

**Illinois Community College District #511
Rock Valley College
3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61114
April 25, 2023, 5:15 p.m.**

FINAL MEETING OF THE PRESENT BOARD

MINUTES

Call to Order

The final meeting of the present Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, convened in the Performing Arts Room (PAR), Room 0214, in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus of Rock Valley College on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gloria Cardenas Cudia.

Roll Call

The following members of the Board were present at roll call:

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia	Mr. Bob Trojan
Mr. John Nelson	Mr. Paul Gorski
Ms. Lynn Kearney	Mr. Richard Kennedy
Student Trustee Ryan Russell	

The following trustee was absent: Ms. Crystal Soltow.

Also in attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President Liberal Arts and Adult Education/Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Jim Handley, Vice President Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President Student Affairs; Mr. Keith Barnes, Vice President Equity and Inclusion; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President Operations/Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President Industry Partnerships and Community Engagement; Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director College Communications; Ms. Ann Kerwitz; Assistant to the President; Ms. Betsy Saucedo; Interim Assistant to the President; Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz. Guests: Associate Professor Mathew Oakes, Assistant Professor Jessica Higgins, and Student Trustee-Elect Mr. Juan Nogueta.

Board Member Attendance by Means Other than Physical Presence

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to allow Trustee Soltow to attend the meeting via telephone, if she so desires. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

There were no public comments.

Recognition of Visitors

Dr. Spearman recognized former Trustee Randy Schaefer who was in the audience.

1. Student Trustee 2023-2024 – Mr. Juan Noguera

Dr. Patrick Peyer introduced Mr. Juan Noguera as the newly elected student trustee for 2023-2024. Juan is a student in RVC's fire science program and active in the Campus Activities Board (CAB) and the Association of Latin American Students (ALAS). He will be sworn in as the student trustee at the May 23 regular board meeting.

2. Faculty of the Year –Professor Dr. Mathew Oakes

Dr. Amanda Smith introduced Professor Dr. Mathew Oakes, recently named 2023 Faculty of the Year. Professor Oakes came to RVC in 2010, teaches composition and literature, and will be speaking at Commencement. Trustees added their congratulations and thanked Dr. Oakes for the great work he has done at RVC.

3. Faculty Recommended for Tenure – Assistant Professor Jessica Higgins

Dr. Amanda Smith recognized Assistant Professor Jessica Higgins, who achieved tenure status at the College. Ms. Higgins joined RVC in 2020 and is an instrumental member of the nursing program. Unfortunately, she was not able to attend the meeting.

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 5:25 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to adjourn to closed session to discuss: discuss 1) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body per Section 2 (c) (5); and/or 2) Litigation has been filed, is pending, or probable per Section 2 (c) (11); and/or 3) Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property per Section 2 (c) (8), all in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Reconvene Open Meeting

At 6:10 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to adjourn the closed session and return to open session. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. No action was taken as a result of closed session.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting and the March 28, 2023 Regular Board meeting.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Action Items

1. BR 8026 – Approve Claims Sheet

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the claims sheets from the Ellucian check register from March 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023. The total is \$3,197,293.18.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve Board Report 8026. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2.A. BR 8027-A – Approve Purchase Report-A – FY2023 Addendums

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the marked items for purchase on Board Report 7915-A.

\$ 2,290.65	A.	Barnes & Noble, Rockford, IL
\$ 14,000.00	B.	Enterprise Rent-A-Car Midwest, Rockford, IL
\$ 9,000.00	C.	Johnson Control Fire Protection, Palatine, IL
\$ 16,800.00	D.	Stratus Networks, Peoria Heights, IL

Trustee Gorski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8027-A. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2.B. BR 8027-B – Approve Purchase Report-B – FY2023 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the marked items for purchase on Board Report 8027-B.

\$ 15,900.00	A.	Nucleus Robotics, Los Angeles, CA
\$ 16,250.00	B.	Mid-State Equipment, Columbus, WI
\$ 26,900.00	C.	Schnucks Market, Rockford, IL
\$ 16,000.00	D.	Kelley Williamson, Rockford, IL
\$ 59,678.00	E.	Kunes, Elkhorn, WI
\$ 60,678.00	E.	Kunes, Elkhorn, WI
\$ 64,678.00	E.	Kunes, Elkhorn, WI
\$ 35,340.00	E.	Harvard Ford (F150)
\$ 56,110.00	E.	Summit Ford Automotive (F350) Beaver Dam, WI
\$ 24,155.75	F.	City of Belvidere, Belvidere, IL
\$ 17,525.00	G.	Uni-Systems Engineering Inc., Minneapolis, MN

Trustee Gorski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to approve Board Report 8027-B.

