



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

DATE: May 21, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual / Via Zoom
PRESIDING CHAIR: Sonja Cox

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Sonja Cox, Board Chair.

II. QUORUM ESTABLISHMENT

The board secretary confirmed the presence of a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 16, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting minutes were reviewed. Trustee Coates made a motion to approve the April 16, 2026, meeting minutes. Trustee Postell seconded the motion

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

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the May 21, 2026, board meeting was reviewed and approved as presented. Trustee Abell made a motion to approve the May 21, 2026, agenda. Trustee Cousins seconded the motion

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

V. STUDENT PRESENTATION

Student Life Coordinators Tim Reim & Courtney Kimble-Hawkins introduced the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) who shared recent campus engagement.

VI. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

Molly O’Keefe, Associate Vice President of Strategy presented a recap of the April Achieving the Dream (ATD) visit.

VII. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

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

VIII. CULTURAL DIVERSITY REPORT

Dr. Trenace Richardson, Associate Vice President of Organizational Development and Engagement, presented a request for board approval of the annual 2025–2026 Cultural Diversity Report for submission to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Dr. Richardson also requested board approval for Board representation, authorizing Chair Sonja Cox to sign the report cover sheets for submission.

Trustee Cousins made a motion to submit the 2025-2026 Cultural Diversity Report to MHEC with Chair Sonja Cox's signature on the cover sheets.

Trustee Abell seconded the motion

- All were in favor; Motion Passed

IX. NOMINATIONS FOR CSM FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

Susan Vogel, Executive Director, CSM Foundation presented a request to approve the following three nominations to join the CSM Foundation Board of Directors:

1. Pam Barnard
2. Destiny Hunter
3. Kelly Williams

Trustee Allen made a motion to approve Pam Barnard, Destiny Hunter and Kelly Williams to join the CSM Foundation Board of Directors.

Trustee Sandoval seconded the motion

- All were in favor; Motion Passed

X. FACULTY TENURE

Dr Bernice Brezina, Interim Vice President of the Division of Learning presented six names of faculty eligible for tenure to be approved by the board.

1. Professor Seth Bacon
2. Associate Professor Dr Heather Bougher
3. Associate Professor Pamela Burkett-Jones
4. Associate Professor Elizabeth Caruso
5. Associate Professor Heather Collins
6. Assistant Professor Amy Spitz

Trustee Coates made a motion to approve **Professor Seth Bacon** from the School of Liberal Arts for tenure.

Trustee Postell seconded the motion

- All were in favor; Motion Passed



Trustee Lombardi made a motion to approve **Associate Professor Dr. Heather Bougher** from the School of Liberal Arts for tenure.

Trustee Sandoval seconded the motion

- All were in favor; Motion Passed

Trustee Allen made a motion to approve **Associate Professor Pamela Burkett-Jones** from the School of STEM & Professional Studies for tenure.

Trustee Sandoval seconded the motion

- All were in favor; Motion Passed

Trustee Cousins made a motion to approve **Associate Professor, Elizabeth Caruso** from the School of Liberal Arts for tenure.

Trustee Allen seconded the motion

- All were in favor; Motion Passed

Trustee Postell made a motion to approve **Associate Professor Heather Collins** from the School of STEM & Professional Studies for tenure.

Trustee Sandoval seconded the motion

- All were in favor; Motion Passed

Trustee Postell made a motion to approve **Assistant Professor Amy Spitz** from the Learning Resource Division for tenure.

Trustee Lombardi seconded the motion

- All were in favor; Motion Passed

XI. HEALTH/DENTAL PLAN RENEWALS

Trustee Celeste Alexander-Frye, Chair of the Human Resources & Benefits Committee, and Ron Price, Vice President of People, Culture and Engagement and member of the Human Resources & Benefits Committee, presented three requests for Board consideration and approval.

