings. Concerned, because she was the Chairwoman at that time, and has vested interest in understanding the findings, especially the potential fraud investigations from 2020 to 2023.
- Etta Jo Marks – Explained that it is to her understanding that the College received the final audit in August after Francis Crawford commented that the Chairman wanted to meet with the Board Chairwoman. She asked what the process is now that the audit is done, and that the public has the

right to know the contents. She also repeated concerns that the Board does not answer questions to follow up on complaints, asking how stakeholders can receive answers for closure on concerns.

- Gina Motah – Had problems with her student account, as it showed a bill of \$4,000 when she should have gotten a refund. She could not contact staff, and expressed concern about the elders not receiving free tuition, and asked why it ended. Noted a loss of confidence among students due to student billing and financial aid issues.
- William Laroque – stated he lost trust in the Board of Trustees due to a lack of response to community concerns. Asked what happened to elder tuition, and urged the Board to provide answers. Repeated his recommendation for dialysis technician program for the community.
  - Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman responded that the new programs take time to develop and said that the next program planned is the paralegal program.

### **Reading of the Mission Statement**

- Chairwoman Williams read the mission statement.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **Discussion Item #1: Homecoming Parades**
  - Parades in Brown's Valley and TZ. Sisseton's was rained out.
- **Discussion Item #2 Re-use of Audit Firm:**
  - Approved in January, but tabled for discussion next meeting.
- **Discussion Item #3 SWC Recruitment:**
  - Staff and Deans going to college fairs in the area.
- **Discussion Item #4 SDSU Articulation Agreement:**
  - MOU for Early Childhood. Hoping for more numbers in the upcoming semester.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **President's Report:**

- Extension is hosting a wild game series where they teach how to clean and cook wild game. Last guided plant walk is scheduled in October.
- Worked with Daycare to discuss an MOU for students with daycare emergencies.
- Attended a digital meeting with AIHEC's Board of Regents.
- Hired an adjunct for CST Technology.
- Jim Pearson contacted Dave and I. FEMA will pay to fix VOTEC Drummers. Changing Material to withstand heavy wind.

#### **Vice-President of Academic and Student Affairs Report:**

- Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) had a September meeting.
- Worked with Susan from SDSU to build an MOU with SDSU.
- Met with the Deans.
- Questions: There were no questions or comments on the President or VPASA's Report.

## Vice-President of Administrative Services Report

- NSF/TCUP budget and student daycare MOU work was completed, and there are no current responses received for now. Met with Jaime Stanza
- Keycard grant: Obtained quotes. Looking for lower-cost vendor to stay in grant funding.
- Student Accounts: Met with Gypsy about student accounts. Asked for her to do a report for her.
- Met with Extension, Equity Grant, Sanford, and finished the Clearly and Incident Reports.
- Held a credit card policy meeting.
- Tiny Homes: Working with Richard White to move homes from VOTEC to area close to dorms.
- Counterpoint Training: Training is underway for student accounts, café, and bookstore manager.
- Bamboo HR/payroll Software: Implementation is underway and is expected to go live by January.
- E-Civis Grant System: Nearly implemented, this will help automate grants, budgets, requisitions, and audit documentation.
- Bills.com Software: Funded through USDA. It will process ACH, Check Requests, and Credit Card Requests.

## Questions/Discussion:

- Ex. Officio Crawford asked: who are buying the homes?
  - Gretta responded that the housing authority previously planned to buy one per year, but the previous president shifted it to accommodate employee housing, so she was unsure.
  - Ex. Officio Crawford noted that the Housing Authority initially wanted to buy one per year but stopped providing funding once the homes were going to be for employee housing.
  - Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman stated she would look into it.
- Trustee Renville asked if this is the same as the Dakota Studies report and what the \$250k was for.
  - Interim President Dr. Julie Buckman responded that it funds the Voices of Our Ancestors program.
  - Trustee Renville questioned if the tribe would continue providing funding, since Shakopee will continue their support. Dr. Buckman confirmed that they will.
  - Trustee Renville asked who manages the grant, and Dr. Buckman stated that Dr. Alejandro Jaker is the program director.
  - Ex-Officio Crawford confirmed the tribe will continue to fund the full amount and the Shakopee grant will remain in place, per the 2006 Tribal Council proclamation.
  - Trustee Larsen asked if funding would be cut if additional grants are received.
  - Ex-Officio Crawford stated that the funding would not be cut, even with the shutdown and federal program cuts. The tribe will have to find a way to stay self-funded and sovereign, and that they need to prepare for the impacts of the government shut down.