Chief Financial Officer Ellen Olson explained the addition of two trucks on Item E., and the addition of Item F. permit fees for the city of Belvidere for the Advanced Technology Center, and Item G., inspection and maintenance of the Starlight Theatre roof. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. BR 8028 – Approve One-Year Tax Abatement for All World Machinery Supply, Inc.

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees uphold the original purpose of the tax abatement set forth in Attorney Report #321 dated September 23, 2014. The abatement shall not exceed a period of one (1) year in fulfilling the original spirit and intent of the previously approved Attorney Report #321. Therefore, the Board of Trustees of Rock Valley College orders the Winnebago County Clerk to abate that portion of the College's share of property taxes to be levied against the property commonly known as 6164 All World Way, Roscoe, IL, and more specifically identified by property index number 04-15-300-020 by the following percentages:

Year	Taxes From	Payable In	Abatement %
One (1)	2023	2024	50%

The total tax abatement All World Machinery Supply, Inc. receives pursuant to this tax abatement commencing with the 2023 tax payable in 2024 shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00).

Trustee Gorski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8028.

Trustee Gorski explained that this is not a new tax abatement, but an adjustment to one approved by the Board of Trustees in 2014. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Gorski, Kennedy, Nelson, Trojan and Cudia voted yes. Trustee Kearney abstained. Student Trustee Russell voted yes (advisory).

4. BR 8029 – Approve Personnel Report

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the personnel actions listed on the report.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8029. Trustee Trojan explained to the audience and new trustees that the trustees had an extensive review of the documents being voted on tonight during the Committee of the Whole meeting held two weeks ago. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

5. BR 8030 – Approve Personnel Report – Sabbatical Leave

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the sabbatical leave for one academic year (Fall 2023-Spring 2024), including teaching a standard semester instructional workload (15 CHEs) over two semesters at 100% salary for Dr. Danielle Hardesty, associate professor of philosophy.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve Board Report 8030. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

6. BR 8031 – Approve Revised Board Policy 3:10.030 Access to Personnel Files

The Board Report reads in part: In accordance with Board Policy 1:10.080 (Amendments and Adoption of Board Policies), it is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the amendment to Board Policy 3:10.030 to comply with the Illinois Personnel Record Review Act. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to approve Board Report 8031.

Trustee Gorski thanked administration for making reasonable changes to the policy by allowing three days rather than seven days for the Human Resources Department to respond to an employee request to view a personnel file. He also advocated that personnel files be moved to an electronic format to allow easier access.

Trustee Nelson then made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, to amend the motion to delete paragraph three in the policy (*The College's administration shall develop administrative*

procedures to ensure compliance with state and federal law.), as he felt there was no need to develop administrative procedures. In response to a trustee question, Attorney Joe Perkoski confirmed that administrative procedures already exist for this policy.

The motion to amend was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Gorski, Kearney, Kennedy, Nelson, and Trojan voted yes. Trustee Cudia voted no. Student Trustee Russell voted yes (advisory).

A motion to approve the amended Board Policy 3:10.030, Access to Personnel Files (without paragraph three) was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Gorski. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

7. BR 8032 – Approve Retirement Resolution

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Retirement Resolution for Rock Valley College employees who retired in 2022-2023.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8032. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Chair Cudia congratulated all of the retirees and thanked them for their many years of service. Dr. Spearman added that due to unforeseen circumstances, the retirement celebration will not be held this year, but the retirees will be presented a gift to acknowledge their contributions to Rock Valley College.

8. BR 8033 – Approve 2023 Summer Flex Days

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves five (eight-hour) summer flex days for full-time, Educational Support Personnel (ESP), Professional Staff Association (PSA), and Administrative staff to be used between May 22, 2023, and August 4, 2023.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to approve Board Report 8033. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

9. BR 8034 – Approve 2023 College Holiday Closure

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees will close Rock Valley College on Tuesday, December 26, 2023; Wednesday, December 27, 2023; and Thursday, December 28, 2023, and designate those days as additional paid days off for employees scheduled to work. Members of the Fraternal Order of police (FOP) and Support Staff Association (SSA) who are required to work on any of those days to keep the campus safe and secure will be paid in accordance with their respective collective bargaining agreements, treating compensation for those days as a campus closure day.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve Board Report 8034. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. Trustee Gorski encouraged administration to make this holiday closure permanent.

