



SVSU

***Board of Control
Minutes***

December 12, 2014



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF CONTROL

REGULAR FORMAL SESSION

Board of Control Room, Third Floor Wickes Hall

December 12, 2014

1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Jeff Martin, Chair
Cathy Ferguson, Vice Chair
Jenee Velasquez, Secretary
Scott Carmona, Treasurer
Dennis Durco
David Gamez
John Kunitzer
Jerome Yantz
Donald Bachand, President (Ex Officio)

ABSENT: -----

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shaun Bangert	Michael O'Neill
Andy Bethune	Carlos Ramet
JJ Boehm	Joey Rexford
Sharon Carlin	Richard Thompson
Andrew Chubb	Mamie Thorns
Craig Douglas	Cale Wasserman
Gene Hamilton	Mike Watson
LaMarcus Howard	Carolyn Wierda
Mary Kowaleski	Joe Wojkiewicz
Heidi Lang	Press
David Lewis	

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF CONTROL
DECEMBER 12, 2014
REGULAR FORMAL SESSION
INDEX OF ACTIONS

RES-2105	RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE 2014 STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE BATTLE OF THE VALLEYS COMPETITION APPROVED	1
RES-2106	RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE 2014 SVSU WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM APPROVED	2
RES-2107	RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE 2014 SVSU MEN'S SOCCER TEAM APPROVED	3
RES-2108	RESOLUTION TO GRANT UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREES APPROVED	3
RES-2109	RESOLUTION TO GRANT EMERITUS STATUS TO DREW HINDERER, PH.D. APPROVED	4
RES-2110	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FACULTY SABBATICALS FOR 2015-2016 APPROVED	5
RES-2111	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONFIRMATION OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES APPROVED	7
RES-2112	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF FUNDS TO MEET TEMPORARY CASH FLOW DEFICITS APPROVED	7
BM-1161	MOTION TO MOVE TO INFORMAL SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS APPROVED	10
BM-1161	MOTION TO ADJOURN APPROVED	11

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A. Approval of Agenda and Additions to and Deletions from Agenda

There were no additions to or deletions from the agenda.

The agenda was APPROVED as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2014 Regular Formal Session of the Board of Control

It was moved and supported that the minutes of the October 13, 2014 Regular Formal Session be approved.

The minutes were unanimously APPROVED as written.

C. Recognition of the Official Representative of the Faculty Association

Professor Shaun Bangert, President of the Faculty Association, commented that the Board of Control agenda for December speaks highly of the University. She noted that staff members, faculty members and students are all represented on the agenda for their contributions and achievements.

D. Communications and Requests to Appear Before the Board

- Sharon Carlin, Staff Member of the Month for October, was introduced to the Board. (See Appendix One: Carlin.)
- LaMarcus Howard, Staff Member of the Month for November, was introduced to the Board. (See Appendix Two: Howard.)
- Heidi Lang, Staff Member of the Month for December, was introduced to the Board. (See Appendix Three: Lang.)

III. ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution to Congratulate the 2014 Student Association for their Leadership in the Battle of the Valleys Competition

RES-2105 **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

WHEREAS, Since 2003, students from Saginaw Valley State University and Grand Valley State University, led by their respective Student Associations, have competed in a charitable fund-raising competition known as the Battle of the Valleys; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, SVSU students raised \$32,294 for The Cory Rivard, Jr. Promise Foundation. The Saginaw Valley State University Student Association selected the Cory Rivard, Jr. Promise Foundation as its partner charity for the 2014 “Battle of the Valleys.”

WHEREAS, SVSU has won the Battle of the Valleys trophy in nine out of twelve years, having raised over \$307,000 to benefit regional charities; and The Cory Rivard, Jr. Promise Foundation, started in 2012 by the Rivard Family of Algonac, Mich., in memory of Cory Rivard, Jr. who committed suicide in January 2011. The Foundation works to educate college students about depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University congratulate the 2014 Student Association and through them, the entire student body which they represent, for a successful and commendable fund-raising effort and for continuing a spirit of generosity and philanthropy on this campus.

