



SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Year ends with new team members, high-tech equipment

Meeting includes continuation of early retirement policy

Seward County Community College Board of Trustees members ended the year handling a laundry list of policy updates, program reviews, and equipment purchases at the Dec. 3 meeting. Before the routine items, however, the board heard high praise from Athletic Director Mike Davidson, pointing accomplishment of several coaches and athletes. In addition to bringing the Saints volleyball team to its highest-ever national tournament finish, new-to-Seward coach Tony Trifanov logged his 400th win. On the tennis court, Davidson said, coach Chase Ashley saw five players named in the top 50 national rankings by the ITA.

In their updates on the Mover projects of Enrollment Management and Inclusivity & Civility, dean of students Annette Hackbarth-Onson and executive director of marketing and PR Rachel Coleman provided quick reviews of the semester's projects.

Hackbarth-Onson reported that her group has achieved several key goals, including reworking the college application to include scholarship application at the same time, retention strategies that make use of the texting platform to remind students of deadlines and expansion of advising services to include part-time and adult students who may be unable to enroll full-time but have the same desire to complete a degree or certification.

Coleman reported that the I&C committee has identified five major projects for the year and has found ways to incorporate those into existing structures. The team education and cultural skills goal will be addressed at the spring professional development sessions, and further pursued through the I&C blog. A dedicated area in the SCCC library offers a platform for student and team engagement. The next big project the team will tackle is a celebration of Kansas Day on Jan. 29, with an all-campus, multicultural potluck dinner event in the library. The event is designed to emphasize what the SCCC family has in common by virtue of simply being here in Kansas together, she said.

In discussion of Board Policy 606, "Early Retirement," the administration recommended continuing the policy for FY2020. A review highlighted the key fiscal impact points, and noted a cost decrease in FY2019, as six individuals dropped off the plan and none were added. While the issue of retiring employee benefits is a consideration for future discussion, the administration advised no changes for now.

The board also reviewed legal status of the board, as suggested by legal counsel Kerry McQueen. The board voted to adopt the policy changes (or lack of changes) as presented.

In a trio of purchases presented by Industrial Technology, the board approved the low bids for the following:

- CNC Laser Cutter from Boss Laser LLC of Sanford, Fla., (the only bidder) for \$27,993.70. This laser cutter will allow the drafting program students to collaborate with other programs offered at SCCC, including robotics applications. These goals align with the new industries coming to Liberal, which utilize various forms of robotics.
- Downdraft Table from MicroAir of Wichita for \$7,609.47. This table is used to pull particles and fumes from

the air during every process done in the welding shop. It also pulls metal dust particles out of the air, and will help provide a safer environment for the students. It also enables the program to provide training on downdraft equipment maintenance.

- Vinyl Printer from Fellers Inc. of Tulsa, Okla., for \$18,955. The auto-body department will use this printer to wrap cars rather than painting them, when desired. It also enables students to create banners and signs for advertising purposes. In addition to broadening student skills, the purchase is expected to grow interest in recruitment.

In his first report to the board CIO Louie Lemert said he is currently evaluating the equipment and system in place, particularly in light of recent power outages. He will bring recommendations once he has looked at all the elements in the system.

Vice President of Student Services Celeste Donovan presented a list of the many community and campus events slated for December. These include “Chill Week” to help students prepare for their finals, various concerts, parties, and fundraisers sponsored by student organizations, and other end-of-semester events.

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Todd Carter, updated the board about improvements in the SCCC library, including a “family area” for parents with young children, and increased access to the library’s databases via the web. The SCCC Level 1 Nursing program received approval after a site visit by the Kansas Board of Nursing.

Carter also noted the success of the “E-Walk” system, an electronic way to conduct more class visits for observation of concurrent courses taught in area high schools. The five minute view, conducted via a phone app, provides a concise view of what’s going on in the classroom.

“We’ve got a target of being in instructors’ classrooms at least four times during the semester, and logged 196 visits this semester,” he said. “This is something we’ve never had. Look across the entire institution, gives you a broad picture, or narrow on one instructor. We’re piloting that this fall, and I’ll do a demo in January when we get the data in.”

Vice President of Finance and Operations Dennis Sander reminded the board of the groundbreaking ceremony planned for Tuesday, Dec. 4, to celebrate the beginning of work on the Colvin Family Center for Allied Health.

College president, Dr. Ken Trzaska, updated the board on the KACCT meeting and the upcoming search for a new director for the community college lobbying organization. He also reviewed the discussion about a campus-wide intranet or “ERP” system change, noting that while former CIO Widener recommended a fairly drastic change, the executive team might opt for a less disruptive course. With Lemert’s input, the administration hopes to bring a recommendation to the board in January or February 2019.

Action taken at the meeting included:

- Acceptance of the personnel report, which included employment of Arlette Austin as the Respiratory Therapy Director of Clinical Education, and Louie Lemert as Chief Information Officer. Positions that remain open include Math Resource Center Coordinator, Instructional Designer, Diesel Technology Instructor, Automotive Technology Instructor, KSBDC Liberal business consultant, assistant athletic trainer, and Business & Industry program coordinator.

- Accepted the presentation of the Transportation Program review as presented by the Industrial Tech Division and dean Travis Combs.

- Unanimous vote to approve support for the county government to hold regular tax sales, “aimed to correct lost tax revenue. It is understood the county is back-logged to 2011 on tax sales.”