

**EAST CENRAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, November 4, 2024**

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 all, or parts of the meeting were Joseph Stroetker, Eric Park, Cookie Hays, Audrey Freitag, and J.T. Hardy. Also present were President of the College Jon Bauer; Administrators – Vice President of Academic Affairs Robyn Walter, Vice President of External Relations Joel Doepker, and Vice President of Student Development Sarah Leassner; Faculty – Faculty Association President Tracy Mowery and ECC-NEA President Reg Brigham, Other Staff – Institutional Research Director Bethany Lohden, ECC Foundation Director Bridgette Kelch, Human Resources Director Carrie Myers, Director of Communications & Marketing Gregg Jones, Rolla Campus Director Christina Ayres, Professional Staff Association President Todd Tracy, Classified Staff Association President Denise Walker, and Executive Assistant to the President Stacy Langan.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Dan Silverburg and Kevin David from CampusWorks, Chris Parker from the *Missourian*, community members Paul Grosse and Roy Kramme, and Officer Todd Schlitt from the Union Police Department were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

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 November 4, 2024, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Dr. Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board approved the minutes of the October 9, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT: College President Jon Bauer noted that the financial report is primarily typical for this time of year. He mentioned that the annual financial audit will be presented to the Board in December.

Motion: To **approve** the treasurer’s report, the financial report, and the payment of bills subject to the annual audit.

Motion by Dr. Eric Park; Seconded by Dr. Joseph Stroetker; Carried Unanimously

EMPLOYEE ANCILLARY INSURANCE: The Board approved employee medical insurance at its August 26, 2024, meeting. The current recommendation is for ancillary policies. It was noted that the premiums reduce in cost at 62 years of age.

Motion: To **approve** Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to provide basic Live/Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability insurance benefits with no premium cost increase for 2025.

Motion by Dr. Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried Unanimously

STUDENT OUTCOMES: Dr. Robyn Walter shared the annual course success report based on new Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data with the Board. Detailed data is included in the agenda packet. There has been a positive trend over the past several years, made possible through collaboration across campus. Dr. Walter shared a comparison of ECC students to the national average, noting that ECC ranks 64% among all participating community colleges. She also presented the fall-to-fall retention trend analysis, highlighting that retention, an important indicator of enrollment, remains strong. Some Title III and ATD efforts are focused on part-time and developmental students, who may not be achieving the same success as other groups. With an average retention rate of 65%, ECC is above the national average, though community colleges across the country have generally shown improvement.

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION: Dr. Walter shared information about programs at ECC that adhere to accrediting bodies. Some accreditations are required, while others are voluntary, but all of them benefit our graduates. For example, the scholarships that our music students receive from quality transfer institutions across the nation are possible because ECC is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), which is rare for community colleges. Since Dr. Walter's report last year, two new accredited programs have been added: Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) for the Law Enforcement program and Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) for the Respiratory Care program, which is currently in phase II of implementation. Dr. Walter noted that all programs are in good standing and fully accredited. The Higher Learning Commission emphasizes the rigor and quality of programs, and the accreditations for individual programs contribute to ECC's overall accreditation. She also provided an update on the 2024-25 schedule of accreditation and approval visits, with three scheduled: Radiologic Technology - JCERT, Missouri State Board of Nursing - LPN program, and CoARC.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: The process of building the strategic plan has been ongoing for some time, and the trichairs have been instrumental in driving it forward. The engagement of faculty, staff, the cabinet, steering committee, and the Board has been instrumental to the final plan that will be announced to campus tomorrow.

Dan Silverburg from CampusWorks thanked ECC employees and the Board for their involvement in the process. He provided an update, noting that over 850 internal and external stakeholders were involved, with particular appreciation for student input. Dan reminded the Board that the Ideal Student Experience has been the central focus throughout the process. He emphasized that without institutional support, students cannot receive a student-centered experience. Dan reviewed the mission, vision, values, and strategies, and shared draft objectives with the Board for approval. The action plans that support these objectives will be finalized over the next couple of weeks and will align with the strategic plan. These plans focus on areas such as Student-Centeredness, Strategic Enrollment, Community Vibrancy, Operational Innovation and Effectiveness, and Employee Development and Institutional Culture.