10. BR 8035 - Approve Resolution for Purchase of Real Property at 311 S. Winnebago St., Rockford, IL

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of the Property described in the Contract for Purchase and Sale and further described as 311 S. Winnebago St., Rockford, IL 61102, and its Addendum attached as Exhibit A, and the Occupancy Rider attached as Exhibit B.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8035. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

11. BR 8036 - Approve Resolution for Purchase of Real Property in Belvidere, IL from Big Thunder Development Corp.

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of the Property described in the Purchase and Sale Agreement and further described as P.I.N. #05-23-303-001 (23-44-3 Big Thunder Lot 2); and 05-23-303-002 (23-44-3) Big Thunder Lot 3). The Board approves the Purchase and Sale Agreement and its attached Addendum.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8036. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Trustee Gorski commented that this property is adjacent to the Advanced Technology Center, but it has no street address. Trustee Nelson added that these property acquisitions are a good investment in the local economy.

Adjourn Final Meeting of Present Board

At 6:30 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to adjourn the final meeting of the present board. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
Immediately Following the Final Meeting of Present Board
April 25, 2023

MINUTES

Call to Order by Chairperson of Retiring Board

The Reorganization meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, convened in the Performing Arts Room (PAR), Room 0214, in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus of Rock Valley College on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gloria Cardenas Cudia.

Roll Call by Secretary of the Retiring Board

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present at roll call:

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia	Mr. Bob Trojan
Mr. John Nelson	Mr. Paul Gorski
Ms. Lynn Kearney	Mr. Richard Kennedy
Student Trustee Ryan Russell	

The following trustee was absent: Ms. Crystal Soltow.

Also in attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President Liberal Arts and Adult Education/Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Jim Handley, Vice President Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President Student Affairs; Mr. Keith Barnes, Vice President Equity and Inclusion; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President Operations/Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President Industry Partnerships and Community Engagement; Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director College Communications; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President; Ms. Betsy Saucedo, Interim Assistant to the President; Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz. Guest: Student Trustee-Elect Mr. Juan Nogueta.

Board Member Attendance by Means Other than Physical Presence

Attorney Perkoski confirmed that it was not necessary for trustees to vote on this again, since Trustee Soltow had not joined the meeting via telephone.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors to be recognized.

Adoption of Policies of the Board

Trustee Gorski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to adopt the Policies of the Board of Trustees dated April 8, 2014 and individually updated as necessary as part of the Board Policy Manual.

Trustee Gorski commented that he would like to have the new Board review the policies, as he has found some things that no longer apply. Trustee Nelson added that he would like to be part of those discussions.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Certification of Audit and Board Minutes and Policies by Secretary

Board Secretary Bob Trojan certified that the audit and minutes and policies of the Board of Trustees are true and are kept in conformity with the Board of Trustees Bylaws.

Comments by RVC President Dr. Howard Spearman

Dr. Howard Spearman acknowledged Trustee Lynn Kearney and thanked her for coming back to serve as trustee for the last two years, especially for her unwavering commitment to the College in general, to adding a second elevator to the Health Science Center, and to student success. Board Chair Cudia and the other trustees added their thanks for her service and thoughtful approach to the issues.

Adjournment of Retiring Board, sine die

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to adjourn the meeting of the Retiring Board, sine die. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Seating of Newly Elected Trustees

Attorney Joe Perkoski administered the oath of office to newly elected trustees Ms. Kristen Simpson and Mr. Robert (Bob) Trojan.

Convening of New Board by Ranking Hold-over Officer from Retiring Board Who Shall Serve as Temporary Chairperson

As the ranking hold-over officer from the retiring board, Board Chair Gloria Cardenas Cudia, serving as Temporary Chairperson, convened the new Board of Trustees and asked Board Secretary Trojan to call the roll.

Roll Call

The following members of the Board were present at roll call:

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia	Mr. Bob Trojan
Mr. John Nelson	Mr. Paul Gorski
Ms. Kristen Simpson	Mr. Richard Kennedy
Student Trustee Ryan Russell	

The following trustee was absent: Ms. Crystal Soltow.

