



**SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF CONTROL MINUTES**

***February 20, 2017***

**SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF CONTROL**  
**Minutes of the Regular Formal Session**  
**February 19, 2017**

A regular formal session of the Board of Control was held at Saginaw Valley State University on Monday, February 19, 2017 in Wickes Hall, Room 350 at 1:30 p.m.

Trustees present included:

Donald Bachand, Ex Officio  
Scott Carmona  
Dennis Durco  
David Gamez, Vice Chair  
Cathy Ferguson, Secretary  
John Kunitzer, Treasurer  
Vicki Rupp  
Jenee Velasquez, Chair

Trustees absent included:

Patrick McInnis

President's Staff present included:

Andrew Bethune, Executive Director of the SVSU Foundation  
Dr. Sidney Childs, Associate Provost for Student Affairs  
John Decker, Associate Vice President for Administration & Business Affairs  
Dr. Craig Douglas, Dean of the College of Education  
Dr. Deborah Huntley, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Mary Kowaleski, Executive Assistant to the President/Secretary to the Board of Control  
James Muladore, Executive Vice President for Administration & Business Affairs  
Dr. Marc Peretz, Dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences  
Linda Sims, Executive Director of Communications & External Affairs  
Richard Thompson, University Ombudsman

Others present included:

Shaun Bangert  
Susan Brasseur  
Gerald Dennis  
Tammy Elliott  
Justin Engel  
Joel Kiss  
David Lewis  
Cody McKay  
Jason Rasmussen  
Carolyn Wierda

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF CONTROL  
FEBRUARY 20, 2017  
REGULAR FORMAL SESSION  
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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Velasquez 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 December 16, 2016 Formal Session of the Board of Control**

**It was moved and supported that the minutes of the December 16, 2016 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, stated that the faculty members being recommended for tenure at today's meeting have been thoroughly vetted and come highly recommended by the university's Professional Practices Committee. She noted that each of the individuals being considered for tenure are well respected in their field.

**D. Recognition of the Student Association**

Cody McKay, President of the Student Association, noted that more than 100 students boarded buses on January 19 to travel through the night to witness the presidential inauguration on January 20. Cody stated that this opportunity was arranged by the SVSU Student Association and was a very memorable experience.

President Bachand commented that this marks at least the fourth consecutive inauguration our students have attended, dating back to 2005.

**E. Communications and Requests to Appear Before the Board**

- Jason Rasmussen, Energy Management Specialist, Staff Member of the Month for December, was introduced to the Board. (Appendix One: Rasmussen)
- Gerald Dennis, Theatre Department, Technical Director, Staff Member of the Month for January, was introduced to the Board. (Appendix Two: Dennis)
- Tammy Elliott, Special Assistant to the Provost, Staff Member of the Month for February, was introduced to the Board. (Appendix Three: Elliott)

### III. ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution to Appoint a Nominating Committee for May Board Elections

RES-2219     **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

**WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control bylaws stipulate that the Board shall appoint a nominating committee to recommend candidates for each office; pursuant to Article II, 2.101.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Cathy Ferguson, David Gamez and John Kunitzer be appointed to serve as the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control nominating committee to select a slate of officers to serve from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.**

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

2. Resolution to Grant Emeritus Status to Ron Trepkowski

RES-2220     **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, Ronald Trepkowski has devoted 36 years of service to SVSU, having arrived at SVSU on 16 July 1979, to become a Police Officer, and during his tenure at SVSU his responsibilities with the University Police Department included Lieutenant (2002), Interim Director (2004), and Chief of University Police (2005-2016); and,**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Trepkowski worked closely with local, state and national police organizations such as the International Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, Michigan Chiefs of Police, Michigan Association of Campus Law Enforcement, and Saginaw County Police Chiefs association, having held board positions in many of those organizations. He also assisted and planned a fundraising concert for many years for the Saginaw County Police Chiefs organization; and,**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Trepkowski spent tireless hours in developing and improving the department's image within the Saginaw Valley region leading it to be one of the most respected departments in Saginaw County. His leadership developed many officers that went on to other organizations, many of whom became Chiefs, Officers of the Year, and highly recognized in the field of Law Enforcement; and,**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Trepkowski's dedication and involvement with Cardinal Athletics created a lasting cooperative relationship between University Police Officers and SVSU Athletes. He continues to be a regular supporter of the athletic program at SVSU;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mr. Ronald Trepkowski be recognized as "Chief of Police Emeritus."**

