



**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, March 26, 2018

Scibelli Hall, Building 2, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

5:00 p.m.

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Present:** Christopher Johnson, Chair  
Franklin Quigley, Vice Chair  
Marikate Murren, Secretary  
Steven Grande, Trustee  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee (via phone)  
Eric Hagopian, Trustee  
MacArthur Starks, Trustee

**Excused Absences:** William Johnson, Trustee  
Vicki Crouse, Trustee  
Jeffrey Sattler, Trustee  
Karolyn Burgos Toribio, Student Trustee

**Also Present:** Dr. John B. Cook, President  
Joseph DaSilva, Vice President of Administration/CFO  
Kamari Collins, Vice President of Student/Multicultural Affairs  
Gerardo Zayas, Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Michael Suzor, Assistant to the President

**I. Call to Order**

Chair, Christopher Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

The roll call was taken with the following STCC Board of Trustees members present: Chair, Christopher Johnson, Vice Chair, Franklin Quigley, Secretary, Marikate Murren Trustees: Steven Grande, Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito (via phone), MacArthur Starks. Six members were present constituting a quorum.



### **III. Building Tour**

Chair, Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m., to participate in a tour in the Student Success Center (Building 27) led by Vice President of Student and Multicultural Affairs, Kamari Collins. Trustee Eric Hagopian arrived in time for the tour.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2018 meeting**

Trustee Marikate Murren moved to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2018 meeting, seconded by Trustee Steven Grande and unanimously approved.

### **V. Trustee Committee Reports:**

#### **Committee on Ways and Means**

Committee Report – Meeting held Monday, March 12, 2018

Trustee MacArthur Starks, Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means updated the Board of Trustees on the FY2018 Revenue and Spending Report through February 2018. He reported that Vice President, DaSilva will present an updated FY2019 budget to the Committee for consideration at the April meeting. Dr. Cook spoke of the deficit in the FY2019 Preliminary Draft budget and a number of possible scenarios that could help balance the budget.

Trustee Steven Grande moved that the Board of Trustees of Springfield Technical Community College approve the report on the Committee on Ways and Means meeting of March 12, 2018. Trustee Eric Hagopian seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

#### **Committee on Internal and External Relations**

Committee Report – Meeting held Monday, March 19, 2018

Trustee Franklin Quigley, Chair of the Committee on Internal and External Relations reported on the presentation by Vice President, Kamari Collins that provided an overview of the Student Success Center located in Building 27. Vice President Collins explained that the center serves as a centralized office for students to go for support. A copy of the presentation is included as an attachment in BoardPq.

Trustee Quigley also reported that President Cook presented the Committee with a personnel update. Of note, Inder Singh has filled the CIO position on an interim basis; Dr. Anne Bonemery, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences has announced her retirement and Dr. Barb Chalfonte, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness has resigned to take a position at UMass Amherst. Dr. Cook also informed the Committee that the Vice President of Academic Affairs position is down to three finalists. They will attend open forums, meet and greet, and an electronic survey will be available for the campus community to complete on each candidate.



Trustee Quigley informed the Committee that there were two finalists for the Foundation Executive Director position. An offer was made to one candidate but was declined.

Trustee MacArthur Starks moved that the Board of Trustees of Springfield Technical Community College approve the report on the Committee on Internal and External Relations meeting of March 19, 2018. Trustee Eric Hagopian seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

## **VI. Old Business – None**

## **VII. New Business**

[Motion] Honorary Degree

Trustee Marikate Murren moved that the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees approve the awarding of an Honorary Degree at the May 31, 2018 commencement to Marion Tomlinson (Exhibit A). The motion was seconded by Trustee, Franklin Quigley and unanimously approved.

Michael Suzor, Assistant to the President, reported that each year the President may convene a college committee to put forth and review nominations for possible recipients of a Springfield Technical Community College Honorary Degree. The committee is represented by a cross functional group from the College. Certain criteria need to be met in order to be nominated and the recipient or the recipient's family (if it is a posthumous conferral) receives the award at commencement. Mr. Suzor explained that once the committee reviews all nominations, recommendation(s) are submitted to the Committee on Internal/External Relations. The reason this did not occur this year is that one of the voting members submitted their vote just as a recommendation was to be made and this changed the vote. The committee convened again to vote on a recommendation, however, the meeting occurred after the Committee on Internal and External Relations met. Therefore, the motion is being brought to the full board meeting for approval.

