

**EAST CENTRAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board President Ann Hartley. Other Board members present for the meeting were Joseph Stroetker, Prudence Johnson, Cookie Hays, Eric Park and Audrey Freitag. Also present were President of the College Jon Bauer; Administrators – Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Robyn Walter, Vice President of External Relations Joel Doepker and Vice President of Student Development Heath Martin; Other Staff – Interim Dean of Health Sciences Nancy Mitchell, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness Michelle Smith, Foundation Executive Director Bridgette Kelch, Director of Early College Programs Megen Strubberg, Director of Communications & Marketing Gregg Jones, Faculty Association President Jenifer Goodson, ECC-NEA President Tom Fitts, Professional Staff President Jenny Kuchem, Classified Staff Secretary Angie Siebert, Executive Assistant to the President Bonnie Gardner, and Student Government Association representatives Gwen Minks, Adam Fangers, Jeremy Robey and Tony McCurry.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Mr. Jones introduced Kristen Dragotto from the *Missourian* and Mark Skornia from the Washington Fire Protection District.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Each item on the consent agenda shall be deemed to have been duly approved with the same validity as if each action were separately moved, seconded and adopted.

Motion: To **approve** the agenda for the March 2, 2020 meeting of the Board of Trustees.
Motion by Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried Unanimously

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Board approved the minutes of the February 3, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT: Dr. Bauer reviewed the financial statements for the year to date.

Motion: To **approve** the treasurer’s report, the financial report and the payment of bills subject to the annual audit.
Motion by Prudence Johnson; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried Unanimously

ACCEPTANCE OF BID: Dr. Bauer noted that the ECC Foundation wanted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the College with a gift and the administration suggest a monument sign. The sign will be funded by the ECC Foundation and maintained by the College after installation. It will be 35 feet tall and visible from both directions as vehicles approach on Highway 50. The electronic message board will be used to announce campus events.

Motion: To **accept** the bid of Ziglin Graphics to manufacture and install a digital sign at the intersection of Highway 50 and Prairie Dell Road at a cost of \$119,920.71 to be paid by the ECC Foundation.
Motion by Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Eric Park; Carried unanimously

DEACTIVATION OF FIRE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM: The Fire Technology Program has been in operation for over 40 years. However, enrollment declined over the last several years and there has not been any enrollment for a couple of years. Most training now takes place within the various fire departments. Mark Skornia, program coordinator, expressed appreciation to the Board and College for their support of the program and noted there have been great numbers of fire department personnel trained through the program.

Motion: To **approve** the deactivation of the Associate of Applied Science in Fire Technology and the Certificate in Fire Technology effective immediately.

Motion by Audrey Freitag; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried Unanimously

The Board and administration expressed appreciation to Mr. Skornia and presented him with a plaque recognizing his years of service as the program coordinator and an adjunct instructor.

U.S.D.A. GRANT RESOLUTION: Dr. Bauer noted that the Board needs to periodically renew authorization to participate in U.S.D.A. grant program.

Motion: To **approve** a resolution authorizing East Central College's participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Grant program.

Motion by Eric Park; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried Unanimously

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM: Strengthening partnerships with area high schools was identified as an important strategy in the strategic plan. Vice President Martin and Megen Strubberg have been working with area districts to identify cohorts of students who would benefit from the College's programs and services. Vice President Martin noted that the Three for Free program and free tuition for students on the free/reduced lunch program are two strategies recently implemented. The third prong of this effort to enhance relationships is the Early College Academy. The academy is an opportunity to earn 60 college credits at the same time as high school credits are earned. There are various pathways available that will allow students to pursue their specific interests. All courses will be taught on the ECC campus and high school students will be fully integrated with college students. Five other community college's offer early college programs – Jefferson College, Metropolitan Community College, Ozarks Technical College, St. Charles Community College and St. Louis Community College. There are currently 60 students dually enrolled as individuals; with this model ECC will work with the school to have identified cohorts. The students will be on the ECC campus so that attendance requirements can be met. Students are not required to complete 60 credit hours; the AA pathway courses are part of Core42 and would transfer regardless of degree completion.

Megen Strubberg shared the possible degree pathways, which include the AA degree, the AS degree (students must be Calculus I ready), the AFA degree, the AAT degree and the AAS degree. She noted that the Nursing and OTA programs would focus on pre-requisites due to the competitive admissions status for those degrees. The HVAC and Industrial Engineering Maintenance certificates and the EMT licensure program would also be available for seniors.