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

3. Resolution to Approve Capital Projects and Acquisitions

**RES-2221 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

**WHEREAS, The Business, Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee has discussed various capital projects and acquisitions and the Capital Projects Funding Plan; and,**

**WHEREAS, Sufficient financial resources are available from capital project and auxiliary system reserves to fund projects;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board hereby authorizes the President or the Executive Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs to enter into contracts to complete the below referenced projects with budgets as indicated:**

<b>MJ Brandimore House</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>
<b>Parking Lot &amp; Roadway Projects</b>	<b>\$615,000</b>

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

4. Resolution to Approve Faculty Tenure Effective July 1, 2017

**RES-2222 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

**WHEREAS, Faculty tenure provides continuous employment of a faculty member for at least a basic two-semester appointment during each fiscal year, and**

**WHEREAS, Tenure status is achieved when a faculty member is recommended by the Professional Practices Committee and by the Administration for continuous appointment henceforth,**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the following faculty members be granted tenure, as provided by the terms of the SVSU – Faculty Association agreement, effective July 1, 2017:**

<b>Arundhati Bagchi Misra</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Mathematics</b>
<b>Jennifer Chaytor</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Chemistry</b>
<b>Kyle Cissell</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Chemistry</b>
<b>Adam Coughlin</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Kinesiology</b>
<b>Denise Dedman</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Social Work</b>
<b>Warren Fincher</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Sociology</b>
<b>Stacie Krupp</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Accounting</b>
<b>John Lowry</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Kinesiology</b>
<b>James McEvoy</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Biology</b>
<b>Rhett Mohler</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Geography</b>
<b>Rajani Muraleedharan</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering</b>
<b>Shiva Nadavulakere</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Management &amp; Marketing</b>
<b>Christopher Nakamura</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Physics</b>
<b>Annamalai Pandian</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering</b>
<b>Timothy Rowlands</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice</b>
<b>Rebecca Schlaff</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Kinesiology</b>
<b>Jason Scott</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Biology</b>
<b>Yu Zou</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering</b>

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

5. Resolution to Approve Master of Social Work

RES-2223     It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

**WHEREAS, the University Graduate Curriculum Committee has endorsed the Master of Social Work in January 2017 and the program was ratified by the faculty on February 2, 2017; and**

**WHEREAS, there is a need to offer access to advanced degrees in Social Work for the Great Lakes Bay Region and Michigan due to an anticipated shortage of social workers to meet a projected 12% growth in the job market; and**

**WHEREAS, the need for the Advanced Generalist focus of the proposed program makes SVSU's MSW graduate unique in our region to provide both direct (micro) services and indirect (macro) functions in the field; and**

**WHEREAS, Masters of Social Work graduates provide the bulk of mental health, aging, and family social work services in the region, and across the state of Michigan; and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Master of Social Work Program be approved for implementation in Fall semester of the 2017-18 academic year; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the faculty in the Crystal M. Lange College of Health and Human Services be commended for their timely response to the demand for an advanced degree in Social Work in the region and throughout the state.**

Provost Huntley indicated that SVSU expects nearly 20 students to enroll in the new graduate program when it begins in the 2017 fall semester, and ultimately expects the program to welcome 80 new students each year. She noted that SVSU has one of the largest undergraduate social work programs in Michigan with 440 students majoring in the field this year. Provost Huntley stated that in recent years, roughly 60 percent of SVSU students who graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work went on to enroll in a Master of Social Work program at other institutions. She further added that SVSU plans to market the new program to its social work graduates, as well as those graduating in programs such as sociology, psychology, criminal justice and health sciences.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

#### IV. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### 6. FIRST Robotics State Competition at SVSU

Ms. Carolyn Wierda, Executive Director of STEM, and Ms. Susan Brasseur, Director of The Conference Center at SVSU, briefed the Board on the FIRST Robotics competition that is scheduled to take place on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University April 12-15, 2017.