## **VIII. President's Report – Dr. John B. Cook**

President Cook reported that the Student Success Center currently located in Building 27 will be moving to Building 19 once construction is completed in the Fall. He informed the Board members that reaccreditation through NEASC is scheduled for 2021 and the self-study due in 2020. The College is preparing the annual report form related to the accreditation that is due on May 4, 2018.



President Cook also reported that Commissioner Santiago from the MA Department of Higher Education will be visiting the College on May 21, 2018. His visit will include a public forum at noon that will also promote a book he has authored. The Commissioner will also attend the Board of Trustees meeting that evening.

President Cook informed the Trustees that the three finalists for the Vice President of Academic Affairs position were on campus last week as they attended open forums, meet and greets, and an electronic survey was available for the campus to complete. He also reported that this week two finalists for the Chief of Police position will be on campus and a search committee has been formed to start the interview process for the position of Chief Information Officer.

Trustee Hagopian commented on the condition of Building 20 and whether it would be possible to move Building 20 activities over to Building 27. President Cook responded that Building 27 is a smaller building and would not be able to accommodate Building 20's needs.

**IX. Chair's Report – Christopher Johnson**

Chair, Chris Johnson informed the Trustees that Clerk, Ruthie Jablonski will be sending out the listing of commencement activities so that members of the Board can plan on representing the Trustees at the various events. He reported that he received a memo from the Commissioner informing the Board of Trustees Chairs that Presidents' Evaluations need to be completed in May. This item will appear on the agenda for the May Board of Trustees meeting.

**X. Date of Next Board Meeting – Monday, April 23, 2018**

**XI. Adjournment**

Trustee Eric Hagopian moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m., seconded by Trustee Steven Grande and unanimously approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Johnson", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christopher C. Johnson  
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees

**Name:** Susan Schneider & Carolyn Kozlak

**Email:** SASchneider@STCC.edu

**Name:** Marion Tomlinson

**Phone:** N/A-Posthumous Award

**Email:** SASchneider@STCC.edu

**Reason:** Marion Tomlinson was a member of the Clinical Laboratory Technician class of 2012. She studied here with us for three semesters, attending every class and showing unwavering dedication to completing this program despite the fact that she was undergoing treatments for cancer. She lost her battle with cancer in January 2012 and therefore was unable to complete her degree, but she left a lasting impression on her classmates.

**Biography:** Marion Tomlinson was the single mother of three teen aged children. She enrolled in the Clinical Laboratory Technician program in 2010 in remission after two successful bouts with cancer. She stated her reason for enrolling in the program was to gain the skills to work in cancer research and be part of the innovations and discoveries that would lead to greater successes in the battle against cancer. Upon enrollment, Marion approached her studies at STCC with the same unbridled vibrancy she showed in all aspects of her life, getting excited by every new bit of learning she gained and every skill she mastered. Her vivacious approach to life carried over into her relationships with all those she encountered, becoming both the cheerleader and the caregiver to members of her Clinical Laboratory Technician program. At the beginning of the third semester of this four semester program, Marion shared with us that she had been diagnosed with a new cancer, a lymphoma. She addressed this new development in her life with energy and positivity, focused on beating it and completing the program. Above all, she was determined to be a role model to her children, demonstrating commitment and perseverance by going after her dream of completing a college degree. A few short weeks later Marion laid on a SIMS medical center gurney waiting her turn to present her final capstone project to her Professor and classmates. The room was silent as she gathered the strength to sit at the table and struggled to deliver every last detail of her project. The students were held in rapt attention and erupted into applause as she finished, recognizing not only the work she completed, but also in appreciation for how difficult it was for her to be there with them. During the winter break, we were informed of her passing. Although Marion had completed all of her didactic work, she was unable to participate in her clinical affiliation and therefore did not receive a degree. At the time, her classmates were so disappointed that she would not receive a degree, they initiated an ongoing scholarship in her name so that she would be recognized and remembered. We have full confidence that if Marion had been able to attend her clinical courses she would have achieved the same level of excellence she showed in her coursework, easily completing her degree. We hope that you will fulfill her wishes and award her a posthumous degree.