Mr. Joey Rexford, President of the Student Association, thanked the Board of Control and the SVSU administration for all their support. Mr. Rexford stated that the Student Association is grateful for the generosity and support they received from the surrounding community during the fundraising competition.

Chair Martin expressed his appreciation to the Student Association for their outstanding effort and hard work for a very worthy cause.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

2. Resolution to Congratulate the 2014 SVSU Women’s Soccer Team

RES-2106 **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

WHEREAS, The 2014 Saginaw Valley State University women’s soccer team advanced to the NCAA Division II National Tournament for just the second time in the program’s history and posted the program’s first-ever NCAA Tournament victory, a 1-0 decision over Ohio Dominican; and,

WHEREAS, Presley Tibbetts was selected to Daktronics, Inc. All-Midwest Region Second Team and All-GLIAC First Team and Sophomore goalkeeper Claire Spleth was named the GLIAC “Goalkeeper of the Year” and All-GLIAC First Team; and,

WHEREAS, Other All-GLIAC members were Ashley Henderson (2nd Team), Shelby Thompson (2nd Team), and Shelby Watts (Honorable Mention); and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University congratulate Head Coach Michael O'Neill, Assistant Coach Lachlan Savage, and team members Amy Smith, Claire Spleth, Kailey Naumcheff, Ingrid Hannevig, Emma Webster, Bria Spraggins, Ashley Henderson, Karisma Leon, Holly Laser, Hannah Marquard, Jessica Parvana, Stefanie Klug, Kristin Syrowik, Shelby Thompson, Cassie McManus, Alexis Hilliard, Jaclyn Zembrodt, Jenny Goethals, Lindsey Arnett, Skylen Powell, Shelby Watts, Annie Aubrey, Kelsie Friend, Presley Tibbetts, Maddison Smith, and Olivia Perrin for attaining this high level of achievement and commend Coach O'Neill and the team for their outstanding performance on the field. Their commitment to excellence and performance has brought national distinction to the University and its athletic programs.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

3. Resolution to Congratulate the 2014 SVSU Men's Soccer Team

RES-2107 **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

WHEREAS, The 2014 Saginaw Valley State University men's soccer team had the best start in program history, going unbeaten in the first 12 matches and finishing the season posting a final record of 14-5-2 ; and,

WHEREAS, The team advanced to the NCAA Division II Round of 16 for the second time in three years as a result of their 5-2 tournament victory over Northwood; and,

WHEREAS, Senior Craig Neal (Auburn, Michigan) was named Daktronics, Inc. All-Midwest Region First Team/ CapitalOne Academic All-America Third Team (3.88 GPA Criminal Justice)/All-GLIAC First Team, and other All-GLIAC members were: Zach Vasold (1st Team), Tyler Channell (2nd Team), Aleksandar Isaevski (Honorable Mention); and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University congratulate Head Coach Cale Wasserman, Assistant Coach Kyle Segebart, and team members Joshua Kleinow, Alexandre Bouillennec, Joshua Howell, Raphael Stulz, Jordan Kalk, Tyler Stephens, Philip Strachan, Mounir Darbaki, Max Brodarzon, Laurence Paterson, Tyler Channell, Troy Watson, Matthew Lang, Matt Davis, Zack Cooney, Dillon Herried, Hafid Darbaki, Vaughn Frederick, Aleksandar Isaeeveski, Zach Vasold, Griffin Parks, Isaiah Orbe, Craig Neal, Michael Winters, Mitchell Palmer, and Michael Lamb for attaining this high level of achievement and commend Coach Wasserman and the team for their outstanding performance on the field. Their commitment to excellence and performance has brought national distinction to the University and its athletic programs.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

4. Resolution to Grant Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees

RES-2108 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University is granted the authority to confer undergraduate and graduate degrees as outlined in Section 5 of Public and Local Acts of Michigan 1965; and