Ms. Wierda stated that FIRST (First Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 and based in Manchester, NH. FIRST is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity designed to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. She added that the goal is to motivate them to pursue education and career opportunities in STEM fields.

Ms. Wierda noted that this statewide robotics competition will feature 160 high school teams, which average 30 students and four professional mentors per team. She further added that competition will bring nearly 5,000 high school students to campus, plus their teachers, advisors, parents and friends. Ms. Wierda stated that event will bring individuals not only to the campus of SVSU, but to the Great Lakes Bay Region (GLBR). The event will provide an economic impact on the GLBR estimated at \$1.2 million.

Ms. Brasseur, commented that the practice sessions and robot repairs will be staged in our Fieldhouse, while competition events will be held in O'Neill Arena of the Ryder Center. Ms. Brasseur noted that the unique configuration with our Fieldhouse and Arena connected allows this event to be held under one roof. She noted that conferencing planning, campus



facilities, ITS, University Police, athletics, STEM, student services and academic affairs, all play a key role in the success of the event.

President Bachand thanked Adrienne Cole, Carolyn Wierda and Sue Brasseur as well as our colleagues in Admissions and Athletics. He stated that attracting this event was a true team effort and it will be a great opportunity to showcase our institution and to introduce our outstanding academic programs to many college-bound students.

**V. REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT**

President Bachand made no formal remarks.

**VI. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**7. Motion to Move to Informal Session to Discuss Litigation and Personnel Matters**

**BM-1186 It was moved and supported that the Board move to Informal Session to Discuss Litigation and Personnel Matters**

The Board moved to Informal Session at 2:20 p.m. and reconvened in Regular Formal Session at 3:15 p.m. with Board members Carmona, Durco, Ferguson, Gamez, Kunitzer, Rupp and Velasquez. Also in attendance: President Bachand, Mary Kowaleski and John Decker.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

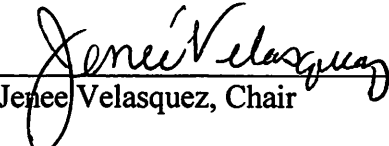
**8. Motion to Adjourn**

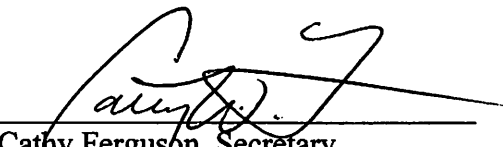
**BM-1187 It was moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned.**

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Jeneé Velasquez, Chair

  
Cathy Ferguson, Secretary

  
Mary Kowaleski  
Recording Secretary

# Jason Rasmussen

*Energy Management Specialist • December 2016 Staff Member of the Month*

Few people are as responsible for how well your workday goes as Jason Rasmussen. That's because the SVSU energy management specialist has control over the temperatures of every room on campus, save for a few student housing suites.

The magnitude of this power isn't lost upon the 52-year-old. It's a responsibility he takes seriously — and with pride.

"I can tell you that the temperature in your room right now is 72 degrees," Rasmussen, from his office in South Campus Complex A, tells this profile's author, whose office is in Wickes Hall. "There are some studies that say that's the most comfortable temperature. I want people to be comfortable."

Establishing that comfort begins when Rasmussen boots up a pair of computers that host the software that sets temperature levels for most of the campus' individual rooms and commons areas. When the programs load, Rasmussen switches between screens showing maps of various building floorplans and offices, overlaid by a rainbow of colors designating equipment functions and heat. With a few taps of his finger, Rasmussen turns chilled rooms hot, and dry suites humid. He performs this task in real-time or weeks in advance using a scheduling system.

There's a sense of strategy to the work. Rasmussen determines the timing for environmental changes within spaces with people's work schedules in mind. Classrooms are cooled to reasonable levels when students go home for the night. Gymnasiums are warmed up before a crowd is expected to arrive for a sporting event in the afternoon.

Not everyone is aware of the systems in place to request environmental changes in individual spaces. The deed is as easy as clicking a "Request Maintenance" tab on the university's website. Rasmussen doesn't mind the extra workload, he says.

There are other elements of his job that keep the Grayling native busy. Equipment in need of repair is one of those duties. Recently, he absorbed foreman responsibilities from a co-worker who retired.

