

# Cloud County Community College

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### July 25, 2023

**Present:** Bruce Graham, Dave Garnas, Amber Hanson, Richard Hubert, Jesse Pounds, President Amber Knoettgen, Dr. Brandon Galm, Caesar Wood, Brandt Hutchinson, and Samantha Pounds – Board Clerk.

**Others Present:**

Justin Ferrell – Attorney, Toby Nosker – KNCK, Jim Lowell – Blade Empire, Chris Wilson, Matt Bechard, Stefanie Perret, Jessica LeDuc, Susan Dudley, Heather Gennette, Kevin Pounds, Tom Roberts, Hilda Ramos, Rebecca Kindel, Stephanie Clark, and Monte Poersch.

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- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jesse Pounds at **5:00** pm in Room 257 of the President’s Addition.
  - II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
  - III. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Bruce Graham moved and Richard Hubert seconded to adopt the amended agenda to remove the Systems Administrator due to not being available under personnel. Motion passed.
  - IV. **Guest Comments:** None
  - V. **Introductions and Highlights:** None
  - VI. **Consent Agenda** – Dave Garnas moved and Bruce Graham seconded to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the minutes of the June 27, 2023 regular board meeting; Treasurer’s Report; Purchasing and Payment of Claims; Psychology Instructor – Christopher Jones. Motion passed.
  - VII. **Reports:**
    - A. **President - Amber Knoettgen** – Opened her report with the mission statement and guiding values. She reminded us of the role and impact the College has within the community.

- 1) *Legislative Updates* – Cloud will be hosting the next Kansas Association of Community Colleges (KACC) meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Amber will be representing the KACC as Secretary this upcoming year and will be responsible for keeping minutes at all KBOR meetings. EMSI Study numbers are being finalized. The Athletic Legislative Audit will include breakdown of location of students, scholarships awarded, athletic budgets, and revenue for athletics.
- 2) *Marketing* – Current projects being worked on are recruitment materials for the upcoming year, a social media campaign for fall enrollment, and pushing fall enrollment everywhere. The top social media post this month was Marty Hauser and his T-Bird flag in Antarctica that reached 41,600. We had 98,281 views on our Facebook Ads in June and 82,513 views so far in July. What we are doing is reaching more and more people. Jessica LeDuc has been planning a meeting with JNT to discuss another commercial, a virtual tour, and our next advertising campaign.
- 3) *Foundation* – The Foundation closed the scholarship application on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The final awarding is complete and \$514,000 in scholarships were awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year. They are preparing to stock the Cloud Cares Food Pantry for students and purchasing items for welcome baskets for students in the dorms using the GEER II grant provided by the state of Kansas. All the paperwork has been submitted for the Childcare Capacity Accelerator Grant and we will hopefully hear back to start using the funds to recruit new teachers to the Children’s Center. This grant will be used for sign-on and retention bonuses, preschool curriculum, and professional development for our childcare providers. They were recently given more than \$239,000 from a generous donor who left their trust to the College. The money will go towards the Technical Education and Innovation Center to honor their wishes for the funds to be used for educational purposes. This is a huge deal; we are so lucky to have such amazing donors! A website page has been created for the Technical Education and Innovation Center which has information and a link to give to the project, as well as the fillable form for tax credits. Regular marketing and video updates will be posted to social media.
- 4) *Athletics* – There are such great things happening in our athletic department. Student-athletes will begin arriving on campus this week for fall sports with the Cloud County volleyball team getting ready to host volleyball camps beginning on July 27<sup>th</sup> (Grades K-3 & 4-8) with July 28<sup>th</sup> (Grades 6-9) and July 31<sup>st</sup> (Grades 8-12) as additional camp dates. T-Birds will then begin preseason workouts with their first preseason scrimmage taking place on August 12<sup>th</sup> at the KJCCC Scrimmages in El Dorado, KS before hosting a

scrimmage on August 15<sup>th</sup> against Kansas Wesleyan University.