WHEREAS, Operating Policy 3.101 Article III of the Board reserves to the Board the authority to grant degrees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University approves the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees at the December, 12 and 13, 2014 Commencement ceremonies as certified by the faculty and Registrar.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

5. Resolution to Grant Emeritus Status to Drew Hinderer, Ph.D.

RES-2109 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University grants emeritus/emerita status to retiring faculty/administrators who have served the University with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hinderer has given thirty-three years of service to SVSU, having arrived at SVSU on 1 January 1981, to join the faculty in the Department of Philosophy at the rank of associate professor, and receiving the rank of full professor (1986) and spending the following three decades dedicated to the university by serving as department chair, Roberts Fellows Program Director, James V. Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics, and faculty representative to numerous university committees, such as the Professional Practices Committee and Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hinderer's service to the University was recognized when he was awarded the Franc M. Landee Award for Excellence in Teaching (2010), the Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award (2008), the House Family Award for Teacher Impact (2007), the Thomas and Hilda Rush Distinguished Lectureship (2007), and the Faculty Association Award for Scholarly Achievement (1991); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hinderer's respected and exceptional contributions to the University include his key participation in the foundation and leadership of the prestigious Roberts Fellowship Program, his service as the James V. Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics; and his instrumental participation in founding the William and Julia Edwards Lecture in Philosophy and Religion; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hinderer was devoted to his community by serving on ethics committees for several health care organizations in the Mid-Michigan area, as well as his key role in instituting and organizing the Great Lakes Bay Collaborative Health Care Ethics Conference; and

WHEREAS, as an accomplished musician, Dr. Hinderer extended his community and university involvement, frequently performing as a recitalist, chamber performer, and orchestral musician throughout Michigan; notably, serving as the Principal Bassoonist for the Midland Symphony Orchestra and as a bassoonist and founding member of the SVSU Valley Wind Quintet (1983 – 2007); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hinderer remained dedicated to contributing to his field of study, which included numerous books and textbooks, research papers, presentations, scholarly articles and hospital ethics workbooks; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hinderer has shown exemplary commitment to his discipline, college, students, and the university, earning him merited recognition by students and faculty; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Dr. Drew Hinderer be recognized as Professor Emeritus.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

6. Resolution to Approve Sabbaticals for 2015-2016

RES-2110 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University is committed to quality education and provides the faculty with opportunities to maintain and enhance their professional knowledge and expertise, and

WHEREAS, The University administration supports faculty sabbatical leaves as an integral part of the SVSU Faculty Development Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT, the following faculty members be granted sabbatical leaves as specified below for the academic year of 2015-2016.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Proposal Title</i>
Aryana, Cyrus	Mathematical Sciences	Fall 2015	"Toeplitz Operators"
Baessler, John	History	Fall 2015	"The Significance of Gender and Sexuality in the American Occupation of Central Hesse, Germany, 1945-1991"

Brooks Herd, Vanessa	Social Work	Winter 2016	“Grannies: Intergenerational Parenting of AIDS Orphans in Uganda”
Canale, Thomas	Art, Graphic Design	Winter 2016	“Beautiful Letters”/Font Design and It’s Application”
Dallas, Fenobia	Rhetoric Professional Writing	Winter 2016	“Hear Our Story: African American Veterans Speak”
Decker, Sally	Nursing	Fall 2015	“Interprofessional Education in Nursing and Dentistry...”
French, Stewart	Political Science	Winter 2016	“Dissertation Publication and Research Paper Project”
Heubo-Kwegna, Olivier	Mathematical Sciences	Fall 2015	“Fuzzy Semistar Operations on Overrings”
Jorgensen, Beth	Rhetoric Professional Writing	Fall 2015	“Engineering Peace, Prosperity, and Sustainability in the Developing World”
Kelley, Emily	Art	Winter 2016	“Mighty Protectors for the Merchant Class...”
Liu, Yu	Management	Winter 2016	“Do Green Alliances Increase Firm Value? Evidence from an Event Study”
Mathur, Nameeta	History	Winter 2016	“Bravo Nehru! Communist Poland’s Friendship with Non-Aligned India during the Cold War”
Samarco, C. Vincent	English	Fall 2015	“At the Edge of the Forest: Novel and Research”
Sherlock, Steven	Sociology	Winter 2016	“The Marketing of Meaning”
Sullivan, James	English	Fall/Winter 2015-16	“Cognitive Poetics/Institutional Correlates of Vernacular Prestige”

Trustee Durco asked if this is a larger than usual group that is being recommended for sabbatical leave. President Bachand noted that the recommended group is larger than in recent years, but still within the percentage of sabbaticals allowed. President Bachand indicated that a sizeable group of faculty were eligible this year due to an increase in hiring over the past seven to ten years.

Trustee Gamez asked how faculty closing reports are distributed once their sabbatical is completed. President Bachand noted that faculty members are required to submit a detailed report to the Sponsored Programs Office outlining their accomplishments. The

report is then forwarded to the Dean and Provost for review and approval. The final report is then filed in the Office of Sponsored Programs.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

7. Resolution to Approve Confirmation of Board Members for Previously Authorized Public School Academies

RES-2111 **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

WHEREAS, the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control, the school's authorizing agent, requires that University Chartered Schools' Board of Directors have a minimum of five members and a maximum of nine members; and

WHEREAS, individual Charter Schools have a desire to replace Board members who have submitted their resignation; and

WHEREAS, certain Charter Schools have a desire to have parents of students represented on their Board of Directors;

WHEREAS, certain Charter Schools desire to reappoint a board member whose term of office has expired;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the individual listed below be appointed by the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control as new members of the Board of Directors of the following Charter Schools:

Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts, Detroit
Edgar Smith Jr. Appointment Term: 1/1/2015 – 6/30/16

Mr. Smith earned his BA in Marketing from Morehouse College of Atlanta, Georgia. He currently serves as Chair and CEO of World Pac Paper, LLC of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Smith believes his business marketing and leadership skills, his experience as a community leader, and his interest in a strong education will be an asset to the Academy board.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

8. Resolution to Authorize the Borrowing of Funds to Meet Temporary Cash Flow Deficits

RES-2112 **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

WHEREAS, the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University (the "Board"), in the exercise of its constitutional duties, has determined that it is necessary and expedient to provide for the borrowing of monies in an amount not to

exceed \$25,000,000 from time to time outstanding on terms set forth herein for the purpose of providing necessary funds to meet temporary cash flow deficits; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary for the Board to enter into one or more agreements (any such agreement being a "Line of Credit Agreement") whereby the aggregate sum of up to \$25,000,000 from time to time outstanding may be borrowed from one or more banks or financial institutions on a "line-of-credit" basis; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Board to authorize the President and the Executive Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs (each an "Authorized Officer"), or either of them, to negotiate, execute and deliver on behalf of the Board, one or more Line or Credit Agreements with one or more banks or financial institutions, all within the limitations set forth herein, in order to provide the Board with greater flexibility in structuring the terms of one or more lines of credit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF CONTROL OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Line of Credit Agreement. The Board hereby authorizes the Authorized Officers, or either of them, to select one or more banks or financial institutions to provide one or more of lines of credit within the parameters stated in the Resolution, and negotiate the terms of and execute and deliver one or more Line of Credit Agreements in the name of the Board and as its corporate act and deed, in order to provide the Board access to one or more lines of credit in the aggregate sum not to exceed \$25,000,000 from time to time outstanding of potential line of credit draws or advances. Draws or advances under any Line of Credit Agreement shall be made at the request of any Authorized Officer, or any other officer or employee of the Board or of Saginaw Valley State University so designated in writing by an Authorized Officer. Interest shall accrue on sums outstanding at an interest rate to be specified in each Line of Credit Agreement, but not in excess of the lesser of 15% per annum or the maximum rate permitted by law, and shall be payable on the dates and in the amounts as shall be provided in each Line of Credit Agreement. Principal representing the draws or advances under any Line of Credit Agreement shall be repaid with interest as provided in each Line of Credit Agreement, but all principal and interest on any draw under any Line of Credit Agreement shall be finally due and payable on or before the date one year from the date that draw is made, but in no event later than December 31, 2016, or such earlier date or dates selected by either Authorized Officer. Any Line or Credit Agreement may provide for the delivery of one or more notes to evidence all or a part of the obligations described in each Line of Credit Agreement (any one such note being a "Note"). The Authorized Officers, or either of them, are further authorized to prescribe the form of and execute and deliver any Note pursuant to the terms of any Line of Credit Agreement.
2. Limited Obligation; Security. The Board's obligations under any Line of Credit

Agreement and related Note shall be limited and not general obligations of the Board, payable solely from General Revenues, as defined below, and from the proceeds of short-term investments, or either of those sources, and may be unsecured or, if an Authorized Officer so determines, secured as set forth below; provided, that the Board reserves the right, but not the obligation, to pay principal of and interest on any Note from any legally available funds. The Authorized Officers, or either of them, are further authorized, empowered, and directed in the name of the Board and as its corporate act and deed to secure one or more Notes as described in this Resolution with (a) a first or subordinated lien on the General Revenues (as shall be defined in any Line of Credit Agreement in a manner generally consistent with the definition contained in that certain Trust Indenture dated June 1, 2013 between the Board and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee); and/or (b) a pledge of short-term investments of the Board. A first lien on the General Revenues permitted to be established by this Resolution and any Line of Credit Agreement shall be on a parity basis with the first lien thereon established as security for certain outstanding debt of the Board.

3. **Tax Matters.** If in the judgment of the Authorized Officers, or either of them, it is advisable for the interest on a Note authorized by this Resolution to be “tax exempt” for federal and state income tax purposes, the Authorized Officers, or either of them, are further authorized to covenant and agree in the name of the Board that, to the extent permitted by law, the Board will take all actions within its control necessary to maintain the exclusion of the interest on the line of credit from adjusted gross income for federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
4. **Other Actions.** The Authorized Officers and any other officers of the Board as may be appropriate, are each authorized and directed to complete such applications, forms or documents necessary, make such certifications, take all other actions necessary and undertake any procedures required to effectuate the provision of one or more lines of credit as described in this Resolution, without further action of the Board.
5. **Prohibitions.** No Line of Credit Agreement or Note shall provide for or be construed as a pledge of the credit of or create any liability on the part of the State of Michigan, or any member or officer of the Board, or any of their successors, and no Line of Credit Agreement or Note authorized by this Resolution is intended to and shall not create any indebtedness of the State of Michigan or the Board within the meaning of any State constitutional debt limitation or restriction.
6. **Rescission.** All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same are hereby are rescinded.

Mr. James Muladore, Executive Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs, clarified that the University is not borrowing monies to fund an operating deficit. He noted that there is a difference between an operating deficit and a cash flow deficit. Mr. Muladore explained that the proposed resolution grants the borrowing of funds should the University experience an *unexpected* temporary cash flow deficit.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

IV. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Update on Charter Schools

Dr. Craig Douglas, Director of the School University Partnership, provided an update regarding the status of the SVSU charter schools along with insight into existing and future challenges facing charter schools on the state and local level.

Dr. Douglas noted the importance of seeking efficiency in the services offered to charter schools. He also emphasized the significance of supporting “best instructional practices” in our charter schools to maximize student achievement. Dr. Douglas stressed the value of connecting the SVSU College of Education with the students and staff of our public school academies.

V. REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

President Bachand made no formal remarks.

VI. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

10. Motion to Move to Informal Session to Discuss Personnel Evaluations

BM-1162 It was moved and supported that the Board move to Informal Session to Discuss Personnel Evaluations.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The Board moved to Informal Session at 2:35 p.m. and reconvened in Regular Formal Session at 4:10 p.m. with Board members Carmona, Durco, Ferguson, Gamez, Kunitizer, Martin, Velasquez and Yantz in attendance.

Chair Martin made a formal motion to establish compensation for the University President and Vice Presidents. Vice Chair Ferguson supported the motion.

11. Resolution to Establish Compensation for the University President and Vice Presidents

RES-2113 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, The Board of Control has received and accepted favorable performance evaluations from the President; Dr. Deborah Huntley, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Mr. James Muladore, Executive Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the President's and Vice President's base salaries for the 2015 calendar year be set as follows:

Dr. Donald J. Bachand \$256,250

Dr. Deborah Huntley \$211,000

Mr. James G. Muladore \$205,373

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

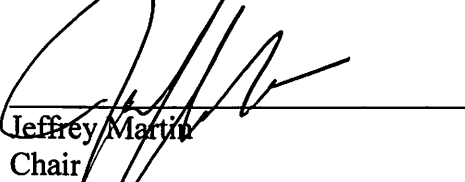
12. Motion to Adjourn

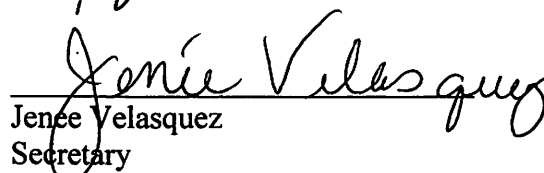
BM-1163 It was moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned.

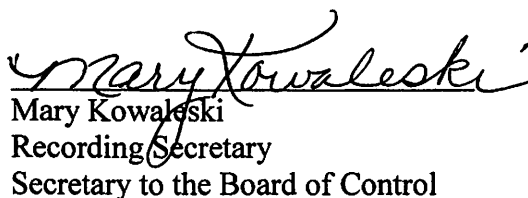
The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Jeffrey Martin
Chair


Jenée Velasquez
Secretary


Mary Kowaleski
Recording Secretary
Secretary to the Board of Control

Sharon Carlin

Admissions & Certification Secretary • October Staff Member of the Month

For Sharon Carlin, walking SVSU's campus is more than simply getting from Point A to Point B. There are almost always stops in between.

Since being hired in 1986, Carlin has worked in just about every corner of the campus — from the South Campus Complex to Wickes Hall to the College of Education — with dozens of colleagues. The result has her recognizing someone at almost every turn.

"Every time I go to Wickes, it's not a quick in and out," she said. "You have to say, 'Hello,' and see how everyone is doing. It's good to see familiar faces."

Now Carlin, the College of Education's admissions and certification secretary, is being recognized in a different way after being named October Staff Member of the Month.

"Sharon quietly and competently goes about the business of sorting out tangled certification issues," said Mary Harmon, dean of the College of Education. "She never calls attention to herself. What gains her attention is the excellence of her work."

For the past decade, Carlin has worked as admissions and certification secretary. The job requires she interact largely with teachers and would-be teachers looking for certification, which is quite different from her days employed in the accounts receivable wing of the Controller's Office in Wickes Hall.

Not only has the location and nature of her job changed — so has the technology used to practice it. When she started at SVSU in 1986, electric typewriters were the tools of the trade.

"Now my computer has double screens," Carlin said.

It's that shift in technology that drove one of Carlin's latest work endeavors. She and her office staff recently went "paperless" by converting teacher certification-related printed files into digital documents available in a computer program.

"It was a huge project," she said of the initiative that lasted from April to July. "We had a file room with 10,000 files that had to be scanned."

Carlin called the initiative "the best thing ever."

"Before, when I processed applications, I would ask the student (workers) to pull the review file — get everything together so we could look at the file. We'd look at the files and then have to put the file back," she said.

"Now everything is right in front of you on the computer. We just punch in the student ID number and everything is there."

Whatever level of work is required for a task, Carlin said she enjoys the variety of work her job offers as well as the people she works with — on all corners of the campus.



LaMarcus Howard

Charter Transition Coordinator • November Staff Member of the Month

With the ink barely dried on his diploma, LaMarcus Howard began his freshman year of college in 2005 with average academic credentials and little direction on how to approach this next stage of his educational life.

His 3.0 GPA at Flint Northern High School and ACT score of 18 were good enough to get him accepted into college, he says today, but he “didn’t truly understand what it takes to graduate.”

But he did graduate. With the help of mentors and advisors, Howard excelled in school, eventually discovering his direction academically. It led to him earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Central Michigan University, and it paved the way for the professional life that followed. Now Howard, SVSU’s charter transition coordinator, spends most of his days guiding college students in the same way others once guided him.

“My charter students and I share similar stories,” says Howard, November’s Staff Member of the Month. “College can be very challenging for first-generation students. We’ve built very strong relationships from our stories, which fuels my passion to help them succeed.”

With SVSU authorizing nine charter high schools among its 19 academies in Michigan, Howard works with hundreds of students during any given academic calendar.

Some of those he develops are still in high school. For instance, he helped coordinate Charter Day last winter, when more than 600 juniors and seniors visited SVSU. Later, he oversaw the campus’ Charter Transition Camp, where incoming charter school freshmen — SVSU’s Public School Academy Scholars, specifically — participated in a bridge program days before most students arrived for the fall semester.

Others he works with attend SVSU already. Now in his third year at the position, Howard’s first freshmen are juniors today.

“That’s the piece that I’m shocked about every day,” he says. “I remember when they were just out of high school. Watching their minds expand from that to where they are now, it’s very rewarding.”

Helping pupils find focus is a responsibility that extends his attentions outside his office walls. It’s not unusual to see Howard meeting those students on their turf — a task that sometimes includes challenging them on the basketball court.

“It’s a good way for us to bond, with a competitive spirit,” Howard says. “It’s the relationships and bonds that keep you going every day.”

He remembers how those types of bonds once helped him excel as a student. And if he ever were to forget, a reminder sits in an office a few feet from his own in Curtiss Hall. Shawn Wilson, now his supervisor, was one of Howard’s mentors during his student years.



Heidi Lang

Pre-Health Professions Advisor • December Staff Member of the Month

For a check-up on her professional importance, all Heidi Lang need do is schedule an appointment with her doctor.

That's because Lang, SVSU's pre-health professions advisor, once advised that physician when he was a college student pursuing the career he now inhabits.

"It's a true joy to welcome the incoming class each year and watch them grow, learn, and develop," said Lang, who has worked in a similar role for several higher education institutions and thousands of other students since 1995. "I'm thankful for the small part I get to play in their success, whatever that may be."

Lang's origins in her profession date back to her own undergraduate experience. She credits both the relationship with her own pre-health advisor and the satisfaction she felt as a resident assistant helping other students as influencing her own career choice.

Her approach to mentoring students includes giving them both the sort of "academic and non-academic guidance" that would steer them toward professional success. The academic guidance involves talk about class schedules and course requirements.

The other advice includes big picture conversation that could help her students decide which medical field to pursue — or whether they should pursue medicine at all. She also coordinates mock interviews between students and a panel of SVSU staff and faculty that simulate medical school interviews.

"In that way, I'm like a life coach," Lang said. "I'm helping them navigate the college world to the next step."

Lang's life experience and professional expertise stretches beyond the region.

While her family hails from Clarkston, she was "a Navy brat" who was born in Okinawa and lived overseas in locations such as Poland.

And she is president of the Central Association of Advisors for the Health Professions, an organization that includes health profession advisor peers from 12 states. The group is a wing of the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions, which has 1,200 members.

Lang often uses those connections across the nation to help her students. Other connections closer to home also come in handy. For instance, her physician, Dr. Scott Ross of Midland, will visit her students in the winter semester to offer them career advice.

She said that outside assistance — as well as the support she receives from SVSU colleagues who help guide her students forward — have given her a clear sense of place and purpose at the institution.

"I feel exceptionally fortunate that I have this job and opportunity to come to work each day and make a positive difference for my students," she said. "I cannot imagine myself doing anything else. I feel very blessed to be at SVSU surrounded by incredible colleagues who support me in my role."

