

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Mark Stephens called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order in the Boardroom at 7:07 p.m. The following roll call was taken.

Present: Mr. Jerrell David, Mr. Tracy Jennings, Mr. Glover Johnson, Mrs. Elizabeth Potter, Mr. Rich Regan, Mr. Mark Stephens, Ms. Diane Viverito.

TRUSTEE TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY

Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Regan to allow Mr. Casson to attend the meeting via telephone. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously and Mr. Casson joined the meeting via telephone.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Ms. Viverito made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of March 5, 2025. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

Mrs. Potter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Regan to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 25, 2025. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

Mr. Jennings made a motion, seconded by Mr. Regan to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 25, 2025. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

COMMENTS ON THIS AGENDA

None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Gary Feltman, an activist from Elmwood Park, addressed the Board on safety issues and radiation risks connected to wireless technology and cellular towers situated in close proximity to Triton College. Mr. Feltman came back (He presented to the Board in December 2024.) to re-emphasize the urgency of the issue and stressed that, as an educational institution, Triton should provide a safe learning and working environment to all staff, students, and community members.

Mary Alexander, a nursing student at Triton College and President of the Student Nurses Association, highlighted concerns and disruptions within the nursing program and requested immediate intervention. The list of those challenges included lack of a dedicated lab instructor, impacting the quality and safety of lab experience; disruptions in class schedules due to staffing shortages; and insufficient instruction materials or broken equipment. Ms. Alexander also mentioned clinical site changes without adequate notification, leaving students with no guidance and negatively impacting their educational experience. As most troubling, however, she admitted, was an intimidating and often aggressive conduct by the college leadership, particularly by the Dean of Health Careers & Public Service Program, and lack of effective and respectful communication between faculty, students, and management.

Jocelyn Hernandez, a nursing student that addressed the Board on behalf of Evelyn Amigon, shared her frustration with the Nursing program pitfalls and asked administration for a proper intervention.

Kaeleen Edwards, a nursing student, presented the Board with a written document of all student concerns and suggested recommendations for improvement, including expanding clinical rotation sites, increasing tutoring services, standardizing nursing uniform requirements, creating a centralized space within H Building with academic and resource support, and establishing clear and consistent communication.

Pamela Vesecky, the last nursing student that addressed the Board, concluded with a brief summary of the obstacles that the nursing students have to deal with, while also expressing her optimism about a swift resolution to those challenges.

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Employee Groups

Faculty Association President Leslie Wester applauded the nursing students for their bravery and intelligence in advocating for themselves, particularly in navigating the challenges of their education and professional development. Ms. Wester also provided an update on the status of faculty negotiations, commenting that they are developing points of consensus and look forward to a future resolution.

STUDENT SENATE REPORT

TCSA President Mark Kouria reported that this will be his last Board meeting and introduced his successor Dmytriy Havrylyak. Mr Kouria talked about the Student Advocacy Day that was held on April 9, 2025 in Springfield. Mr. Kouria thanked everyone at Triton for their support and expressed his gratitude having served and represented the Triton College students and community during his tenure, which he considers a great opportunity to engage in governance, leadership, and campus events.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs/Student Affairs

Ms. Viverito reported that the committee met on April 16 and reviewed pertinent items which have been forwarded to the Board with the committee's support and recommendation for approval.

Finance/Maintenance & Operations

Mrs. Potter reported that the committee met on April 9 and reviewed twelve new business items and three purchasing schedules. All were unanimously approved and sent to the Board with a recommendation for approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Outstanding Faculty and Adjunct Faculty of the Year: VP of Academic Affairs Susan Campos introduced Andrea Blaylock, Outstanding Faculty of the Year award winner. Ms. Blaylock is a dedicated educator, also the chair of the Engineering Technology department, who exemplifies excellence in teaching and leadership, serving her students with passion and purpose. She feels honored, humbled, and thankful for this recognition.

Dr. Campos also introduced Outstanding Adjunct Faculty of the Year award recipient – Dr. James Halm. Dr. Halm is an active and valued member of the Behavioral Science department, known for his remarkable energy and authenticity in his classroom. He considers this award as his success directly tied to the support and guidance of his students.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Mary-Rita Moore thanked the Sustainability Committee and those involved in the Earth Day activities that have been scheduled on campus throughout the month of April. She further reported that she is in constant communication with VP Campos, Dean Moran, and the department Chairs about the challenges of the Nursing department. President Moore asked VP Campos to speak in more detail about the situation, including the steps that have been taken in the last thirty days to address those challenges.

VP Campos provided a clear and concise explanation about the issues and implemented solutions. The broken equipment is now repaired and functioning, except for the adapters that are unrepairable; the manufacturer has been contacted to resolve the issue. The necessary supplies are available and the vacant Lab Resource Coordinator position has been secured - the new person starting in May. VP Campos admitted that the primary challenge in finding professional nurse educators is a shortage of qualified candidates for nursing programs, but the administration is relentless and keeps doing their best to improve the current state of the Nursing program.