Students would take 15 credit hours per term during their junior and senior years. Schedules would be developed around high school activities. The school district will pay for each student's books and tuition at the dual credit rate. Students must provide their own transportation; districts may opt to provide bus service. It was noted that students who complete their associate degree will forfeit

their A+ funds. Admission to the academy requires a 3.0 cumulative GPA (or 2.5 GPA if testing into college ready classes), a student essay, a signed agreement, parental consent and a clean student disciplinary record; a C average must be maintained. Students will have access to all college resources and will follow the ECC academic calendar. Course grades will transfer to the high school transcript.

Union School District has agreed to participate, and discussions are underway with Washington School District. This program will be available to high schools in the ECC taxing district and service region. As the program grows, the model will be reviewed and revised to best meet the needs of the students.

The Board expressed appreciation to those involved in developing the academy and requested updates as the program begins operation.

BUDGET UPDATE: The overall budget development process has been revised and managers started working on the FY21 budget in December. Department/division requests were presented to administrators on February 1. The vice presidents will meet this month to discuss requests; revenue projections will also be finalized this month. Preliminary discussions regarding enrollment projections have occurred. The House Appropriations Committee has recommended a \$4.5 million funding increase for community colleges; there is hope this dollar amount will grow. The budget will be presented to the Board in May for approval.

***PERSONNEL:** The Board **approved** the appointment of Pamela Ruwe-Kaiser as the Coordinator, Center for Workforce Development Programming effective March 17, 2020 with an annual salary of \$36,860.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. Hartley expressed appreciation to those responsible for the production of "Nine to Five" and those who performed in the recent faculty recital.

REPORTS:

- A. FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPORT:** Faculty Association President Jenifer Goodson reported that Bob Mahon recently published two sonnets and has submitted four poems to the Journal of the Ozarks. Aaron Bounds presented at an art conference in February. Faculty Association officer elections will occur in March.
- B. ECC-NEA REPORT:** NEA President Tom Fitts reported that bargaining continues, and meetings have been aligned to coincide with budget preparation. Regarding the Early College Academy, Mr. Fitts noted that the outstanding student of the year in 2014 was a home school student who started attending ECC at age 15.
- C. PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT:** Professional Staff Association President Jenny Kuchem reported that over 70 employers participated in the February 24 Career & Transfer Fair. The ECC DECA Chapter, sponsored by Steffani McCrary, sent a student as the state rep to the recent DECA competition.
- D. CLASSIFIED STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT:** Classified Staff Association Secretary Angie Siebert reported that voting is underway for the spring Spotlight Award. Donations are being accepted for the spring fundraiser basket raffle.

E. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA): SGA President Gwen Minks reported voter registration was held in February as well as a blood drive. She and Jeremy Robey attended the Governor’s student leadership forum in Jefferson City. Dr. Bauer has agreed to participate in “The Big Switch” on March 18. Almost 100 students have entered the contest to trade places with the president for the day. April events include Adopt A Highway, Falcon Fest, Earth Day, and Student Achievement Night. Members of the Scholar Bowl Team were introduced – Jeremy Robey, Adam Fangers, Tony McCurry. They recently placed 17th in national competition at Valencia College; Jeremy ranked third overall.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Bridgette Kelch reported the Friends of the Foundation event had over 190 attendees and raised approximately \$48,000. The culinary students provided appetizers and the entertainment was a scene from “Nine to Five.”

Vice President Joel Doepker noted that Jeremy Robey’s ranking was 3 of 98 at the national scholar bowl competition. ECC is the only community college with a team and was ranked 17th out of 24 teams from across the country.

Dr. Bauer reported that the response to the Higher Learning Commission has been filed and the last step in the process is a decision by the HLC Board at their meeting in June. It is anticipated that the recommendation of the site visit team and the Institutional Actions Council to remove notice status will be upheld.

The softball season is underway with four games played recently in Mississippi; home play begins this week.

Emily Rau will be the commencement speaker. She began her collegiate career as a dual credit student at ECC. She has worked at KMOV and did network correspondent work with ABC news.

East Central College was recently recognized for risk management excellence by the Missouri United School Insurance Council.

The April Board meeting has been changed to April 6 since no election will be held.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To **adjourn** the March 2, 2020 public Board of Trustees meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Motion by Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried Unanimously.

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees