

**EAST CENTRAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, May 5, 2025**

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 Eric Park, Cookie Hays, Audrey Freitag, and J.T. Hardy. Also present were President of the College Jon Bauer; Administrators – Vice President of External Relations Joel Doecker, Vice President of Student Development Sarah Leassner, and Vice President of Academic Affairs Robyn Walter; Faculty – Faculty Association President Tracy Mowery, ECC-NEA President Reg Brigham, and Biology Instructor Kevin Dixon; Other Staff – Human Resources Director Carrie Myers, Director of Communications & Marketing Gregg Jones, Professional Staff Association President Todd Tracy, Classified Staff Association Secretary Rileigh Cassimatis, ECC Foundation Director Bridgette Kelch, Athletic Director Jay Mehrhoff, Online Learning & Educational Technology Director Chad Baldwin, Rolla Director Christina Ayres, and Executive Assistant to the President Stacy Langan.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Gregg Jones recognized Chris Parker from the *Missourian*; Officer Todd Schlitt from the Union Police Department; ECC students David Harper; Julie Steffans and Jim Shearer of The Lawrence Group, Ryan Wilson of NAVIGTE Building Solutions, and community members Paul Gross and Dean Gross.

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 May 5, 2025, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board approved the minutes of the April 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: The Board recognized East Central College students David Harper and Kylie Napier for receiving prestigious national honors. David was named the Coca-Cola New Century Workforce Scholar, the top student in Missouri in the workforce category. Kylie was named a Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar, one of only three students in Missouri to receive this honor and one of just 20 nationally. Both students were first identified last October through the Academic All-USA program, which begins with students meeting specific eligibility criteria, followed by an extensive application process.

The Board also acknowledged Kevin Dixon, who will step down as the Phi Theta Kappa advisor after 30 years of dedicated service. President Bauer recognized Kevin for his unwavering commitment to PTK and ECC students and presented him with a pen made from an oak tree on the ECC campus. Kevin has truly set the bar high.

In addition, the Board recognized Athletic Director Dr. Jay Mehrhoff, who will retire at the end of the academic year. Dr. Mehrhoff was recently honored with the distinguished NJCAA Loyalty Award, which is given to athletic directors who demonstrate a deep commitment to the values of the NJCAA. This rare award has only been presented 22 times in the NJCAA's 86-year history.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT: President Bauer reviewed the financial statements as of March 31, 2025. He noted that we are on track overall. There is a timing issue

related to operating revenue on the scholarship line. At this point last year, we had not yet drawn down Pell funds, which increased the federal grants line item. The grant for the Respiratory Care program is another factor contributing to that increase this year.

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

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

FY26 BUDGET UPDATE: President Bauer indicated that the budget and staffing plan are on target to be presented at the June meeting for approval. The budget will be provided to the Board in advance of the meeting to allow time for review. At this point, expenses exceed revenue by more than \$450,000 in Fund 10. We are continuing to refine that gap. Tuition revenue projections have been revised to reflect a five percent decline in enrollment. We originally budgeted for flat enrollment, but adjusted projections after enrollment numbers dropped. Recently, enrollment has been trending mostly even. We have budgeted for a 1.5 percent increase in state revenue. The Senate version of the budget includes a three percent increase. The state budget is currently in conference and must be finalized this week before going to the Governor. We will continue to monitor developments. The budget includes projected staffing without a cost-of-living adjustment and a total operating budget of approximately \$23 million.

We expect the newly implemented senior property tax freeze in Franklin County to impact property tax revenue. We have budgeted a two percent increase. As properties are reassessed, we will adjust the tax levy accordingly. Once we receive final figures from the county, we will calculate rollback numbers.

ROLLA PROJECT UPDATE: East Central College has received federal and state funds to support renovating the property at 1400 Independence Road in Rolla, which the College purchased nearly a year ago. Ryan Wilson of NAVIGATE Building Solutions, along with Julie Steffans and Jim Schearer of The Lawrence Group, provided a project update and cost overview to the Board.

The team has worked closely with ECC department leaders to assess needs and develop schematic designs, leading to a comprehensive program budget. The project is now in the design development phase. An early RFP for demolition and abatement was issued, with bids due May 15 and a recommendation expected at the June meeting. Construction documents will follow, with an RFP for construction bids anticipated by June 20.

The 100,000-square-foot facility will see approximately 60,000 square feet renovated, with a projected total cost of \$19.5 million. Aside from improvements to the main entrance, no exterior work is planned. President Bauer thanked the teams for their collaborative approach and noted that ECC will continue to seek additional funding. Existing lease agreements on the property remain in place for 18 more months and generate revenue.

Mr. Wilson also updated the Board on the Respiratory Care Program renovations in Union and Columbia. At the Union campus, demolition, framing, and plumbing are complete, with drywall underway. In Columbia, demolition will begin this week, followed by framing and plumbing. Both sites are scheduled for completion by July 25. A workforce training grant funds the project.

BIDS: President Bauer reported that Midwest Computer Products was the low bidder for the classroom technology upgrades. A second bid related to Phase II will return to the Board in June. Work will begin this summer, with similar setups but more simplified than Phase I.