1. The first request sought approval for the renewal of the Employee Medical Plan Fund, including a 12.5% increase to funding rates, a 9% increase to Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) employee contributions, and a 5.6% increase to High-Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) employee contributions, based on a 5% fund balance margin for the upcoming plan year of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
2. The second request sought approval for the renewal of the Employee Dental Plan, including a 5% increase in funding rates and a 5% increase to employee contributions for the upcoming plan year of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

3. The third request sought approval for the renewal of the SunLife Stop Loss contract with no change to the Individual Stop Loss (ISL) threshold of \$150,000 and the addition of Terminal Liability Coverage, at an approximate total premium cost of \$805,000 for the upcoming plan year of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Trustee Postell made a motion to approve the renewal of the Employee Medical Plan Fund with a 12.5% increase to Funding Rates and 9% increase to PPO Employee Contributions, 5.6% increase to HDHP Employee Contributions based on a 5% Fund Balance Margin for the upcoming plan year which begins July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

Trustee Allen seconded the motion

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

Trustee Postell a motion to approve the renewal of the Employee Dental Plan with a 5% increase to funding Rates and a 5% increase to Employee Contributions for the upcoming plan year which begins July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

Trustee Cousins seconded the motion

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

Trustee Abell a motion to approve the renewal of the renewal of the SunLife Stop Loss contract with no change to the Individual Stop Loss (ISL) threshold of \$150,000 and the addition of Terminal Liability Coverage, at an approximate total premium cost of \$805,000 for the upcoming plan year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Trustee Postell seconded the motion

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

XII. PRAGMATIC WORKS ENTERPRISE SUBSCRIPTION/SKYLINE EXTREME NETWORK CONTRACT

Stacie Aubel, Coordinator of IMT Business Operations, presented two requests for Board consideration and approval.

1. The first request sought approval for a sole source two-year enterprise subscription from Pragmatic Works in the amount of \$85,411.
2. The second request sought approval for a three-year contract renewal with Skyline Technology Solutions in the amount of \$527,828.26 through the Maryland Education Enterprise Consortium (MEEC).

Trustee Allen made a motion to approve a Sole Source 2-year Enterprise subscription from Pragmatic Works in the amount of \$85,411.

Trustee Postell seconded the motion

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

Trustee Abell made a motion to approve a 3-year contract renewal with Skyline Technology Solutions in the amount of \$527,828.26 through the Maryland Enterprise Consortium Cooperative (MEEC).

Trustee Cousins seconded the motion

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

XIII. AUDACY OPERATIONS SOLE SOURCE COMPETITION WAIVER

Lena Hancock, Marketing Director 1, presented a request for Board consideration and approval for a Sole Source/Competition Waiver for Audacy Operations, Inc.

Trustee Allen made a motion to approve the Sole Source / Competition Waiver for Audacy Operations, Inc.

Trustee Cousins seconded the motion

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

XIV. SEMI ANNUAL CONTRACT RENEWALS

Patrick Shirdon, Vice President of the Division of Financial Services, presented a request for Board consideration and approval of 16 contracts ending during the July 1 through December 31, 2026, timeframe. The contracts included:

- Burlington English
- Black Box
- ePlus
- Gravity
- Hyland
- NEOGOV
- SHI
- D2L
- Georgetown Learning
- Carnegie
- Comcast
- Good Karma
- Indiana Printing Company
- National CineMedia
- Salesforce
- WTTG Fox 5

Vice Chair Lombardi made a motion to approve the 16 contracts as presented by the Division of Financial Services.

Trustee Coates seconded the motion

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



XV. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dr. Wilson, CSM President : shared the following updates:

- CSMTV/Public Access Open House
- Student Advocacy Luncheon
- Calvert Minority Business Alliance 20-Year Gala
- Wills Group 100 Year Gala
- Academic Excellence/SGA and Student Clubs/Graduation Ceremonies
- Hawk Heroes Breakfast
- Quantum Forum
- Neurodiversity Seminar
- CSM Day/Code Green Friday’s Kickoff

XVI. BOARD CHAIRS REPORT

Sonja Cox, Board Chair: shared the following:

- 5/29 - 12pm Ribbon Cutting Lorraine Diana ’79 and Robert Guite Learning Resource Center – LR Building on the La Plata Campus

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Trustee Lombardi motioned to adjourn the meeting. With the motion seconded by Trustee Allen, all were in favor; Motion Passed the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Sonja Cox in black ink.

Sonja Cox, Board Chair

Handwritten signature of Yolanda Wilson in black ink.

Yolanda Wilson, Ed. D, President