Election of Chairperson of the Board
Election of Vice Chairperson of the Board
Election of Secretary of the Board

Temporary Chairperson Cudia called for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson to nominate the following slate of officers: Gloria Cardenas Cudia as Board Chair, Paul Gorski as Vice Chair, and Bob Trojan as Secretary. There were no other nominations, nor any discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Treasurer

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve the appointment of Ms. Ellen K. Olson, vice president of finance/chief financial officer, as College Treasurer. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Attorney

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve the appointment of Mr. Joseph Perkoski of Robbins Schwartz as College Attorney. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Bank Depository(s)

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve the appointment of Illinois Bank & Trust as the College's primary bank depository. Vice President of Finance Ellen Olson confirmed that this went out for bid last year. Trustee Trojan added that he was on the committee that interviewed the bank proposals. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Auditor

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve the appointment of Sikich, LLP as the College's auditing firm. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Board of Trustees Liaison to RVC Foundation

Board Chair Cudia appointed Trustee Trojan to continue as representative to the RVC Foundation.

Appointment of Representative of Finance Topics at Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Cudia appointed Trustee Trojan as representative of Finance topics at the Committee of the Whole meetings.

Appointment of Representative of Operations Topics at Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Cudia appointed Trustee Kennedy as representative of Operations topics at the Committee of the Whole meetings.

Appointment of Representative of Teaching, Learning and Communications Topics at Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Cudia appointed Trustee Simpson as representative of Teaching, Learning and Communications topics at the Committee of the Whole meetings.

Appointment of Board of Trustees Liaison to Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA)

Board Chair Cudia appointed Trustee Nelson to continue as representative to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA).

Appointment of Representative to Ad Hoc Committee-Facilities Master Plan

Board Chair Cudia appointed Trustee Gorski as representative to the Ad Hoc Committee-Facilities Master Plan. Trustee Gorski added that he also serves as the Board's representative on the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Steering Committee.

Appointment of Representative to Ad Hoc Committee-Decennial Committee

Board Chair Cudia appointed Trustee Soltow as representative to the Ad Hoc Committee-Decennial Committee.

Setting the Schedule of Regular Meetings for the Next Calendar Year

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve the meeting schedule for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Board Chair Cudia noted the change of dates in November and December to the first and third Tuesdays to allow for the holidays when the College is closed. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Adjourn

At 6:55 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to adjourn the Reorganization meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Trustees recessed for a short break.

**Illinois Community College District #511
Rock Valley College
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114**

**FIRST MEETING OF NEWLY REORGANIZED BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Immediately Following the Reorganization Meeting
April 25, 2023**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The first meeting of the newly reorganized Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, convened in the Performing Arts Room (PAR), Room 0214, in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus of Rock Valley College on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:10 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gloria Cardenas Cudia.

Roll Call

The following members of the Board were present at roll call:

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia	Mr. Bob Trojan
Mr. John Nelson	Mr. Paul Gorski
Ms. Kristen Simpson	Mr. Richard Kennedy
Student Trustee Ryan Russell	

The following trustee was absent: Ms. Crystal Soltow.

Also in attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President Liberal Arts and Adult Education/Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Jim Handley, Vice President Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President Student Affairs; Mr. Keith Barnes, Vice President Equity and Inclusion; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President Operations/Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President Industry Partnerships and Community Engagement; Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director College Communications; Ms. Ann Kerwitz; Assistant to the President; Ms. Betsy Saucedo; Interim Assistant to the President; Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz; Student Trustee-Elect Mr. Juan Noguera.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

There were no communications, petitions or public comments.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors to be recognized.

General Presentations

There were no general presentations.

Other Business

1. New Business

- a. Trustees Leadership/Governance Training Required by *110 ILCS 805/3-8.5*
 - i. June 2-3, 2023 – ICCTA Annual Convention, Normal, IL OR
 - ii. June 10, 2023 – Robbins Schwartz Virtual Session
- b. Set Date for Special Meeting – Board Training (Robert’s Rules)
- c. New trustees onboarding

Dr. Howard Spearman encouraged all trustees to participate in the ICCTA Annual Convention to be held June 2-3, 2023, in Normal, IL and to take the state required training there or on June 10 through a virtual training offered by Robbins Schwartz. He added that Ann Kerwitz will poll the Board for their availability to hold a special meeting the evening of June 20, 21 or 22 for a two-to-three-hour training to review Robert’s Rules of Order and other board governance topics. Attorney Perkoski noted that Robbins Schwartz will also present the training at the ICCTA Convention.