Mr. David, the new student Trustee, reiterated the students' concerns and looks forward to an open conversation with the college administration.

Mr. Jennings questioned the regular data collection and analysis of the nursing equipment and supplies, as well as the hiring process for the nursing faculty. VP Campos explained that there is a protocol established for both. The nursing supplies, tools, and accessories are checked regularly and we hire just enough individuals so the hired faculty can make their teaching load.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Stephens thanked the nursing students for their courage and willingness to share their concerns. He also thanked President Moore and VP Campos for taking the necessary action. Further, he stressed the importance of student voice, which, he hopes, will lead to positive changes in curriculum, clinical practices, and other aspects of the Triton College Nursing program. Chairman Stephens concluded that Triton College is an institution where open communication and student feedback are valued, and he will continue monitoring the situation to ensure satisfactory results.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION EXHIBITS

A. Board Policy – First Reading

6175 Harassment, Discrimination, and Misconduct

B. Action Exhibits

17195 Trustee Travel Request

Mrs. Potter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Viverito, to approve Action Exhibit 17195.

Roll Call Vote:

Affirmative: Mr. Casson, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Potter, Mr. Regan, Ms. Viverito, Mr. Stephens.

Abstention: Mr. David

Motion carried 7-0. Student Trustee abstained from voting.

17196 Taping of Board Meetings

17197 Budget Transfers

17198 Preservation Services Inc. Vendor Limit Increase

17199 Certification of Final Completion and Authorization of Final Payment for the Heat Pump Replacement Building T Project

17200 Hourly Employee Wage Increase

17201 Agreement with Midwest Orthopedics at Rush

17202 Purchase of Training Aids for Automotive Program

17203 Purchase of Accuplacer Unites for Placement Testing

17204 Student Community Employment Experience with River Grove Public Library

17205 Agreement with Sign Language Interpreters Inc.

17206 Agreement with Parchment LLC for Diplomas/Certificates

17207 Agreement with Lamar for Billboard Advertising

17208 Agreement with View Chicago Transit

17209 Curriculum Recommendations

Item 17210 Authorization to Contract with Blusky Restoration for Emergency Water Damage Remediation to R Building Theater was tabled.

Ms. Viverito made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve the Action Exhibits. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

PURCHASING SCHEDULES

B47.16 Chiller Replacements at Buildings A & J

B47.17 Electrician Services

B47.18 Plumbing Services

Mrs. Potter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jennings to approve the Purchasing Schedules. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

BILLS AND INVOICES

Mrs. Potter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to pay the Bills and Invoices in the amount of \$1,101,496.58.

Roll Call Vote:

Affirmative: Mr. Casson, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Potter, Mr. Regan, Ms. Viverito, Mr. Stephens.

Abstention: Mr. David

Motion carried 7-0. Student Trustee abstained from voting.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Viverito made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss and consider the hiring, discipline, performance and compensation of certain personnel, matters of collective

bargaining, acquisition of real property, and matters of pending, probable, or imminent litigation, seconded by Mrs. Potter.

Roll Call Vote:

Affirmative: Mr. David, Mr. Casson, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Potter, Mr. Regan, Ms. Viverito, Mr. Stephens.

Absent: Mr. Casson (disconnected)

Motion carried 6-0 with the Student Trustee voting yes. The Board went into Closed Session at 8:20 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Ms. Viverito made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Mrs. Potter.

Roll Call Vote:

Affirmative: Mr. David, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Potter, Mr. Regan, Ms. Viverito, Mr. Stephens.

Absent: Mr. Casson (disconnected)

Motion carried 6-0 with the Student Trustee voting yes. The Board returned to Open Session at 8:29 p.m.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

1.0 Faculty

Ms. Viverito made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve page 1 of the Human Resources Report, item 1.1.01 through 1.3.01. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

2.0 Adjunct Faculty

Mr. Jennings made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Potter, to approve pages 2 – 4 of the Human Resources Report, items 2.3.01 through 2.7.01. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

3.0 Administration

Ms. Viverito made a motion, seconded by Mr. Regan, to approve page 5 of the Human Resources Report, item 3.1.01. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

4.0 Classified, Police & Engineers

Mrs. Potter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Viverito, to approve pages 6-7 of the Human Resources Report, items 4.1.01 through 4.5.02. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

5.0 Mid-Management

Ms. Viverito made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve page 8 of the Human Resources Report, items 5.1.01 through 5.5.01. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

6.0 Hourly Employees

Mrs. Potter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Regan, to approve pages 9 – 11 of the Human Resources Report, items 6.1.01 through 6.5.01. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

7.0 Other

Ms. Viverito made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve page 12 of the Human Resources Report, items 7.1.01 through 7.2.02. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mrs. Potter to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board, seconded by Mr. Regan. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. Chairman Stephens adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Mark R. Stephens
Board Chairman

Tracy Jennings
Board Secretary

Margaret Kluza
Margaret Kluza, Recording Secretary