

**Sauk Valley Community College
August 26, 2024**

Action Item 1.2

Topic: Decennial Committee Report

College Health Metric: Planning – The College conducts thoughtful, systematic planning to support future operations. Plans are updated annually or as necessary.

Presented By: Dr. David Hellmich

Presentation:

In accordance with the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act, Sauk Valley Community College created a Decennial Review Ad Hoc Committee at its May 22, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting. The purpose of this committee was to study local efficiencies, including an analysis of whether to consolidate with another unit of local government (community college) and to create a report with recommendations regarding efficiencies, increased accountability, and consolidation. Attached is the requisite committee report.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Decennial Committee approve the Decennial Review Ad Hoc Committee Report as presented.



Decennial Review Ad Hoc Committee Report

August 26, 2024

Purpose and Charge of the Committee

In accordance with the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act signed into law by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker (P.A. 102-1088), Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) created a Decennial Review Ad Hoc Committee at its May 22, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting. The purpose of this committee was to study local efficiencies, including an analysis of whether to consolidate with another unit of local government (community college) and to create a report with recommendations regarding efficiencies, increased accountability, and consolidation. The committee was comprised of (1) the elected members of the SVCC governing board; (2) at least two individuals who reside in the district; and (3) the college President.

The full committee membership was SVCC trustees (Robert Thompson, Brian Duncan, Margaret Tyne, Lisa Wiersema, Danelle Burrs, Sam Ramirez, and Tom Demmer), individuals who reside in the district (Dr. Jon Mandrell, Dr. Lori Cortez, Kent Sorenson, Kathy Dirks, Rich Groleau, Aaron Roe, Kathryn Snow, and Peggy Eshleman), and Sauk Valley Community College President, Dr. David Hellmich. Trustee Robert Thompson served as the committee chair.

The committee met with a quorum present on the following dates:

- Monday, August 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Riverview Conference Room at Sauk Valley Community College;
- Monday, July 22, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Riverview Conference Room at Sauk Valley Community College; and
- Monday, August 26, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Riverview Conference Room at Sauk Valley Community College.

Additionally, the committee had a research visit as part of the ICCTA Northwest Meeting at Kishwaukee College on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. Committee members attending this meeting were Robert Thompson, Lisa Wiersema, Dr. David Hellmich, Dr. Jon Mandrell, Rich Groleau, Kent Sorenson, and Kathy Dirks.

Efficiencies

Dr. Hellmich reported to the committee that Sauk Valley Community College has ongoing relationships with several sister Illinois community colleges, local government agencies, and other partners that bring about efficiencies and accountabilities (see Attachment). Additionally, he reported that he and the following presidents of northern Illinois regional community colleges have met several times over the past two years to discuss possible shared services between the colleges: Dr. Howard Spearman (Rock Valley College), Dr. Christina Kuberski (Highland Community College), Dr. Laurie Borowicz (Kishwaukee College), and Dr. Tracy Morris (Illinois Valley Community College). Dr. Hellmich also reported that members of his senior leadership team meet regularly with their counterparts at these same colleges and include possible shared services as part of their discussions. From those discussions and the research visit at Kishwaukee College, the following areas for efficiencies through shared services were identified:

1. Professional development sharing, in particular regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI). Local experts at the colleges were identified, and this topic was assigned to the Chief Academic Officers to coordinate possible collaboration. SVCC has had several professional discussions on AI and will stay in touch with colleagues at the other colleges about their discussions and possible sharing of resources.
2. Compliance (Legislative) officer shared position – The possibility of this shared position has been discussed at every meeting. Ideally, the position would keep colleges updated on changes in legislation, notices of upcoming dates and deadlines, and compliance. Although SVCC, IVCC, and KC have expressed interest in sharing this position, no decision has been reached.
3. Grant officer shared position – A review of surrounding schools shows that other schools similar in size do not have this position, so such a position could be a future option. This will continue to be an issue for the Presidents to monitor for opportunities.
4. Sharing courses/faculty for difficult to staff and fill courses – Sharing courses and faculty has been occurring for many years and will continue.

Recommendation – The committee sees the greatest potential for increased efficiencies to be through expanded sharing of courses/faculty where needed and possible, and the committee is encouraged by the professional development sharing and in the possibility of a shared Compliance (Legislative) officer position.