Trustee Trojan noted that he has already registered for the June 10 virtual training through Robbins Schwartz. Trustee Nelson asked Ms. Kerwitz to register him for the June 10 training. Trustee Gorski is not available any of the training dates and will look for other options. President Spearman added that Ms. Kerwitz will follow up with onboarding dates for Trustees Kennedy, Simpson and Soltow.

2. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business presented to the Board.

Updates/Reports

1. President’s Update

President Howard Spearman reported on several items:

- Welcomed Trustee Kristen Simpson as a newly elected Board member.
- Thanked the RVC retirees for their service and contributions to the College.
- RVC will establish an Emeritus Designation program to encourage RVC retirees with a minimum of 15 years of fulltime service who have demonstrated meritorious service to the College to participate in the program. Emeritus status encourages retirees to remain an active part of the College, to maintain their professional identity, and to continue to be productive members of the educational community.
- RVC has submitted several nominations for the 2023 ICCTA Awards to be acknowledged at the ICCTA Annual Conference June 2-3 in Normal, IL. Nominations include Board Chair Gloria Cudia for the Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award; RVC Student Alyssa Bird for the Gregg Chadwick Student Service Scholarship Award; Keith Barnes and his team for the Equity and Diversity Award; and AAR for the Business/Industry Partnership Award. In 2022, Trustee Bob Trojan was nominated for the Trustee Achievement Award, Student Trustee Evelyn Molina won the Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Scholarship, and Ann Kerwitz, assistant to the president, won the 2022 Professional Board Staff Member Award. He encouraged trustees to support the nominees and attend the convention.
- Received positive feedback regarding the Advanced Technology Center Career Fair held recently. The cohort program for mechatronics is doing well and students are excited. Compliments to Chance Kruse, CNC instructor, for his outstanding teaching abilities. Rockford Chamber members have also been complimenting the College for the excellent turnaround in manufacturing support shown to the community.

2. Leadership Team Updates

- Vice President Jim Handley welcomed Trustees Simpson and Trojan and congratulated them on their recent election to the Board of Trustees. He also reminded trustees that the Statement of Economic Interests is due May 1 to Winnebago County.
- Vice President Dr. Amanda Smith announced that the 11th Annual David H. Caskey Memorial Lecture will be held April 27 in the PEC and will feature Mr. Tim Wise who will speak on Critical Race Theory. The Caskey Lecture series was created as a memorial to the late RVC Professor David Caskey and is sponsored by the family of Professor Caskey, the RVC Foundation and the RVC Philosophy Department.
- Vice President Rick Jenks provided an update on Capital Development Board (CDB) parking lot projects. Funds have been set aside in a trust account, and the CDB is reviewing bids for the work to begin this summer. The HVAC upgrades approved by the Board in December 2022, include reworking the cooling towers at the Boiler House, replacing heat exchangers in the Educational Resource Center (ERC), replacing two failed units in the Support Services Building (SSB) and the aging unit in the Woodward Technology Center (WTC). Those projects have begun or will begin in June or July, but due to supply chain delays, the air handling units will not be available until summer 2024.
- Vice President Ellen Olson invited trustees to attend the RVC Foundation's Alumni and Retiree Breakfast to be held at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, April 27 in the Student Center Atrium. Starlight director Chris Brady and his team will offer a peak behind the curtain of Starlight Theatre along with a musical sneak peek of the upcoming summer season.
- Vice President Dr. Patrick Peyer made several announcements: 1) RVC student and Phi Theta Kappa Society member, Isabella Wright, has been named a Coca Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. 2) On Wednesday, April 26, Intercultural Student Services is hosting an Eid Al-Fitr celebration in the Student Center Atrium from 11:30-1:00 to mark the end of Ramadan. 3) A military and first responders career day will be held in the PEC on Thursday, April 27. 4) The Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) will hold its leadership conference for local high school students on Friday, April 28.
- Vice President Keith Barnes announced that the DEI 2023 Spring Symposium held March 31, eight students in the Social Justice Community-Based Learning Academy gave outstanding presentations including their action plans to build wealth to close the racial wealth gap. The symposium also featured Washington Post personal finance columnist Michelle Singletary. Special thanks to the RVC Foundation and Community Foundation of Northern Illinois for their generous support.
- Vice President Heather Snider gave several announcements: 1) The College is currently recruiting for three terms: the two summer terms and fall. Enrollment for Summer I and II are down, but Fall is up 8.5% compared to last year and is 48% to budget; 2) The Illinois Community College Board has awarded a renewal Certificate of Recognition to the College through March 2028. The recognition process is similar to an accreditation self-study and affirms the College's eligibility to receive state grants. Special thanks to Dr. Lisa Mehlig for leading the RVC team through that project. 3) RVC's Marketing team received the 2023 Bronze Paragon NCMPR national award in the quick turn video category for their 2022 graduation video. This is the second award in two years.

