

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**April 19, 2024, 10:15 a.m.
Morris University Center, Room 215**

Agenda

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Roll Call

3.0 Action Item

**3.1 Resolution ASA05-24
Amendment to Academic Calendar for Summer 2024**

Dr. Sunil Ahuja, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, will present Resolution ASA05-24, Amendment to Academic Calendar for Summer 2024.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Academic and Student Affairs Executive Report

Dr. Ahuja will report on recent activities in Academic and Student Affairs.

4.2 Spring Enrollment Report

Mr. Jim Farmer, Chief Enrollment Officer, will present updates on the 2024 Fall Enrollment numbers and the new changes regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

RESOLUTION ASA05-24

**AMENDMENT TO ACADEMIC
CALENDAR FOR SUMMER 2024**

WHEREAS, Shawnee State University Board of Trustees had previously approved the Summer 2024 calendar; and

WHEREAS, the University recently made the decision to close the campus on July 5, 2024, following the July 4, 2024, Independence Day holiday observance; and

WHEREAS, this modification has been reviewed and endorsed by the Calendar Committee and by the administrative units of the University;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Shawnee State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the amendment to the Summer 2024 calendar regarding the University closure on July 5, 2024.

(April 19, 2024)

Academic and Student Affairs Report
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 19, 2024

I am pleased to present the following Academic and Student Affairs Report to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and to the Board.

Provost Report

- We will have several new full-time faculty in various departments join SSU in Fall 2024.
- Spring 2024 Commencement is scheduled for April 27. Please plan to attend.
- The highlights of recent activities in Academic and Student Affairs are noted below.

College of Arts and Sciences

- The CAS Dean's office recently awarded funds from the Lauren and Virginia Wolfe Research Fund to support Katie Durbin, BS Biology – Biomedical Sciences major, and her research on “Survivability of Tardigrades in a Near-Space Environment.” This will support materials needed for Katie to launch and monitor tardigrades launched via high altitude balloon into the stratosphere. This work is under the guidance of Dr. Tim Hamilton, Professor of Physics.

Department of English and Humanities

- The latest episode of the CAS podcast, [Connecting Classrooms](#), is available. The episode, “[Student Journalism: Developing Skills for a Lifetime](#),” features a conversation on the benefits of student journalism between Dr. Christy Zempter and current SSU History major, Hannah Kline. Hannah is a staff writer for the SSU student news site, [The Chronicle](#). Under the guidance of Dr. Zempter, *The Chronicle* has established its online presence on their main site and on their [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. A recent look at their online reach revealed *The Chronicle* site had 50,525 page views along with 1,037 stories read over a 30-day period. Over the past year, they have had 462,981 page views and 12,536 stories read! They have 644 Facebook and 211 Instagram followers with strong signs of engagement on both accounts.
- Instructor Dr. Tim Nelson recently presented at the English and Humanities Colloquium on his current research which examines how specific moments of crisis within the larger Founding Myth of Britain are manipulated by Geoffrey of Monmouth and his historiographical successors. Dr. Nelson will also present and organize sessions at several conferences this summer including:
 - “Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching Celtic Studies (A Roundtable),” 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI, May 2024.
 - “Digesting Secondary Sources.” 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI, May 2024.
 - “Reenacting Combat in Early British Mythological History” 31st International Medieval Congress. Leeds, England. 1-4 July 2024.

Department of Fine, Digital, and Performing Arts

- The Annual Fine, Digital, and Performing Arts Student Show runs in the Appleton Gallery from April 1- April 19. The opening reception was held April 1 with student awards presented as judged by SSU faculty.

Department of Mathematics

- Seven new student members were elected to *Pi Mu Epsilon*, the national math honor society.
- Professor Emeritus Jinlu Li gave a talk entitled, “Gateaux, Frechet, and Mordukhovich Derivatives of the Metric Projection Operator in Banach Spaces” to a conference at Lishui University. He will be giving a similar presentation for the university community on April 10th.
- Professor John Whitaker presented “Schwarz Inequality for two Finite Sequences of Complex Numbers” to the joint Math Club/*Pi Mu Epsilon* meeting. This was work done in conjunction with a student, Linden Wheeler.
- Senior Instructor Heather Waugh “won” the Pi Day contest and got pied. Over \$1,000 was raised for the Math Club.
- Professor Phil Blau attended the Ohio MAA Executive Committee Meeting. He is completing a 3-year term as a Section Representative to the MAA Congress.

