

**RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

BOB EVANS FARMS HALL, RM 216

5:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Davenport, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair - present
Mr. Joshua Smith, Vice Chair - present
Mr. Troy Howdyshe - present
Ms. Mary Lynne Jones - present
Mr. Paul Reed - present
Ms. Kat Rinehart - present
Ms. Taylor Rose - present
Mr. Christian Scott - absent
Mr. Jeff Simmons - absent

III. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9TH MEETING MINUTES (PP. 3-7)

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the December 9th meeting minutes. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Mr. Davenport shared his trivia question. Mr. Bevo Francis holds the all-time leading score for men's basketball, but who was second place for the all-time leading score at Rio? Mr. Reed answered correctly with Mr. Matt Powell.

V. RGCC FINANCIAL UPDATE (PP. 8-19)

Ms. Ruby pointed out her 6-month financial statements and narrative were enclosed in the agenda. She expressed how she would be happy to answer any questions they may have.

She noted that Maintenance and Repairs will stick out due to the inclusion of Power Grant expenses, because of the legacy system. This will later be broken out under the grant expense and not be part of the regular expense line for final year end statements.

Mr. Reed noted how the receivable balance is \$4.2 million. He inquired about whether there were financial issues, sharing how in the past it was a sign of problems. Ms. Ruby explained how these financial statements cover through December, and since that time URG has made other payments totaling \$1.7 million to RGCC. She explained how as she and Ms. Fraley were working through things in the new system they realized they were behind. It was discussed how there is a payment of \$300,000 that will be recorded through December as well, so the receivable is closer to \$2 million now. President Smith added there is a flow of funding, when URG gets MSN payments they make payments to RGCC and they are trying to keep the payable more in line with cash flows. President Smith also expressed how there is a lot of good communication between the CFO's of URG and RGCC.

Mr. Reed inquired of Ms. Ruby if she had any concerns about the finances. Ms. Ruby shared how she would like to see more enrollment at the Pike Center. President Smith interceded with finances are always on all of our minds.

Mr. Howdyshell made a motion to accept the following resolution. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 02.24.25(1)

WHEREAS, the revenue, expenditure, and fund balances for the six-month period ending December 31, 2024 have been presented, and

WHEREAS, the said statements appear to be a reasonable reflection of the current financial operations and position of Rio Grande Community College,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the statements for the period ended December 31, 2024, be approved as presented.

VI. CONSTRUCTION UPDATES (PP. 20-22)

Ms. Long briefly went over the highlights from her written report that was included in the agenda.

There was a discussion about the details that will need to be figured out as the football team and marching band take shape and start having games. There are a lot of things to work through and a lot of bases to cover that we have never worked through before. Items like where will the marching band get dressed, concession stands, and transporting equipment were just some of the items.

VII. ENROLLMENT REPORTS

• SPRING SEMESTER (PP. 23-24)

Ms. Long went over the enrollment report in the agenda explaining what the different

sections cover and how to read the report. Overall, RGCC is up 3% compared to the budget and also up 3% Year to Date.

Trustee Smith expressed how it was exciting to see the numbers we are getting. Noting the addition of the new Herr's Food plant going in Jackson, he inquired if Rio was connecting with the food manufacturers in Jackson about grants. Ms. Long shared how Mr. Cole Massie, Director of Economic Development & Center for Entrepreneurship, has been making connections with them. However, we haven't connected on a programming level yet. Ms. Long shared that she is excited about the potential once we are able to get the program up and running.

Trustee Smith brought up how Marietta Memorial Medical facility will be going in Belpre, which is close to the Meigs Center. Ms. Long shared how this would be a good connection for Ms. Raelle Barnette to make for Academics, she is Rio's Medical Assistant Program Director. Ms. Long added how part of the increase in enrollment at the Meigs Center was due to running the Advanced EMT program at Meigs this semester. It was in Jackson last spring semester accounting for the variance in enrollment at that center.

