

STCC Board of Trustees  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.  
B19/Forum

**Present:** Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito (Acting Committee Chair), Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, and Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown

**Unable to attend:** Trustee Jynai McDonald, Trustee William Johnson

**Also attending:** Dr. John B. Cook, President

**Presenters:** Darcey Kemp, Vice President of Student Affairs

I. **Call to Order:** With the absence of Trustee Jynai McDonald, Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito serving as Acting Committee Chair called the meeting of the Committee on Internal and External Relations to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. **Roll Call:** The following Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito (served as Committee Chair), Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, and Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown. Three out of Five Committee members present, constituting a quorum.

III. **Student Affairs Initiatives – Darcey Kemp, VP of Student Affairs**

Vice President of Student Affairs, Darcey Kemp shared a presentation on Student Support Programs and Services. Referenced in the presentation are highlights from SUCCESS (*Supporting Urgent Community College Equity Student Services*) programs: MILE and LEAD; in addition to TRiO Student Support Services. Data included and compared: funding, number of staff funded to support each program, number of students served, as well as outcome measures including Fall-to-Fall retention by race/ethnicity. Included in the presentation were two videos highlighting Student Leaders sharing their positive experience, one from MILE, and the other from LEAD.

Alongside the student support programs highlighted, VP Kemp provided information on grant funded student services/resources: Center for Access Services (CAS), and Behavioral & Mental Health. Supported by the Hunger Grant and community partnerships, CAS provides food and other personal items to all student in need. Students do not need to apply for provisions, just ask as needed. VP Kemp highlighted the expansion of new supports and resources implemented in CAS, such as the upgrade of RAM Cupboard to the RAM Mini Mart, also spoke about partnerships in the community, the recently implemented food lockers & food pantry software, and nutrition education program. Also noted that the Part-Time Pantry Manager is a registered Dietitian.

Also highlighted is the implementation of support and resources focused on Behavioral & Mental Health. These include: Free access to Teletherapy for all STCC students through Uwill; Student co-pays for counseling services through River Valley Counseling Center; Workshop and training in various specific topic areas; TIX training for Advisors, decision makers & investigators; and Speakers and Events.

Given how well-received the presentation was by Trustees, the Committee recommended sharing this information with the full Board, which will be done at the May meeting.

#### **IV. Chair Appointment: STCC Assistance Corporation, Dr. John B. Cook, President**

Dr. Cook provided a brief overview of the STCC Assistance Corporation (also known as the Tech Park), noting that this quasi-public entity has its own Board of Directors, which includes the STCC president. Some of the board members are appointed by the STCC Board of Trustees (as well as the Springfield Mayor, Secretary of Economic Development, and Springfield Chamber of Commerce). For consideration by the Committee is the recommendation to appoint attorney Ellen W. Freyman as Assistance Corp Board Chair; she is the current Vice Chair:

Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito moved [Motion 2024-07]: That the Springfield Technical Community College Committee on Internal and External Relations pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 273, Section 125 Acts of 1994, recommends to the STCC Board of Trustees, to approve the appointment of Ellen Freymen as Chair of the Springfield Technical Community College Assistance Corporation Board of Directors.

Seconded by Trustee Tonia Butler Perez and unanimously approved.

#### **V. Personnel Report**

Dr. Cook noted that this is typically a slower time of year for hiring, and we also do not yet know which retirements will formalize. Also shared that an active search is underway for a Dean for the School of Liberal and Professional Studies. The quarterly report with hires (full and part-time), as well as promotions, retirements and resignations/separations was shared with the Committee.

#### **VI. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook**

##### **a. Tenure Promotions**

Shared in advance with Trustees is a list (appendix A) of this year's faculty and professional staff recommended for tenure promotions, along with a copy of each individual's resume and copies of Supervisors' letters of recommendations.

Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito moved [Motion 2024-08]: That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees Committee on Internal and External Relations, pursuant to the provision of Section 22 (c), Chapter 15A, moves to

recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval of granting Tenure as listed on Appendix A.

Seconded by Trustee Tonia Butler Perez and unanimously approved.

**b. News from our Educational Ecosystem (Strategic Plan Goal #1)**

Included in the packet are two links to news/articles related to the Cybersecurity Center for Excellence (CCE). Dr. Cook shared updates on CCE, mapping this endeavor to strategic plan #1 – educational ecosystem. The Cybersecurity Center was named after Congressman Richard E. Neal, and Congressman Neal helped launch the Center with \$3 million in congressionally directed spending. The college will host Trustees for a tour and possible Board meeting this Fall when the Center opens.

**c. Recent Grant Award (\$306,643) – “Mass Skills Capital” Funding.**

Dr. Cook announced the most recent Grant Awarded with funding supporting Health Care equipment.

**VII. Old Business / New Business**

No Old/New Business.

**VIII. Next meeting date and time: TBD – upon approval of the 2024-2025 Trustee meetings calendar.**

**IX. Adjournment (Roll Call) – Acting Committee Chair Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito called to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m., motion moved by Trustees Tonia Butler Perez, seconded by Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown and unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Nanette Flores