

**Meeting Minutes from Joint RLC & SIC Alliance Meeting
September 17, 2024 @6pm in RLC Event Center**

CALL TO ORDER: RLC Chairman, Mr. Larry Manning, called the Joint RLC & SIC Board of Trustee meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Rend Lake College Event Center.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Jeff Jones, RLC Secretary, called the roll.

Those present were:

Dr. David Asbery
Mr. Ron Daniels
Mr. Brian Dorris
Mr. Jeff Jones
Mr. Larry Manning
Mr. Tony Wielt
Mr. Wyatt Hamson (Student Trustee)

Those absent were:

Mr. Joe Coy

SIC attendees introduced themselves.

Those present were:

Dr. Karen Weiss, SIC President
Dr. Pat York
Dr. Frank Barbre
Ms. Debbie Hughes
Mr. Jim Ellis
Dr. Tyler Billman

Others present were:

Mr. Terry Wilkerson, Mr. Chad Copple, Mrs. Kim Wilkerson, Mr. Henry "Buster" Leeck, Mrs. Lori Ragland, Mr. Donnie Millenbine, Mrs. Mary Huggins, Mr. Nathan Wheeler, Mrs. Jena Jensik, Mrs. Amy Epplin, Mrs. Bria Robinson, Mrs. Andrea Banach, Ms. Kendra Gregory, Mrs. Mallory Howell, Mr. Kent McKown.

INTRODUCTION Both President Wilkerson and President Weiss welcomed everyone. President Wilkerson acknowledged all the work from both entities to keep this alliance viable. President Weiss gave appreciation to the alliance for the betterment of both organizations.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ACADEMIC SERVICES Dr. Tyler Billman, Executive Director of Academic Services, SIC;
Mrs. Kim Wilkerson, Vice President of CTE and Student Support, RLC

The major impact from the Alliance is within Academics. A list of shared courses for Spring 2024 and Fall 2024 semesters were handed out. The shared courses allow both RLC & SIC student more options in education. Some shared courses are Music, Physics, Spanish, Sociology, and Vet Assistant. There is room for more potential sharing opportunities in the future. Mrs. Lori Ragland, RLC Executive Vice President, is also closely involved with the academic needs. Current and future academic decisions are made to ensure both institution's needs are being fairly met and in line with comparable rates.

Executive Vice President, Mrs. Lori Ragland expressed this has been a busy year for both colleges with RLC's transition to a new ERP system and Event Scheduling system, and SIC's HLC mid-cycle review and new President. There are also many transitions of new roles at both institutions. Mrs. Ragland reiterated the benefits of the alliance in networking, contact for idea bouncing as well as reaching out for discussion of interpretations for report processes and mandates.

BUSINESS OFFICE Ms. Lisa Hite, Vice President of Administrative Services/CFO, SIC;
Mr. John Gulley, Vice President of Finance & Auxiliary Services, RLC

Ms. Hite and Mr. Gulley collaborate regularly on overarching issues impacting community colleges such as state budgetary initiatives, monthly CFO meetings, IL CFO conferences. The alliance allows for a joint sounding board to discuss ideas, problems, and possible impacts for both institutions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Dr. Chris Barr, Executive Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, SIC;
Dr. Chad Copple, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, RLC

SIC continues to work with RLC's IT department for programming needs. A computer programmer is being shared as SIC does not have one at the moment. This will be an ongoing sharing request based upon the availability of RLC's IT staff. SIC and RLC have consulted on reporting issues as well in the recent weeks.

STUDENT SERVICES Dr. Kyla Burford, Executive Dean of Student Services, SIC;
Mr. Henry "Buster" Leeck, Vice President of Academic and Student Services, RLC

Both colleges continue to share a Mental Health Counselor, Ms. Brittany Warren as a 4-1 split (4 days at SIC and 1 at RLC). Ms. Warren is researching grant opportunities to possibly benefit both colleges. The partnership between both colleges will continue on the Title IX/Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act regional task force committee which meets in spring and fall of each year and includes Kaskaskia College as well.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Future sharing opportunities may include exploring health-related and CTE programming. There are also buildings that may pose sharing opportunities in the Trades: SIC's Williams Career and Training Center in Carmi and RLC's Southern Illinois Manufacturing Academy. Other upcoming items at RLC is the "Game Plan" Gym renovation and Allied Health Building updates.

CLOSING COMMENTS Dr. Karen Weiss gave appreciation for the work of all those involved in the alliance. She acknowledged the benefits of both colleges working together and thanked all trustees for attending and taking interest in the collaboration.

President Wilkerson again thanked everyone for coming and taking an interest in the future of both institutions. He emphasized the importance he and former SIC President Jonah Rice felt when they began this alliance, and their hope for its continuation. He reiterated the joint meetings have been a good way to strengthen the alliance bond and report to Trustees on the progress and benefit to each institution. Although an alliance of this sort was unheard of when President Wilkerson and former President Rice brainstormed its creation; it is hoped that these joint meetings will continue into the future with the new SIC President, Dr. Weiss, and RLC Executive Vice President/" President Designee" Mrs. Lori Ragland.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.