Mr. Howdysshell inquired if there were any additional programs added at the McArthur Center. Ms. Long shared how the Mitchell Family Scholarship discussed at the last meeting was being used for McArthur students. There are 1 credit hour courses being offered on Saturdays that have been successful there. Mr. Davenport expressed how Ms. Misty Napier, Director of the McArthur Center does a great job at promoting the Center. Ms. Long agreed with him and shared that Ms. Napier is definitely out in the Community.

The discussion turned to the potential programs that might be offered at McArthur. Mr. Howdysshell asked what programming was planned in McArthur when the new center is open. Dr. Lawrence shared a list of programs that he stated may go into McArthur in the future, but the list hasn't been finalized yet. Ms. Long shared specifically how electrical robotics would be offered in Jackson, while the mechanical robotics will be offered in McArthur. Ms. Rinehart shared how the building will be setup up to match the exact program/equipment that is currently being used at General Mills. President Smith also added how Misty is doing the best she can with the academic side in McArthur right now with limited space. Ms. Rinehart also shared how there will be other food manufacturers and some construction companies that do mechanical work that will need to employ this same type of mechanical knowledge. Ms. Long explained how the Jackson portion will be the first year, then they go to McArthur for the second year, or visa-versa. They could stop after year one if they choose to.

VIII. ERP UPDATE – DR. DAVID LAWRENCE (PP.25-26)

Dr. Lawrence went over his report included in the agenda. He added that almost everything is live in the new system now, but there are a lot of bugs to work out. It is a

complex system. He shared how Ms. Meghann Fraley, URG CFO, will be joining him as a co-project manager. She will focus on the financial side of things, and he will focus on everything else now that we are down into the details of the system.

He also added that the Housing Module isn't working properly and it has been a discussion of trying to figure out who is responsible to fix it. There is one last module that has halted the configuration process as Anthology attempts to hire personnel replacement.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - MR. RYAN SMITH**

President Smith shared how he met with Mr. Jim Mitchell back in December in Austin, Texas. It was a good conversation. He shared how Mr. Mitchell would like to have exact calculations to know how much to leave in his will, but it is difficult to give him exact figures due to all of the variables. We have reported on the number of recipients and he is pretty happy with how things are going.

President Smith shared how there have been some physical issues with the Kidd Math/Science building. There has been a shifting that caused some foundation issues. They applied to have insurance cover it, but it was denied. He would also like to remodel the chemistry/physics lab. He believes it will cost between \$1.2 million- and \$1.4 million-dollar range.

The Commencement speaker this year will be Mr. Matt Powell, who was part of the trivia question. He has gone on to be very successful. President Smith shared how he would like to continue to bring in alumni to tell their stories at Commencement. He wants students to know they should not limit themselves.

He gave a football update, there are 27 students on campus right now that are enrolled. They have commits of 72, which brings us to 99 students. Our goal is 120 students. When you recruit one student they usually bring other team members with them. We are seeing that happen and that is what we had hoped for.

Marching band currently has 19 commits right now and 10 of them are currently on campus. We want to use the program to bring in students, but it does help with retention. He feels it is going well.

Senate Bill 1 is a higher education bill and it is one of the most transformative bills in the last 20 years. It is intended for all state institutions that receive state funding. President Smith feels it will pass. He feels our setup with the University will benefit us in regards to this bill. There are a lot of gray areas,

because we don't know if some of the items will also have to be covered on the University's side. He shared how it will create a lot more reporting. He explained that DEI is not an issue for us because we have open enrollment so we serve everyone. One concern is the section about if you have 5 or less graduating from a program over a 3-year period we will have to get special permission from the Chancellor to continue the program.

Dr. Lawrence explained how we have a lot of programs that don't meet the 5-graduate requirement listed in the bill, but those programs are important programs. They lead into Bachelor degree programs and they don't cost any extra to have the Associate's degree. Our students go from a public institution to a private institution, so the question is how will our institution fit into this bill. We will have to wait and see what they tell us.

President Smith shared that he sent the link for the bill to the trustees so they could look into it further if they wanted to. He will keep them posted as he knows more.