Department of Natural Sciences

- In late February, Dr. Sarah Ivers and Dr. Than Mull took a group of students to the Ohio Natural History Conference. It was a great day where B.S. Natural Sciences - Biology major Ashlynn Pfau presented about the children's book she is developing. The Ohio Biological Survey has reached out to Ashlynn with an offer to help publish her book. Professor Emeritus Bob Deal was given the Herbert Osborne Award at the conference.
- SSU Biology majors will attend the NE-4 District Convention of the *Beta Beta Beta* biology honor society on April 20 on the campus of Sienna Heights University in Michigan. Macy Wright, Katherine Durbin, and Kennedy Duckson will all present their undergraduate research projects.
- Associate Professor Erik Larson is preparing to travel to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to conduct research from May 20-24, 2024. Planned projects include: investigation into knoll reefs (bioherms) of the Bush Bay Member; conducting dye traces; reconnaissance of the Ordovician carbonate sequences of Chippewa County for possible karst features and stratigraphic investigations. Dr. Larson will also work with the US Forest Service office to get their summer geology intern started. These studies will allow Dr. Larson to author/co-author three abstracts for the national Geological Society of America meeting in September 2024.
- Upcoming events in the department include: Pre-Med Banquet April 6th 4pm in VRCFA; Natural Sciences Department Awards April 12th 6:30 p.m. in Massie 020; Beta Beta Beta Induction April 16th at 6 p.m. in Massie 020.

- Alumna Evelyn Philips has been accepted into two additional medical schools leaving her to decide between OUHCOM, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and The University of Toledo College of Medicine & Life Sciences.
- External reviewers for the B.S. Natural Sciences – Integrated Sciences with 7-12 teaching licensure program will be on campus April 4th.
- Current BS Biology Biomedical Sciences major Marli Holderness will participate in a summer research internship at The Ohio State University.

Department of Social Sciences

- External reviewers for the BA Sociology program visited campus on March 26th. Reviewers for the BA History program will be on campus April 18th.
- BA History major Keeton Brown has been accepted into the M.A. in Egyptian Art at the University of Memphis Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology.

Clark Planetarium

- The SSU Clark Planetarium hosted a Solar Eclipse watch party on April 8th from 1:30-4:00 p.m. This featured a live stream of the NASA Eclipse Feed inside on the Planetarium dome. Telescopes and live viewing were also available outside on the Student Resource Hub lawn.

Center for Public History

- The Center has successfully launched a new community volunteer program to assist with their projects. The Center have now oriented and signed up six volunteers, including two daughters of photographer Billy Graham, whose collection was recently acquired by the Center. The Center is working with them and the other volunteers to plan an in-person photo research crowd-sourcing event, where community members will help us identify the people and places captured in a selection of images from Graham Collection. The Center is currently planning the first program for late July 2024.
- As part of the Appalachian Freedom Initiative grant, regional managers from the National Park Service are planning another visit to SSU for the week of June 10th. They will lead an application workshop for our outreach specialists, focusing on the historic Underground Railroad Sites that are being submitted in July.

College of Professional Studies

Department of Allied Health Sciences

- The department hosted its annual Interprofessional Education (IPE) Day on Friday, March 22, 2024. The event, which has been held over ten years, facilitates interprofessional interaction and learning across programs offered in the department. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, as evidenced by this comment from a student participant when asked what they learned from the event: “how much we truly

work together during caring for patients and how important it is to communicate with each other.” Link to story about the IPE is found here:

[Interprofessional Education Day gets boost from Foundation grant program. — Shawnee State University Development Foundation \(givetossu.com\)](https://www.givetossu.com/interprofessional-education-day-gets-boost-from-foundation-grant-program)

- Work on the proposal for the Master of Public Health graduate degree continues, with the goal of submitting to CCGS this summer.