Motion: To **accept** the bid from Midwest Computer Products of Chicago, IL, for Phase II Classroom Installation for \$178,900, funded by the allocated federal earmark for Phase II Technology/Streaming Project.

Motion by Cookie Hays; Seconded by J.T. Hardy; Carried Unanimously

ASSESSMENT SHOWCASE UPDATES: Vice President Robyn Walter shared highlights from the Assessment Showcase held on March 28, 2025. This annual event features faculty and staff presentations on data, activities, and operational improvements that support institutional effectiveness. She highlighted a few of those presentations for the Board: Bethany Lohden presented results from the Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Survey. Erin Anglin shared an analysis of tutoring services and student outcomes. Dr. Shanee Haynes discussed effective collaboration strategies, and the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program provided a glimpse into their student orientation process.

FOUNDATION MINI-GRANTS: Foundation Executive Director Bridgette Kelch provided an overview of the projects selected for funding through the ECC Foundation's mini-grant program. While the Foundation aims to fulfill as many requests as possible, unfunded proposals may still be considered for alternative funding sources. Since 2009, nearly \$140,000 in mini-grants have been awarded, not including this year's total of \$36,594. The Buescher Mini-Grant Program increases by approximately \$20,000 annually through an endowed scholarship fund. In addition, many academic pathways have separate funding sources available. Ms. Kelch also referenced Title III funds from 2004 that were locked for 20 years and are now accessible.

***PERSONNEL:** The Board **approved** the reappointment of the professional staff for the 2025-2026 academic year as listed on the attached memorandum. The Board also **accepted** the resignation of Andrew Chitwood as the full-time Network & Systems Manager effective May 9, 2025. The Board **approved** the appointment of Andrea Bailey as the full-time Nursing instructor effective June 2, 2025, with an annual salary of \$64,524.90 and the addendum roster of adjunct faculty for the Summer 2025 semester as listed in the attached memorandum.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Board President Hartley had no report.

REPORTS:

A. FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPORT: No report.

B. ECC-NEA: ECC-NEA President Reg Brigham reported the election of new officers for the upcoming academic year: Dr. Coreen Derifield as Vice President and Dr. Aurelia VonTress as Secretary. He also shared that ECC-NEA presented crystal apples to retirees Linda Barro and Judy Bieker in recognition of their dedication to both ECC and ECC-NEA.

C. PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT: Erin Anglin, Executive Director of the Learning Center, completed the MCCA Leadership Academy on April 23. The final session took place in Jefferson City, where participants met with local legislators and observed a legislative session.

The AEL Program and the Crawford County Sheriff's Office received the 2025 Local Excellence in Partnership (LEAP) Award at the Missouri Association for Workforce Development Conference.

ECC Wellness Services has partnered with the St. Louis Area Food Bank to participate in the Higher Education Pantry Program. This partnership provides access to donated goods and

wholesale pricing, enhancing resources for the ECC Food Pantry. With staff certification complete, ECC is now eligible to place orders and receive deliveries.

Stephanie Hebert, Director of Student Development, has been selected for a volunteer position with Student Affairs Assessment Leaders (SAAL), a national organization supporting assessment professionals in Student Affairs. She will serve as a Content Wrangler on the Professional Learning and Development Committee, curating and managing resources for SAAL members.

D. CLASSIFIED STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT: In March, CSA Denim Days raised \$122.50 for Franklin County Humane Society and \$22.50 for the Cuba Animal Shelter. In April, \$110 was raised for ECC's Food for Falcons and \$70 for the Cuba Animal Shelter. Penny Wars, the spring fundraiser, is currently underway. The money will be used for the CSA scholarship. Looking ahead, MCCA CSA Day will be held on June 13 at MACC in Moberly.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Summer enrollment remains strong, with headcount up 8.8 percent and credit hours up 13 percent, totaling 592 students and 3,134 credit hours, well ahead of the past two summers. Fall enrollment is mixed, with headcount up 2.4 percent but credit hours down one percent. Current figures show 932 students enrolled for 11,004 credit hours. This trend has held steady for about a week.

The state budget has passed both chambers with a 1.5 percent increase in the House and a three percent increase in the Senate. A conference committee will reconcile the differences before the end of the week, after which the budget goes to the Governor, who has until the end of June to take action. The Transfer and Articulation Senate Bill received strong support in the House and is now under Senate consideration. The bill would ensure students in designated majors can transfer courses without retaking them to meet major requirements. There is optimism that it will pass before the session ends next week.

Commencement will be held at noon on Saturday, May 17, as a ticketed event to better manage crowd size, hoping to improve last year's overflow issues. There are 242 graduates this year. There is no keynote speaker this year, allowing time for institutional recognitions and to focus on student celebration. A post-event debrief will help evaluate the ticketing process and consider whether future ceremonies should be split into two events.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To **adjourn** the May 5, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:04 p.m.

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

The following roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

<u>Yes</u> A. Hartley	<u>Yes</u> E. Park	<u>Yes</u> A. Freitag
<u>Absent</u> J. Stroetker	<u>Yes</u> C. Hays	<u>Yes</u> J.T. Hardy