**B. Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs - Dr. Brandon Galm**

- 1) HLC Probation has officially been lifted. Our next comprehensive review will occur sometime during the 2026-2027 academic year. We are still required to get HLC approval for any substantive changes to existing programs or for any next programs for the next three years. This is a huge accomplishment and a job well done to everyone involved. Brandon attended the 2023 ASLE/AESS Conference, an international academic conference on environmental humanities. He presented on the video game *Terra Nil* and its potential uses in the classroom, and he also organized and chaired the panel he presented on. Amber, Kit Thompson, Monte Poersch, Bruce Graham, and Brandon met with Cowley's president and two other representatives on July 20<sup>th</sup>. There are some initial partnership opportunities being discussed as they develop their wind certificate including having their students come here for climb training, as well an articulation agreement to move from their cert to our AAS. Brandon has started planning and organizing our approaches to KBOR's new performance funding model. The highest priority for this year will be creating degree maps for all our programs. KBOR informed us that our General Education Master Course List has been approved. Thanks to Cindy Lamberty for her work on this and to all the faculty who provided input during meetings and through the survey. All our faculty have been hard at work attending conferences this summer and preparing for the Fall semester.
- 2) Stephanie Clark introduced herself and is very excited to be a part of Cloud. She is our newest hire as the TRIO Academic Coordinator at the Geary County Campus. The MOU with Junction City High School for welding was approved by their Board of Trustees. Amber, Brandt Hutchinson, and Brandon met with Dr. Reginald Eggleston, superintendent of Geary County schools, on July 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss partnering on a STEM Camp. Amber and Brandon are brainstorming ways to make this happen, as well as to be beneficial to the students enrolled. Jen Zabokrtsky and Brandon met with representatives from Barton on July 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss a partnership for their Scales Technician program. After some additional research, we realized that there are courses we can offer that are part of that program, particularly CDL and Computer Applications. They are open to a partnership, and we'll continue exploring those over the next year.

**C. Vice President for Administrative Services – Caesar Wood**

- 1) Caesar was unable to attend this month's meeting so Amber shared part of his report. Building 12 and 13 renovation work is on-going, and it will be completed on July 31<sup>st</sup>. They anticipate a certificate of occupancy to be approved by August 4<sup>th</sup> with move-in day occurring on August 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> to

welcome back students. Faculty and staff will be volunteering to help move students in. There have been bi-weekly meetings with McCownGordon and GLMV to discuss progress and budgetary items on the Technical Education and Innovation Center. The footings are complete in area A and B, and area C should be completed by next week. The foundation pours will begin this Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. The steel will be on site on August 28<sup>th</sup> with steel erection beginning soon after. We are about 2 weeks ahead of schedule and still on budget, which is great news.

**D. Vice President for Student Services – Brandt Hutchinson**

- 1) *Admissions* – There have been 411 campus visits recorded since August 2022 at the Concordia Campus. This number does not indicate any 8<sup>th</sup> grade visits that occurred throughout the year. This is the highest number of campus visitors since the 2016-2017 recruitment cycle. There have been 96 campus visits at the Geary County Campus since August 2022. This is the highest number since the 2019-2020 recruitment cycle.
- 2) *Financial Aid* – They have been wrapping up the summer semester and working on getting ready for fall by processing new ISIR's, packaging Federal Aid, and sending Offer Letters to students. They all participated in watching a series of 10 Federal Student Aid webinars regarding the 2024-2025 FAFSA Simplification Process and attended the NASFAA Virtual Conference. There are significant changes to the FAFSA process including how the student completed the FAFSA, eligibility requirements, how Pell Grants are determined and calculated, new websites used in distributing aid, along with several new processing and reporting requirements.
- 3) *Student Records* – Checking summer graduation applications to see if students are on track to complete requirements and have been preparing for the 2023-2024 academic year by reviewing student record documents and processes to see if changes need to be made.
- 4) *Advising* – Becky Kindel has started in her new role as Coordinator of Academic Advisement Services. Brandt shared that he is very happy to have Becky join us as home-grown talent. Becky and DeeDee Coppoc, who was in the position before her, have been training all month as this has been beneficial for the transition. They have been reviewing the “Needs to Enroll” report from Spring 2023 to determine students who we expect to enroll for Fall 2023. Email reminders will go out to those students as they have also been working with advisors and coaches. They are also working on updates to the Student Handbook, Advisor Manual, website, and 2023-2024 program sheets.
- 5) *Retention* – Zoe Merz attended a 2-day leadership workshop through the Kansas Leadership Center via Cloud's Leadership Transformation Grant

through KLC. Orientation planning is nearly finished, and postcards will be mailed to students during the week of July 24<sup>th</sup>. There will also be emails and texts sent out in August.

