

**South Arkansas College**  
**Board of Trustees Special Called Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 28, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**ADM Board Room – 309**

**Minutes**

**Board of Trustees Present:** Steve Cousins, Kerri Brown, José Covas, Courtney Kelley, Wayne C. Gibson, Gary Griffis, Melissa Jerry, Crystal Yeager

**Board of Trustees Absent:**

**SouthArk Staff Present:** Dr. Bentley Wallace, Dr. Stephanie Tully-Dartez, Jenny Sanders, Dr. Tim Kirk, Michael Armstrong, Ann Southall, Heath Waldrop, Jennifer Schroeder, Tim Johnson, Dr. Justin Geurin, Christy Wilson, Cynthia Reyna, Mary Kate Sumner, Gabe Schroeder

**Others:**

- I. Mr. Steve Cousins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
  
- II. **Items for Consideration:**
  - a. Dr. Bentley Wallace requested that the board vote to accept his resignation. A motion was made to move consideration of Dr. Wallace’s resignation into executive session along with discussion about the placement of an interim president and the process of searching for the next president. Griffis/Covas. **Members Requested to Move the Item to an Executive Session**  
  
**Following Executive Session**, Dr. Bentley Wallace’s resignation was proposed, effective July 31, 2023. Griffis/Covas. **The Board Accepted Dr. Wallace’s Resignation**
  
  - b. Medium and heavy truck course fees were part of a program that had not been approved by the Department of Higher Education at the time other course fees had been approved by the board. Details were included in the Board packet. Kelley/Jerry. **The Board Approved the Course Fees**
  
  - c. Plant fund projects for fiscal year 2023 approved in September, 2022 have been delayed due to various issues necessitating an extension for the projects until September, 2023 when the board will vote on approving the plant fund projects for fiscal year 2024. If projects are not completed by September they will be paused and funding for the projects remaining will be allocated in the fiscal year 2024 fund. Covas/Gibson. **The Board Approved the Extension of the Projects**

III. **Following Executive Session**, Dr. Stephanie Tully-Dartez was appointed Interim President effective August 1, 2023 at \$180,000 compensation, with a return to her position of Vice President of Academic Affairs upon hire of a new president. Cousins/Brown. **The Board Approved to Appoint Dr. Tully-Dartez**

IV. **Executive Session** – Mr. Gary Griffis requested to enter an Executive Session at 3:05 p.m. Griffis/Covas. **The Board Approved Entering Executive Session**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 4:10 p.m.

V. Adjourned – 4:12 p.m. Covas/Kelley.