C. H. Lute School of Business

- The MBA program expects to have ten students complete their program this summer. New applicants to the MBA program continue, with two new students accepted to the summer session and nine accepted for the fall. Current anticipated enrollment for fall 2024 is 22 students.
- Dr. Claudia Hanrahan will join the faculty in August as Assistant Professor of Management. Dr. Hanrahan holds a bachelor’s degree in Computer Systems Engineering and a master of science in Management and Business from the Military School of Engineering in La Paz, Bolivia, a Master of Business Administration degree from Monterey Institute of Technology in Monterey, Mexico and a doctorate in Management from Simon Bolivar Andean University in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She brings a variety of higher education and business and industry experience to the faculty.
- The Chamber of Commerce and CAO have partnered to offer a “Student Chamber and Leadership Development” program to local high school students during the spring semester, 2024. Modeled after Leadership Portsmouth, the Lute School arranged for the students to receive one hour of college credit for participation in the program. For their first meeting, the group met on the SSU campus where they received a campus tour and were guided through the online application process by Admissions Office staff.

School of Education

- Dr. Shipley attended the Leap Forward with Grit Conference in Ironton on February 28-29, 2024, and received a GRIT award for making a difference in the field of Education. Dr. Shipley represented SSU at AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) in Denver, and connected with Illinois State University about their paraprofessional K-12 IS online program. Multiple faculty have attended and presented at professional conferences, including the Dean's Compact/OCTEO (Ohio Confederation of Teacher Education Organizations) and the National Council for Exceptional Children. Twenty students attended the OCTEO conference with faculty, and completed a visit to the Focus Learning Academy while in Columbus. Dr. Shipley also participated in ODHE meetings about Science of Reading requirements and new transfer agreement pathways for various licensure programs.
- Dr. Jodi Dunham is leading the program review process for Curriculum and Instruction, and Intervention Specialist Master of Education programs, with site visits for both programs on April 5, 2024.
- Dr. Paul Madden is working with the Department of Natural Sciences on their program review and site visit, held on April 4, 2024. Drs. Kemp, Moohr, Cassidy, and Beam are

reviewing the current Primary Education and Intervention Blended Program to align with national, state, and SSU standards, and this effort receives grant support from the Dean's Compact.

- The School held an advisory council meeting for districts on March 21, 2024, and attendees discussed upcoming employment opportunities and training ideas for pre-service teachers. The Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Teacher of the Hearing-Impaired programs had 35 applicants, and 28 students have been accepted. The undergraduate Intervener Technical Certificate plans to accept at least nine recent applicants, applications for this program open until July 15.
- The Literacy LEAPS statewide tutoring grant program continues to offer high-dosage tutoring in spring semester for in the New Boston Local School District and Portsmouth West Elementary School. Data from recent program assessment compared with August 2023 data revealed a reduction in the literacy gap in students receiving tutoring, with the most significant gains being observed in kindergarten and first grade. The grant also purchased over 152 free Scholastic books for children in kindergarten through fourth grade to encourage reading-at-home habits.

Department of Engineering Technologies

- The Department of Engineering Technologies received Super RAPIDS for \$502k worth of robotics and automation educational equipment.
- Dr. Jeong Tae Ok recently published an article, “A Simplified Model for the Study of Film-Boiling Droplet Motion on the Microscale Ratchets,” in the professional journal *MDPI Applied Mechanics*.
- Dr. Duane Skaggs is leading the program review process for the Computer Engineering Technology program, and the site visit was conducted March 22, 2024. In Game Design, the program review process is being led by Dr. Jason Witherell, with the site visit on April 5, 2024.
- The Plastics Engineering Technology program has initiated search for new faculty member, with goal of starting in the next academic year.
- The Game Design program was ranked in the Top 50 Undergraduate Schools for Game Design (#22); Undergraduate Midwest (#3).
- Other recent events in the department include:
 - Hosting Scioto CTC Engineering Tech class for a visit on April 13, 2024.
 - TechFest, sponsored by student chapter of IEEE, was held on March 15 where discussions on AI, Cybersecurity and more were held with industry professionals (including: Allen Perk, Jim Dertinger, Ed Daniels), faculty and students participating. Full list of speakers and schedule can be found here: <https://www.shawnee.edu/tech-fest>
 - Plastics students and faculty visit Stanley Electric (Tier 1 Automotive Supplier) on April 12, 2024.
 - The Gaming program held their 2nd Game Jam of the semester in the last week of March (an event where students are challenged to build a game over a short time period).