- 6) *Engagement* – Planning for Thor 44 is nearly completed. Zoe has been working with the Business in Motion committee to create a joint “Flock the Block” and “Shop the Block” event in conjunction with the movie night at the Broadway Plaza on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Zoe has also been meeting with the Foundation to discuss student events for Playfair, Orientation, and Homecoming.
- 7) *Mental Health* – Recently assisted a student in registering for teletherapy sessions through BetterMynd, which is our newest online therapy platform we have begun using as Aubrey Anderson is on leave. The CARES team met to discuss and assess the risk of a student with Aubrey joining via ZOOM.
- 8) *Title IX* – The Title IX team underwent training on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and have been preparing and reviewing training supplements for students and staff.

#### **E. Meetings the Board Members attended**

- 1) Bruce Graham attended the Negotiations meeting and the Renewable Energy Tour with the Cowley Community College President and CFO meeting this month.
- 2) Richard Hubert attended the Concordia Senior Center and Clyde Senior Center meetings this month.
- 3) Jesse Pounds attended Pros of Con and the CloudCorp meetings this month.

### **VIII. Discussion Items**

#### **A. FAA Increased Wind Turbine Heights**

Amber shared that the city recently had the runway extended at the airport. With this change, moving forward we may be able to move the turbines back to the correct height. There have been problems with the turbines not working due to vibration issues, which has been an ongoing issue since the initial change. We are looking at this again to help with the long-term life of the two turbines. Bruce Graham has been advocating for this change and has been working with a connection at the FAA. If it gets approved, we will potentially have 18 months to complete this, looking at a little under \$50,000 for changes. The trustees would have to approve this before we move forward. The turbines were 7 feet taller than they were supposed to be even though the application originally stated plus or minus 10 feet. They thought we were in the clear, that’s why this wasn’t an issue originally. Our airport had no problem with this "being in their airspace", but the people we were receiving the grant from didn’t like this, so they required us to fix the height of both turbines. Hopefully with the airport expansion, we can return our turbines to the correct height, and this will save us money and time in repairs for the vibration issues.

Amber thanked Bruce for getting this idea running again and receiving responses from people.

Dave Garnas asked if there were any local entities that would be willing to donate time or funds to help restore the turbines to the correct height. Bruce shared that it would be best to work with the same manufacturer we used originally due to the specific size that we have in comparison to the local turbines. It would be a great learning opportunity for our students if they could participate/water during this time.

**IX. Action Items**

**A. Benefits Committee Position**

Bruce Graham moved and Richard Hubert seconded to approve to appoint Amber Hanson as the new Benefits Committee member due to Pat Macfarlane's vacancy. Motion passed.

**B. Negotiations Team Alternate Position**

Richard Hubert moved and Bruce Graham seconded to approve to appoint Amber Hanson as the new Negotiations Alternate member due to Pat Macfarlane's vacancy. Motion passed.

**C. Audit and Finance Committee Position**

Jesse Pounds moved and Amber Hanson seconded to approve to appoint Dave Garnas as the new Audit and Finance Committee member due to Mark Matthew's vacancy. Motion passed.

**D. Approve Date for the RNR and Budget Hearing**

Dave Garnas moved and Bruce Graham seconded to approve the date for the 2023-2024 budget hearing and RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate) hearing for September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:00 pm and 5:20 pm in room 257 in the President's Addition at Cloud County Community College, Concordia Campus. Motion passed.

**X. Other: None**

**XI. Executive Session**

**A. Negotiations**

Bruce Graham moved and Richard Hubert seconded to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with the 5 Board members, Amber Knoettgen, Brandon Galm, Brandt Hutchinson, Chris Wilson, and Justin Ferrell to discuss negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable

contract, and that we return to open session in this room at 7:15 pm. Motion passed. No action taken.

**XII. Adjournment**

Bruce Graham moved and Dave Garnas seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm. Motion passed.

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Samantha Pounds, Clerk of the Board  
Cloud County Community College  
Board of Trustees