Since this is the first in-person meeting after many months meeting via Zoom, Board Chair Cudia asked Cabinet members to introduce themselves to help newer trustees know who

they are and what department(s) they oversee. Dr. Spearman added that he's exploring a new plan so that all Cabinet members will be seated on the stage, and name plates will be added for them.

Dr. Spearman added that he will be the keynote speaker for the EBANI meeting Wednesday morning. EBANI is the Employee Benefits Association of Northern Illinois, a regional professional association dedicated to providing educational and networking opportunities for individuals in the employment benefits field. He also was honored last week with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) Paragon Award for New Presidents during the Society's annual convention in Columbus, Ohio.

3. ICCTA Report

Trustee Nelson commented that he helped grade essays from student entrants throughout the state on "How Community College Changed my Life." The purpose was to help ICCTA find a winner in several different categories for an ACCT national award. Dr. Spearman added that ICCTA's process separates their awards via committees, which is why Trustee Nelson would not have seen essays from Rock Valley College.

4. Trustee Comments

- Trustee Gorski welcomed Trustee Simpson to the Board and encouraged her to get involved early. He also congratulated Trustee Trojan on his election win, thanked Trustee Lynn Kearney for her contributions to the Board, and congratulated Dr. Mathew Oakes for being named Faculty of the Year. He added that he found his name on a FOIA report, and recommended that trustees have an official RVC email account, as it would help the College respond to FOIA requests and give a more professional presentation to the public.
- Trustee Kennedy thanked Dr. Spearman and his team for their outstanding work for the College. He also welcomed Trustee Simpson to the Board.
- Trustee Trojan commented that he attended the Rock River Valley Tooling and Machining Association (RRVTMA) event at the ATC last week. About 45 people were at the event and were impressed with the ATC and programs being offered there.
- Trustee Simpson commented that she is looking forward to working with everyone.
- Trustee Nelson commented that he will miss Trustee Kearney, is impressed by Dr. Mathew Oakes winning the Faculty of the Year award, is interested in the Caskey Lecture, as he knew David Caskey and the lecture is a good experience for the College; He is glad that Trustee Trojan was re-elected and is looking forward to working with Trustee Simpson.
- Board Chair Cudia commented that it is good to be meeting in person, and congratulated Dr. Spearman on receiving the Paragon Award from PTK.

5. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Russell reported on the DEI Eagle Awards of Excellence banquet hosted by the Office of Equity and Inclusion. Since this will be his last student trustee report, he thanked everyone for the opportunity, especially Dr. Patrick Peyer and Dr. Spearman for being great mentors, adding that he has learned a lot that will help him, especially financial planning. Russell will attend Rockford University next year.

6. RVC Foundation Liaison Report

Trustee Trojan reported that the Foundation board did not meet this month.

7. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report

The Freedom of Information Act Report was accepted as presented.

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 7:51p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to adjourn to closed session to discuss: 1) Collective negotiating matters per Section 2 (c) (2), and/or; 2) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting per Section 2 (c) (1), all in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Reconvene Open Meeting

At 8:31p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to adjourn the closed session and return to open session. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. No action was taken as a result of closed session.

Next Meeting

Date of Next Committee of the Whole Meeting: May 9, 2023, 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in person in the Performing Arts Room (PAR), Room 0214 of the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

Date of Next Regular Meeting: May 23, 2023, 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in person in the Performing Arts Room (PAR) of the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:35 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Gorski. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by Ann Kerwitz



Robert Trojan, Secretary



Gloria Cardenas Cudia, Chairperson

