



**COLLEGE of
SOUTHERN
MARYLAND**
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

DATE: January 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: La Plata Campus – BI 201
PRESIDING CHAIR: Sonja Cox

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Sonja Cox, Chair
Christy Lombardi, Vice - Chair
Kee Abell
Cathy Allen
Shawn Coates
Pamela Cousins
Cordelia Postell
Celeste Alexander – Frye
Diane Sandoval
Yolanda Wilson, President

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Sonya Cox, Board Chair.

II. QUORUM ESTABLISHMENT

The board secretary confirmed the presence of a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 18, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting minutes were reviewed. Trustee Lombardi made a motion to approve the December 18, 2025, meeting minutes. Trustee Abell seconded the motion

➤ **All were in favor; Motion Passed**

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the January 22, 2026, board meeting was reviewed and approved as presented. Trustee Allen made a motion to approve the January 22, 2026, agenda. Trustee Postell seconded the motion

➤ **All were in favor; Motion Passed**

V. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Patrick Shirton, Vice President of the Division of Financial Services presented the Monthly Financial Report.

VI. GRANT DEVELOPMENT REPORT QUARTER 2

Tora Wright, Director I, Grants Development, presented the Quarterly Grants Report FY2026 – Quarter 2



VII. SOLE SOURCE ESG SERVICES NON-CREDIT AND CREDIT ALIGNMENT

Ellen Flowers-Fields, Vice President Continuing Education & Workforce Development requested board approval for Sole Source contract of \$70,000 with Education Strategy Group (ESG) for technical assistance with pathways that create access for adult learners and ensure students can move along stackable pathways.

Trustee Coates made a motion to approve the sole source contract request for \$70,000 with Education Strategy Group (ESG).

Trustee Postell seconded the motion

➤ **All were in favor; Motion Passed**

VIII. SOLE SOURCE ENGAGEMENT OF MILES & STOCKBRIDGE

Ron Price, Vice President of People Culture & Engagement requested board approval for the Sole Source engagement of Miles & Stockbridge as outside Counsel and the associated budget allocation in the amount of \$175,000. (This amount request is in alignment with the cost normally expended in the General Counsel office considering the FT salary, benefits and other outside contracts.)

Trustee Postell made a motion to approve the request for Sole Source engagement with Miles & Stockbridge as outside counsel and the associate budget amount of \$175,000.

Vice Chair Lombardi seconded the motion

➤ **All were in favor; Motion Passed**

IX. CHAIRS REPORT

Sonja Cox, Board Chair: shared the following:

- 2/8 – 2/11 ACCT Legislative Summit in Washington DC

Already Registered – Dr Wilson and Trustees Coates, Cousins, Alexander-Frye & Sandoval

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Trustee Abell motioned to adjourn the meeting. With the motion seconded by Trustee Postell, all were in favor; Motion Passed the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Cox, Board Chair

Yolanda Wilson, Ed. D, President