The work keeps him happy. He's served at SVSU for 18 years. "There's not too many places where you come and enjoy work," he says. "This is one of them."

Next academic year, the youngest of his two daughters plans to attend the university. He's not certain yet if she will live on campus or remain at home. Either way, Rasmussen adds, he will be the one who controls the temperature in her room.



# Gerald Dennis

*Technical Director • January Staff Member of the Month*

In 2006, Jerry Dennis was cast in an SVSU theatre production as Jacob Marley, the tortured soul from "A Christmas Carol" who was damned to a ghostly afterlife as punishment for his greed and selfishness during his time on earth.

Dennis, having slipped on a patch of ice on his way to the performance, played two consecutive shows one evening with a condition that medical personnel — who he didn't seek until after the final curtain call — determined was a concussion. The confusion, dizzy spells and vomiting between scenes might have provided Dennis with some evidence he needed medical attention. But that didn't matter to him until after the audience was done with its applause.

"There's a saying in theater: 'The show's the thing,'" Dennis said. "And it is. I got chewed out by the doctor for that one, though."

Dennis has served as the theatre department's technical director (and occasional cast member) for 16 years, but his love for the stage stretches back to his portrayal as a doctor in "Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates" in the fourth grade.

"It became like any other creative outlet," he said. "You just have to do it."

Not that Dennis hasn't explored other professions. He worked as a meteorologist and oceanographer for both the U.S. Navy and National Weather Service, a butcher, and an optometrist. "I used to get very bored quickly," he said. "This is the longest I've ever held one continuous job."

He attributes the longevity at SVSU to the variety of artistic demands and the rapport between those working in the theatre department — from the long-serving faculty and staff to the rotating lineup of student actors.

The tasks they assign him fulfill his artistic needs. Most of his responsibilities involve designing and building sets and props for productions.

A few rooms behind the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts resides Dennis' artistic space. Viewed out of context, some might mistake the room as the inside of an oversized garage, lined with furniture and tools, and floors stained by a rainbow of paint. The room, in reality, is the place where Dennis molds, carves and constructs many of the department's visions into tangible things.

"I learn something new every single production," Dennis said. "Every show has its unique challenges."

And he enjoys each kind of challenge, he said. Even if, every once in a while, it means making the doctor angry.



# Tammy Elliott

*Special Assistant to the Provost • February Staff Member of the Month*

There's a photo on the wall of Tammy Elliott's third floor Wickes office. In the foreground, there are trees and bushes, capped with white, untouched snow. Peeking out from a gap in the landscape is the red water tower that once stood tall on campus before it was removed in 2000.

"When I used to work at the Graphics Center, I would tell people they could find me by going to the building near the tower," said Elliott. "It stood out."

Much the same way as the tower once stood out for others, SVSU stood out from other higher education institutions for Elliott. As one of 136 seniors at Beaverton High School in 1989, nearly all of her college-bound classmates chose larger universities. Elliott wanted to take a route that seemed more adventurous; something that might allow her stand out from the rest.

"I wanted to try something different than what everyone else I knew was trying," she said. "It worked out for me. I haven't left since."

Despite her 28-years-and-counting stay with the university, she hasn't lost her appetite for challenging herself with new endeavors.

Elliott's undergraduate years were spent studying graphic design. By the time she graduated in May 1996 with

a bachelor's degree in the subject, she already had been hired for more than a year as a full-time employee in the Graphics Center.

Soon, though, she felt the itch for a new challenge. The same year she graduated, she was hired as the administrative secretary in University Communications. She retained that same title when she moved on to a new challenge in the College of Education in 2003 and then another new challenge in Academic Affairs in 2011. Along the way, she earned a master's degree in communication.

In Academic Affairs, Elliott worked in the same suite with Kristen Gregory, who retired in 2015. The opening presented another challenge for Elliott. She applied and was hired for the position that largely oversees faculty workloads and classroom scheduling.

Elliott's roles over the years have placed her in nearly every corner of campus — near landmarks that no longer exist, and in both buildings and offices long since re-named.

She keeps reminders of her travels on campus hanging on her wall, but never loses a sense of adventure for the road ahead.

"I'm always looking for a new challenge here," she said.