## ACTION ITEMS:

- **Motion #1:** Motion to approve the agenda. Made by Trustee Seiber, seconded by Trustee Kampeska, question by Trustee Keeble. MVP 6/0. **Motion Passed.**

- **Motion #2:** To Approve September 16, 2025, Regular meeting Minutes with amended changes. Made by Trustee Redthunder, Seconded by Trustee Kampeska, Question by Trustee Larsen. MVP 7/0. **Motion Passed.**
  - Discussion: Amended changes: SWC Board of Trustees and SWC Tribal Council to receive disseminated final audit report when it is completed.
  - HLC would like to know why the Board goes into closed executive sessions. Brief explanation.
  - Gretta found the 2014 Audit findings that Trustee Keeble was asking for. It was unknown if it was ever disseminated to the public. Ex-Officio Crawford would like to know if the audit is sharable or not and then go back to the statute of limitations on that.
- **Motion #3:** To have a check register given to the Board of Trustees directly from Accounts Payable with every check from Accounts Payable. Made by Trustee Redthunder, Seconded by Trustee Seiber, Question by Trustee Keeble. MVP 6/0. 1 not voting. **Motion Passed.**
  - Discussion: Everything on Accounts Payable Checks going out.
- **Motion #4:** To have all consultation work authorized by the Board of Trustees prior to implementation. Motion by Trustee Redthunder, No Second, No Question. **Motion Died.**
  - The motion moved to discussion.
  - Discussion: Interim President Dr. Buckman said that all of the consultation contracts were made before she was in her position, other than one. The Board asked if be shown all contracts and consultation. Dr. Buckman said that would work.
- **Motion #5:** To go into closed executive session. Made by Trustee Seiber, Seconded by Trustee Kampeska, No Question. MVP 7/0 Motion Passed.
  - Discussion: Trustee Redthunder had more motions and discussion that had to be in closed session that were either legal or personnel related.
- **Motion #6** To Adjourn the meeting. 7/0 MVP. **Motion Passed.**

#### **DISTRICT CONCERNS:**

Big Coulee:

- Trustee Keeble said that they have not given her anything for now.

Buffalo Lake:

- Trustee Larsen said that one of her district members was asking about the PELL grant and the Financial Aid, but it was not a written complaint.

Enemy Swim:

- Was not able to make the last meeting for her district and will bring any concerns back for the next meeting.

Long Hollow:

- Trustee Seiber reported that Vince has resigned from the Board, and Board elections were to be held next Thursday. The only concern Long Hollow had was their ability to see the forensic audit.
- Ex-Officio Crawford stated that the forensic audit had not been accepted by the Board of Trustees yet, because it was done by a Certified Fraud Examiner and not a CPA Firm. That is why the

board has not accepted the forensic audit yet. More than likely, they will ask for a certified CPA firm.

Old Agency:

- Trustee Kampeska reported that her district did not have any concerns.

Heipa:

- Trustee Renville reported that she did not have anything to report for this meeting.

Discussion:

- Lorraine Rousseau – If there is going to be another audit, will that also include when Dr. Holmes was here? All of the complaints that I am aware of was when she was hired, and not before. I would like to know why there is discussion on this 2014 audit on Randy Smith.
  - Trustee Keeble – It was not on the forensic audit minutes at that time. It was only mentioned in the minutes and the college minutes.
  - Lorraine responded – Why is the board looking way back on those minutes?
  - Trustee Keeble – You guys keep saying we are ignoring the warning signs, so we are trying to be more extensive.
- Chairwoman Williams asked Trustee Redthunder if she had anything else for the board? To which Trustee Redthunder asked to go into closed executive session.

#### **Closed Executive Session**

- **Motion #5:** To go into closed executive session. Made by Trustee Seiber, Seconded by Trustee Kampeska, No Question. MVP 7/0 Motion Passed.

The Meeting came out of closed session at 7:20 PM.

- **Motion #6:** To Adjourn. MVP 7/0 Motion Passed.

**Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted,

SWC Recorder: *Kenyon Budack Jr.*