

**Illinois Community College District #511
Rock Valley College
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114**

**Board of Trustees Special Meeting – Decennial Committee
August 22, 2023, 5:15 p.m.**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, convened in Room 0214, known as the Performing Arts Room (PAR), in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus on Tuesday, August 22, 2023. Rock Valley College President Dr. Howard Spearman, co-chair of the Decennial Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members of the committee were present:

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia	Mr. Bob Trojan
Mr. Paul Gorski	Ms. Kristen Simpson
Mr. Richard Kennedy	Mr. John Nelson
Student Trustee Juan Nogueta	Ms. Jessica Jones
Mr. Adrian Vasquez	Dr. Howard Spearman
Ms. Heather Snider	Ms. Ann Kerwitz
Ms. Ellen Olson	

The following member of the committee was absent: Ms. Crystal Soltow

Also in attendance: Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President Operations/Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President Liberal Arts and Adult Education/Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Jim Handley, Vice President Human Resources; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President Student Affairs; Mr. Keith Barnes, Vice President Equity and Inclusion; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President Industry Partnerships and Community Engagement; Ms. Betsy Saucedo, Assistant to the President; Attorney Matthew Gardner, Robbins Schwartz.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

No public comments were received.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Adrian Vasquez, seconded by Gloria Cudia, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023 meeting.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Committee members Cudia, Jones, Kennedy, Kerwitz, Nogueta, Olson, Simpson, Snider, Trojan, Vasquez and Spearman voted yes. Committee members Gorski and Nelson voted no.

Presentation and Review of Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Recognition Report

Ms. Heather Snider, vice president institutional effectiveness and communications, presented a review of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Recognition Report. In her report, she reviewed the legislation and purpose of the Decennial Committee, as well as the schedule for future meetings.

She further explained that Recognition is a statutory term describing the status of a community college district that meets instructional, administrative, financial, facility, and equipment standards as established by the ICCB. A favorable recognition status is a condition of state funding eligibility. Meeting ICCB standards is an indication of accountability to the state of Illinois and also provides a blueprint for efficient College operations.

Ms. Snider then reviewed the Academic Standards, Student Services/Academic Support Standards and Institutional Research/Reporting Standards, and explained the ICCB advisory recommendations and the College's response. The Finance/Facility Standards will be examined more closely by Vice President of Finance Ellen Olson at the October 24 meeting of the committee.

Snider noted that members of the committee received the Recognition Report prior to the meeting and did not submit any questions. The College administration recommends the committee members accept the ICCB Recognition Report as evidence of efficiencies and accountability of the College.

Discussion:

Trustee Gorski commented that although the Recognition Report demonstrates efficiency and accountability to the ICCB, the final report of the Decennial Committee is to be distributed to each of the county boards in the College's district. However, because Rock Valley College is not accountable to the county boards, he suggested that the final report should include a recommendation that members of the state legislature be informed that the proposed legislation to change how trustees are elected (in subdistricts rather than at-large) would not increase the efficiency of the College nor of the trustees.

Trustee Nelson added that he concurs with Trustee Gorski that the College can save money by not having trustees elected by subdistricts. He also suggested that although the financial audit is good, hiring an independent auditor to report to an audit committee may increase efficiencies at the College.

Trustee Gorski added that may be a good idea, and the College's final report will remind county boards that the College is accountable to certifying organizations that function at a higher level of accountability than the county boards.

Attorney Gardner added that the Decennial Committee legislation does not create any accountability of the College to the county boards in the district. There is no case law to date, and he concurred that the legislation needs to be cleaned up.

Discussion continued regarding the possible intent of the legislation that created the Decennial Committee and the need (or not) for an outside auditor in addition to reviewing financial controls. Dr. Spearman added that this will be noted in the final report to the county boards.

President's Update

Dr. Spearman explained that although shared services are among the legislation's suggestions for exploration by the Decennial Committees, this topic is currently being discussed by the five community college presidents in the ICCTA Northwest Region. Additionally, the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents (ICCCP) meets three or four times a year to discuss topics affecting all of the state's community colleges, including the potential for sharing services.

Dr. Spearman added that trustees, administrators, and presidents are invited to attend a meeting of the ICCTA Northwest Region to be held Tuesday, September 19 at Kishwaukee College. In addition to a tour of the College and dinner, attendees will hear an update on shared services and have the opportunity to participate in a discussion of related topics and ideas. He added that a review of shared services was not recommended to RVC's Decennial Committee, as college presidents can move faster in keeping with the spirit of the ICCB. As a reminder, trustees will hear more about cooperative agreements among community colleges at the September 12 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Survey of Residents in Attendance

Dr. Spearman asked those in the audience to complete the survey, emphasizing RVC employees who live within District #511, by using the QR code on the agenda and on the screen or by completing the printed copies available near the entrance of the room. He added that these surveys are anonymous and meet the requirements of the legislation. All survey data will be compiled and included in the final report.

Date of Next Committee of the Whole Meeting: September 12, 2023, 5:15 p.m. Meeting to be held in Room 0214, Performing Arts Room (PAR), Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

Date of Next Regular Meeting: September 26, 2023, 5:15 p.m. Meeting to be held in Room 0214, Performing Arts Room (PAR), Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

Date of Next Decennial Committee Meeting: October 24, 2023, 5:15 p.m. Meeting to be held in Room 1300, Advanced Technology Center, 1400 Big Thunder Blvd., Belvidere, IL. **Location for this meeting only.**

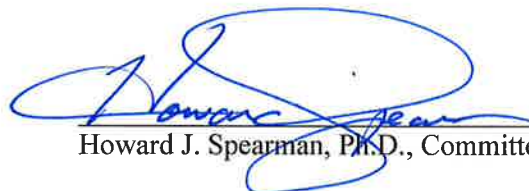
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Decennial Committee, at 5:50 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Nelson. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Submitted by Ann L. Kerwitz



Ann L. Kerwitz,
Decennial Committee Secretary



Howard J. Spearman, Ph.D., Committee Co-Chair