Accountability

Sauk Valley Community College is held accountable by several national, regional, and state groups, the most critical include the Department of Education, the Higher Learning Commission, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Community College Board. Additionally, per Board policy, SVCC is audited annually and makes this audit available to the public.

Recommendation – The committee does not see a need for additional accountability at SVCC.

Consolidation

Due to Sauk Valley Community College's geographical location in the rural northcentral part of Illinois (SVCC's district covers approximately 3,500 square miles, serving all or part of Bureau, Lee, Henry, Carroll, Ogle, and Whiteside counties), consolidation with any of the other regional community colleges would be quite problematic.

Recommendation – The committee does not see consolidation with another community college as being viable.

Conclusion

A draft of the report was presented to the committee on July 22, 2024; the report was approved by the committee at its final meeting on August 26, 2024. In order to be in full compliance with the act, this approved report will be emailed and hand-delivered to Jeremy Englund, County Administrator for Lee County (the county in which SVCC is located), on Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

Submitted by Dr. David Hellmich, President of Sauk Valley Community College

**Sauk Valley Community College
Sample Collaborations with Sister Illinois Community Colleges,
Local Government Agencies, and Other Partners
Resulting in Efficiencies and Accountabilities**

Academics and Student Services

- SVCC serves as the regional evacuation and reunification site in the event of a crisis
- Part of Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), ensuring transferability throughout Illinois
- Partner in CAREER agreement, sending and receiving students that may not have certain programs
- Regional program site for Rad Tech and Sonography
- Hundreds of transfer partnerships with other universities and colleges
- Member of CAO and CSSO statewide group
- CAO serves on statewide legislative taskforce
- Military Friendly School: Collaborate with local communities, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans
- Partners with BEST for WIOA funding to serve dislocated workers
- Members of Illinois Community College Council of Administrators (ICCCA)
- Illinois Community College Online (ILCCO) partner to provide course sharing
- Represent Northwest Illinois in NIU EdSystems' Illinois Education and Career Success Network
- One of eight state police academies
- Provide entry-level hiring testing for local police departments
- Provide traffic school for local drivers and courts
- Provide local healthcare providers, police, and fire departments in simulated training
- Share PASS facilitator position with ROE
- Member of ICISP, the study abroad consortium for Illinois community colleges
- Member of The Assessment Group of Illinois Colleges (TAG)

Business Services

- Participating member in the Illinois Community College Risk Management Consortium (ICCRMC) to pool cost of risk exposure and management expenses
- Utilize joint purchasing agreements established by public entities in Illinois and national purchasing consortiums
- Theatre Alliance with Sterling Public Schools and Woodlawn Arts Academy
- Dual Credit/Enrollment offerings with nearby school districts
- Illinois Community College listservs (shared knowledge and experience)

Facilities

- City of Dixon: Run under their Water treatment License

Information Technology Services

- ILCCO - online course sharing
- ROE - Supporting tech at college hosted events/classes
- Local Law Enforcement Agencies - supporting simulator and Police Academy

Institutional Advancement

- SVCC's Marketing department engages with other Illinois Community Colleges through the Illinois Community College Collaborative
- SVCC's Foundation participates in the quarterly Illinois Community College Foundation Director meeting
- SVCC's graphic designer frequently visits other Illinois community college's graphic designers through a learn and share program
- We have a strong partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through the Small Business Development Center grant. Monthly meetings are held
- SVCC's advancement team regularly presents to 18 city/village councils in our College's district
- SVCC's advancement team regularly presents to 18 school board councils in our College's district
- SVCC's advancement team regularly presents to county boards in our College's district
- SVCC's Community Education department engages with other Illinois Community Colleges community education departments
- SVCC representatives serve on the Whiteside County Public Transportation board
- SVCC representatives serve on the Whiteside County Senior Center board
- SVCC representatives serve on the Rock Falls Industrial Development committee via City Council

Research and Planning

- Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) - Oversees community colleges in Illinois
- Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) - Governs higher education in the state
- U.S. Department of Education - Federal agency overseeing education policies and funding
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) - State agency for primary and secondary education
- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) - Collects and analyzes data related to education
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) - Provides financial aid programs and services
- U.S. Census Bureau - Provides demographic data useful for institutional research
- Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) - Provides labor market information