School of Nursing

- Review of 74 applications to the ADN program resulted in 25 full admissions, 22 conditional admissions (most expected to meet required conditions for fall 2024 semester). The BSN program reviewed 108 applications, with 24 admissions. All the 84 applicants who were not accepted for this fall were informed of the Undecided Degree; Pre-BSN Major so they can prepare for admission next year. Many of these applicants were still in high school and did not have the "Pre-BSN" courses completed. The School is planning a full marketing campaign for high school sophomores through seniors to communicate admission requirements and work with applicants.
- The December 2023 ADN graduates have taken their NCLEX exam and achieved a 100% pass rate.
- The Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN) site visit for ADN and BSN programs went very well. We anticipate ADN OBN approval may become Provisional due to last several years of low NCLEX scores. However, the revised ADN curriculum will begin in Fall 2024 to address this issue, and faculty are very encouraged by the pass rates for 2024, which includes the December 2023 graduates.
- ODHE approval for the MSN program has been received and HLC approval is pending. Once HLC approval is received, the School will move forward with offering MSN.
- The School will welcome a new faculty hire in the fall, and the search for the next School director is progressing, with on-campus interviews planned in April.

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

- The search for the BSW program director is concluded and the new program director will begin in May 2024. Plans for partner projects for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) INSPIRE grant are progressing. A search for criminal justice faculty member is underway, and articulation agreements to provide pathways for students to enter the criminal justice program are being finalized.
- The internal approvals for the conversion of the Master of Occupational Therapy curriculum to a hybrid delivery model are completed. The new format will include synchronous, asynchronous, and in-person learning approaches.
- Six teams (twenty-four second year MOT students) presented their research projects as poster sessions at the 2024 Celebration of Scholarship. The student delegate from the first-year MOT program and one second-year MOT student attended the American Occupational Therapy Association conference, March 21-24, 2024, in Orlando, Florida.
- Application review of occupational therapy assistant and physical therapist assistant candidates is underway, with students beginning fall semester.

Student Affairs

Student Life

- Over the course of spring semester, the Student Life team with the help of the Student Programming Board (SPB) and the Student Government Association (SGA) have

actively worked to engage students. From the start of spring semester to date, there have been approximately 87 registered student events with a total of approximately 1,881 attendees. The most popular of the student events continues to be Shawnee Bingo, ranging between 100 to 170 students each time. Other popular events this spring included the Braun Bear Fest, monthly Bearcade, monthly Late Night Bowling, and monthly Fourth Friday Movies. The team is currently recruiting members for next year's SPB and SGA.

Residence Life

- The academic year is winding down, and the Residence Life team just completed the round of interviews for Resident Assistants (RA) for next year. RAs completed their last building meetings and held end of the semester building events. One very successful event was the Volleyball Tournament. They are now preparing for move-outs and end of the year tasks as we head into summer term.

Military and Veteran's Services

- The Student Veteran's Association (SVA) participated in two conferences this spring in Columbus and brought home several ideas for student engagement. The group looks forward to planning the new student service learning corps launching in the fall.