A one-page document, similar to the one from the previous plan, is being developed. The strategic plan will be officially launched to employees tomorrow, with a review of what's included in the plan and the next steps.

Motion: To **approve** the Strategic Plan starting in academic year 2024-25.

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

***PERSONNEL:** The Board **approved** the appointment of Denise King as the full-time Director of Clinical Education for Respiratory Care/Faculty effective November 25, 2024, with an annual salary of \$64,524.90.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Board President Ann Hartley mentioned that the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) convention in Branson, MO begins Wednesday, November 13. She encourages employees to attend if they are able as it is a worthwhile event.

REPORTS:

A. FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPORT: In October, Jennifer Higerd and Dr. Elizabeth Flotte attended the Assessment Institute in Indianapolis. The Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC) hosted two internal faculty development opportunities. Dr. Parvatha Acosta facilitated the Chew on This FDC session - "Happy Secret to Better Work" and Dr. Clarissa Brown facilitated the FPDC session titled "Non-classroom tasks - What am I supposed to do? Required tasks, deadlines and how they fit together." Last Friday faculty had the opportunity to attend an Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLO) session on Professional and Personal Development, and this coming Friday, Dr. Shanee Haynes will share a presentation about her Sabbatical Leave.

B. ECC-NEA: Faculty are excited to begin bargaining next Tuesday.

C. PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT: Gregg Jones attended the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) District 5 conference in St. Paul, Minnesota in October. The Communications and Marketing team, including PSA members Greg and Andy Kolb, received six Medallion Awards: two gold for Social Media Page (Facebook) and Podcast (ECC Insiders), two silver for Social Media Page (Instagram) and Short-Form Writing, and two bronze for Website and Logo Design.

Dr. Michelle Smith is attending the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Federal Funding Task Force meeting in Washington, D.C. This event is a gathering of community college grant writers from around the country who meet with program officers from federal agencies to learn more about federal grant opportunities.

Pam Kaiser, the Community Education Programming Coordinator for the Center for Workforce and Development (CWD), organized an ECC Learning Day at the ECTC, welcoming over 30 K-5 grade students from the St. Clair R-XIII School District during the district's Professional Development Day. The ECC Learning Day concept was first piloted this past spring with the Union and Washington elementary school districts, each held on their respective professional development days. ECC Learning Days is a collaborative effort involving CWD, ECC's Teacher Education Department, Central Methodist University, Scenic Regional Library, and the University of Missouri Extension.

D. CLASSIFIED STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT: CSA's October Denim Day raised \$132.50 for Franklin County Foster Closet. CSA Officers will request nominations for 2025 Denim Day charities from employees. The Fall 2024 CSA Spotlight Award recipient is Cynthia Cubas, Executive Administrative Assistant, External Relations. A reception to honor Cynthia will be held in the coming weeks. Each year CSA sponsors one or two families through local organizations for the holidays. They will begin taking donations soon.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Registration for Spring, Summer, and Winter Session 2025 is now underway. As of this morning, Spring 2025 enrollment has increased by 5.7% in headcount and 3.6% in credit hours. Design meetings for the renovation of the new Rolla building continue biweekly, involving the Owner’s Representative, architect, and ECC leadership. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2025, and once it starts, the process will expand to include more participants. The focus is on identifying needs and assessing space, and the Board will be kept updated throughout.

With the help of a grant, two classrooms will be converted into a Respiratory Care lab and classroom space. Initial designs and walkthroughs have already taken place, with construction set to begin in spring/summer 2025 and the space ready for students in the fall of 2025.

In athletics, the volleyball team is ranked 2nd in Region 16 and will compete in the district championships. Unfortunately, injuries led to the suspension of the women’s soccer season.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To **adjourn** the November 4, 2024, public meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:46 p.m.

Motion by J.T. Hardy; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried Unanimously

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees