

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 27, 2025**

- Call to Order: Chair Bob Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the following members answered roll call:
- Brian Duncan (remote)                      Danelle Burrs  
Sam Ramirez                                      Tom Demmer  
Student Trustee James Curl
- Excused: Lisa Wiersema, Margaret Tyne
- SVCC Staff: President, Dr. David Hellmich  
Vice President of Academics and Student Services, Dr. Jon Mandrell  
Vice President of Advancement, Dr. Lori Cortez  
Vice President of Business Services, Kent Sorenson  
Dean of Information Technology, Kathy Dirks  
Director of Facilities, Rich Groleau  
Director of Research and Planning, Aaron Roe  
Board Assistant, Peggy Eshleman
- Guests: George Howe, Shaw Media  
Grant Burrs  
Sara McKenna, Wipfli Audit Senior Manager
- Consent Agenda: It was moved by Member Burrs and seconded by Member Demmer the Board approve the consent agenda. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.
- President's Report: Dr. David Hellmich asked Aaron Roe to give an enrollment update. Aaron reported Spring 2025 headcount is up 9.9%, which is 5% in credit hours. He gave breakouts in enrollment and answered questions from Trustees.
- Kent Sorenson presented information as to the FY 2024 Audit and introduced Sara McKenna who explained the audit and answered Trustees' questions.
- Kent gave a preview of the 2025-2026 tuition and fee structure and budget update explaining the tuition pricing philosophy, comparing Sauk's tuition/fees to peer groups and to bordering districts. He reported the administration is recommending a \$6.00 increase for the 2025-2026 academic year. He concluded with a brief budget update including past years' numbers and future projections.
- Reports/Comments from Board Members and the SVC Foundation: Student Trustee James Curl reported on recent activities including *Welcome Week Caricatures* and the *Interactive Animal Show*; the SAC meeting on January 17 at Heartland College; and the SGA

meeting on January 22. He said he would attend Lobby Day in Springfield on April 9 where community college students will be advocating for mental health and community college baccalaureate programs. James gave a preview of exciting upcoming events including *Spring SaukFest*.

Dr. Lori Cortez reported on the most recent points of pride including Impact program volunteer hours, the College's partnership with MercyHealth for the EMT Program, and the enrollment figures for the Sonography Program. Lori reported on the details of the *Chocolate Rendezvous* that is only three weeks away. She concluded with the exciting report that the *Polo Impact Challenge* has reached its \$600,000 goal and stressed the importance of connections while fundraising.

Chair Thompson reported he and Trustee Tyne will travel to Washington, D.C. for the annual ACCT conference and visits on Capitol Hill in February. He reported recent ACCT and ICCTA highlights and noted the upcoming ICCTA meeting schedule.

Delete Board Policy  
*424.01 Tutorial Courses*  
*Policy* – First Reading:

It was moved by Member Ramirez and seconded by Member Burrs the Board delete Board Policy *424.01 Tutorial Courses Policy*, as presented for a first reading. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Board Policy *407.02*  
*Professor Emeritus Rank* –  
First Reading:

It was moved by Member Demmer and seconded by Member Ramirez the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy *407.02 Professor Emeritus Rank* as presented for a first reading. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Board Policy *427.01*  
*Sexual Harassment Policy*  
– First Reading:

It was moved by Member Demmer and seconded by Student Trustee Curl the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy *427.01 Sexual Harassment Policy* as presented for a first reading. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Board Policy *428.01*  
*Intellectual Property* –  
First Reading:

It was moved by Member Ramirez and seconded by Member Burrs the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy *428.01 Intellectual Property* as presented for a first reading. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Fiscal Year 2024 Audit:

It was moved by Member Burrs and seconded by Member Demmer the Board accept the college's fiscal year 2024 Financial Audit and Single Audit. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

English Faculty  
Retirement:

It was moved by Member Ramirez, with regret, and seconded by Member Demmer the Board approve the retirement of Professor Karen Abele as Assistant Professor II of English effective June 1,

2025. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Contract Approval: It was moved by Member Demmer and seconded by Student Trustee Curl the Board approve the contract with Specialty Floors, LLC, of Rockford, Illinois with a total contract amount of \$32,995 to be paid from restricted purpose funding bonds. Dr. Mandrell answered Trustees' questions. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Public Bid Action – Window and Door Replacement Project: It was moved by Member Burrs and seconded by Member Demmer the Board accept the bid from Cardinal Glass Company of Rockford, Illinois with a bid amount of \$159,715 for the SVCC Window and Door Replacement Project to be paid by restricted use Funding Bond Proceeds. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Fee Proposal – Professional Services for Preliminary Planning Study: It was moved by Member Ramirez and seconded by Member Demmer the Board approve the proposal from Willett Hofmann & Associates, Inc. for professional services for the preliminary planning study with a fee of \$75,000 to be paid from unrestricted operations and maintenance funds. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Since the scheduled business was completed, it was moved by Member Demmer and seconded by Member Ramirez the Board adjourn. In a roll call vote, all voted aye. Student Trustee Curl advisory vote: aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2025, in the Riverview Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

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Margaret Tyne, Secretary