Center for International Programs and Study Abroad

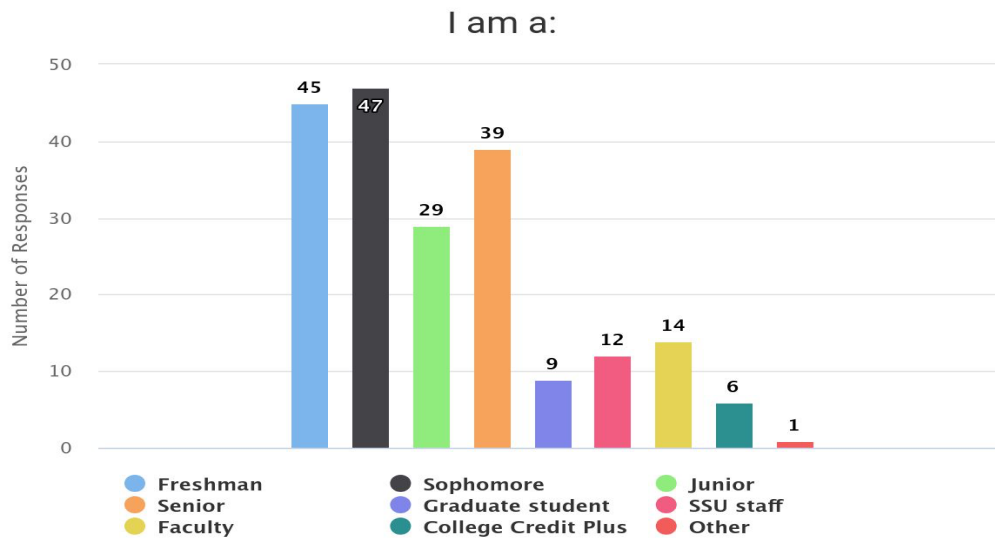
- Fall 24 MBA Pending International Applications-5.
- Fall 24 MBA Admits-4 International Admitted (with I-20's)-1 is currently an undergrad at SSU and will transition to the MBA.
- Fall 24 Undergrad International Exchange Admitted-4 Spain, 1 Netherlands
- Fall 24 International Athletic Recruits-4 Men's Soccer, 6 Swimming, 1 Tennis.
- Study Abroad
 - 2 students will study in Austria for SM 24 throughout KIIS program.
 - Sarah Ivers will lead a group to Costa Rica in August 2024 (details still pending).
 - Pablo Salinas led a group to Peru over winter break.

Clark Memorial Library

- All OhioLINK libraries have officially begun work for our migration to a new library services platform. In August 2023, after a yearlong RFP process, Ex Libris Alma/PrimoVE was selected to be the new platform – replacing our current Innovative Interfaces solution. OhioLINK libraries have been using the Innovative platform since 1994. This upgrade will position us to support 21st century teaching, learning and research, while streamlining day-to-day operations. Alma is a cloud-based, multi-tenant structure that will enable OhioLINK to provide more direct support for member libraries. The complete migration is expected to culminate with our go-live in June of 2025. Each library has identified two Project Leads, and they will lead the migration at their

respective institutions. Statewide Working Groups have been established in eight functional areas. Working Groups will help resolve questions about best practices, policies, and other facets of migration. Both Project Leads and Working Groups started meeting in March. We have been working independently on data cleanup for the past year – things are now formalized and our initial data extraction is expected the first week of April. Libraries will receive our sandbox environment with our data in September.

- Books Build Bridges is almost here. Illustrator, Richard Cowdry, of the Fiona the Hippo books will be visiting April 17th and 18th at the VRCFA. Students will be introduced to the world of illustration and led in a drawing session, by Mr. Cowdry. More than 800 copies of his book, Fiona the Hippo have been distributed to students throughout the county. You can learn more about both Richard and the Fiona books [here](#). Books Build Bridges is sponsored by Fluor-BWXT; Portsmouth Rotary; Scioto County Public Library, South Central Educational Service Center and Shawnee State University.
- Library door counts are up 6.69% over last academic year. So far, this academic year, 48,891 patrons have visited the building. Increased hours have been very well received by students and we are gearing up for finals week. We will be serving free coffee and snacks and plan to schedule some visits from Yeti the Therapy Dog.
- The library renovation survey is still open, and the results have been very interesting. A snapshot of our demographics is included below.



Respectfully submitted,

Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs