

South Arkansas Community College
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 29, 2023 – 3:45 p.m.
ADM Board Room – 309

Minutes

Board of Trustees Present: Steve Cousins-Chair, Gary Griffis-Vice Chair, Crystal Yeager-Secretary, Kerri Brown, Melissa Jerry

Absent: Jose Covas, Wayne Gibson, Courtney Kelley

SouthArk Staff Present: Dr. Bentley Wallace, Dr. Stephanie Tully-Dartez, Michael Armstrong, Ann Southall, Dr. Tim Kirk, Brandi Cotterman, Dr. Cassandra Tavorn, Tim Johnson, Veronda Tatum, Vanessa Williams, Cynthia Reyna, Christy Wilson, Philip Shackelford, Heath Waldrop, Kathy Modica

- I. Call to order – Mr. Steve Cousins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.
- II. Recognition and Awards – Dr. Bentley Wallace recognized the “2023 Weldathon Winners” in which SouthArk students placed third – (Hudson Parker, Cade Head, Devin Osgood)
- III. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2023 – Griffis/Yeager. **Board Approved Minutes.**
- IV. Approval of Consent Agenda – Mr. Steve Cousins asked if any items needed to be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda Items for discussion/comments/questions. Mr. Cousins requested for “Item C- Approval of Tuition and Fees Schedule” be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for discussion.

Discussion – Dr. Bentley Wallace presented / reviewed data of the proposed three year Tuition and Fees Schedule Plan for approval with the exception of “Inclusive Fees.” Mr. Gary Griffis complimented the Team on the well prepared and informative presentation. Ms. Melissa Jerry suggested for SouthArk to review the current millage for all usage possibilities.

After much discussion, Mr. Gary Griffis proposed acceptance of a “one year” plan instead of a three year plan of the proposed Tuition and Fees Schedule:

- \$5.00 – In District Fee Increase
- \$6.00 – In State Fee Increase
- \$7.00 – Out of State Fee Increase

Proposed Operating Budget:

- \$1000 –Employees Salary Adjustment plus possible \$500 Bonus - July 1st

Griffis/Jerry. **Board Approved.**

(Budget to be presented for approval in May)

A. Personnel Report

SouthArk new employees:

Cecelia Jackson Dunlap	Institutional Services Assistant	02/01/2023
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SouthArk promotions/transfers/organizational changes:

Bodhi Williams	Health Science Technology Instructor to STC Practical Nursing Instructor	02/01/2023
LaBreshianna Hicks	Career Pathways Intake Coordinator to	

Ann Southall	Career Pathways Director	03/01/2023
	Procurement Manager to Interim AVP Finance/Controller	03/06/2023

SouthArk resignations/retirements/terminations:

Elizabeth Young	Star Service Project Coordinator	01/20/2023
Sheffield Coulter	Dual Education Coordinator	01/31/2023
LaKeidra Phillips	Assistant Registrar	02/17/2023
David Fout	Bookstore Manager	02/21/2023
John Baine	AVP Finance	02/27/2023
Michelle Brandon	Administrative Specialist II	02/28/2023
Caitlyn Lynn	Library Support Technician	02/28/2023
Mike Laws	EMS Clinical Coordinator	03/03/2023
Johnie Smith	Information Technology Assistant	03/20/2023

B. Monitoring Reports

- Policy #6 – Emergency CEO Succession
- Policy #9 – Communication and Support to the Board
- Policy #17 – Policy Governance Review

C. Approval of Tuition and Fees Schedule

Jerry/Brown. **Board Approved the Consent Agenda.**

V. Board Committee Reports

A. Real Estate and Facilities Committee – Ms. Kerri Brown – None

B. Personnel and Planning Committee – Mr. Gary Griffis reported that the committee met on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. (right before the full Board Meeting). Mr. Griffis presented the committee’s recommendation to approve the agenda item as presented:

1. Changes of the ENDS Report

- The “content” of the ENDS Report is not changing
- The new re-aligned ENDS Report simply delivers the reports in calendar alignment with the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan (THRIVE)

Board Approved.

C. Budget and Finance Committee – Ms. Melissa Jerry – The committee met on March 16, 2023. Due to the lack of a quorum no action was taken.

D. Policy Governance Committee – Mr. Steve Cousins – None

VI. Chair’s Report – Mr. Steve Cousins

A. Board Evaluation of Own Performance Initiated

- To be sent to the Board again

B. Board Process & Performance Monitoring – Mr. Cousins stated that the Board has been meeting efficiently without any issues or concerns.

C. Determine Date for July 2023 Board Retreat

- Poll to be sent out to determine date

D. President advised to prepare Annual Goals Report

E. 3rd Party Presidential Evaluation Scheduled

VII. Financial Services Reports

A. January Monthly Statements – Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the month of January 31, 2023, were presented and reviewed.

B. February Monthly Statements – Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the month of February 28, 2023, were presented and reviewed.

C. El Dorado Conference Center Quarterly Marketing Report – Included in the packet

VIII. President’s Report – Dr. Bentley Wallace

A. Administrative Reports – Included in the packet

B. President’s Updates

1. Staff Updates:

- Brandi Cotterman as Interim HR Director
- Ann Southall as Interim AVP Finance/Controller
- Kathy Modica’s last Board Meeting as liaison to the Board -March 2023
- Jennifer Schroeder as Executive Director of the Career Accelerator

2. College Name Change – As of Friday, March 31, 2023, South Arkansas Community College will start living/existing and doing business as South Arkansas College. The new name will be seen on all social media, web site, and email signatures.

(July 1, 2023 is the official date for the name change.)

3. Staffing Challenges – Dr. Wallace stated that staffing challenges are not just unique to SouthArk or Higher Ed; but are relevant with partnering agencies also:

- Struggles to fill open positions
- The turnover rate is increasing rather than decreasing
- There are not as many people in the workforce as there are open positions

4. Bookstore Changes – SouthArk is moving away from having physical books in inventory, and will be partnering with eCampus.com to provide online ordering of books and much more for students.

5. eSports Update – eSports is upcoming with the goal of starting this fall. (more to come)

6. Arts in April – Chelsey Turner and Caroline Callaway presented the “Stars Mobile Mural” and explained the fun an exciting connection it has to SouthArk’s “Arts in April.” Creative work submitted by students, faculty, and staff will be displayed on Thursday, April 20th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Mahony Family Library.

7. Legislative Update – This year there are more bills that will slightly touch/effect Higher Ed. Dr. Wallace stated that he will keep SouthArk and the Board updated as things progress.

8. Donor / Scholar Luncheon – Donor Scholarships provide “Life Changes” for students, stated Wallace. Donor Luncheon - Thursday, April 27, 2023, at noon in the El Dorado Conference Center.

9. Operation Plan-It Update – The Project Management Model launched in December is going very well, and SouthArk is gaining in efficiencies and effectiveness, stated Wallace. Other colleges are now taking initiatives like this one.

10. Student Space Re-Naming – The McWilliams House has been renamed “Star Base 314” and the backyard space is now named “The Outer Space.” A great space for the students and activities.

11. Governor’s Conference on Tourism – SouthArk played a huge role in the success of this event. Dr. Wallace thanked faculty, staff, student-athletes, and everyone who contributed in making the Governor’s Conference on Tourism a great success.

IX. Executive Session (if required)

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment – 5:05 p.m.

Ms. Crystal Yeager, Secretary