The topic turned to the Instructional Services contract. President Smith explained that we base how Rio operates on this contract. The contract states that 96% of the revenue that comes to the Community College flows to the University to pay for faculty. It is a very large and complex contract with many layers. He expressed how Ms. Ruby and Ms. Fraley work together to find work arounds to make it all work, but we need to come up with a different model. He gave the example of the new Pike Center and how it puts strain on main campus support even though it is one of the Community College centers. It's tricky to make it all balance, so we want to find a way that it can work better for both sides. He is excited about the potential to simplify it. He hopes to have a joint committee meeting to discuss it further and have legal guidance, then bring it back to the full boards. We use the contract a lot and it gets very confusing very quickly, so we need it to be more simplified and efficient. He shared how we have a lot of smart people working on it and it is nice to have two CFO's because it helps to keep checks and balances.

Mr. Reed shared how we've had the contract for a long time and it was created during a very challenging period of time. Ms. Ruby added how a lot has changed since it was initially created. This contract was created before there were centers and the rapid CCP student population growth, as well as increased modality changes. President Smith feels we are in an ideal timeframe now to work together to make changes and find the right solution. Ms. Rose agreed the timing is great and that now is the time to make the necessary changes. She explained how one of the intents when we first added the new ERP was to use it to find the data that could help us

figure out the changes we needed to make. President Smith explained how a lot of the challenges with the ERP are due to our unique setup and the Anthology team's large amount of turnover hasn't helped us. Our team has had to dig through the Anthology system meticulously, but in the long run it will benefit us to have a more thorough knowledge of the system.

- **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S REPORT - MS. REBECCA LONG (PP. 27-29)**

Ms. Long shared briefly on the highlights of her report included in the agenda.

- **PROVOST'S REPORT – DR. DAVID LAWRENCE (PP. 30-32)**

Dr. Lawrence shared briefly on the highlights of his report included in the agenda.

- **DIRECTOR OF MARKETING – MR. MIKE MCCORKLE (PP. 33-45)**

Mr. McCorkle went over his report by displaying the PowerPoint from the agenda on the screen. He also shared the Rio website through Teams to show some of his current projects.

X. CREDIT CARDS HOLDERS & LIMITS (PP. 46-47)

House Bill 312 requires a list of active credit cards to be presented quarterly to the political subdivision's legislative authority.

There were no updates to report at this meeting.

XI. CREDIT CARD REWARDS – 2024 ANNUAL REVIEW (PP. 48-49)

- **HB 312 requires the board to review the purchases made with the credit card reward points once a year.**

- Items purchased in 2024 (PP. 49)
- Point balance as of 2/19/2025 was 22,269.
- Points for reference. A very basic, small microwave is valued at 24,400 points and a coffee pot is valued at 10,500 points.

Ms. Bynum briefly went over the report on page 49 of the items purchased.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- **ACTION MATRIX (PP. 50-51)**

Ms. Long shared how they are waiting on Mr. Rory Callahan, to get back with us on the options we have. He was going to research the ways we can dispose of the property. She will follow up with him.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- **President Smith shared about two items.**
 - He invited the trustees to the Faculty/Staff Appreciation event taking place on Wednesday evening. He explained how student athletes nominate faculty and staff that have made a difference in their lives. It's neat because it isn't always their coaches that get nominated. There is one lady who works in the cafeteria that has been selected multiple years. It can be anyone they feel has influenced them.
 - President Smith shared how there are 411 graduates for Commencement this year. There are 199 associate degrees and 164 bachelor's degrees, as well as 20 masters. This is the largest group since he has been at Rio.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL LEGAL ACTIONS

A motion was made at 6:19pm by Mr. Smith to enter into executive session to discuss potential legal actions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jones. President Smith, Ms. Long, and Ms. Ruby were invited to join the trustees in executive session.

Executive Session Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes
Mr. Joshua Smith	Yes
Mr. Troy Howdyshell	Yes
Ms. Mary Lynne Jones	Yes
Mr. Paul Reed	Yes
Ms. Kat Rinehart	Yes
Ms. Taylor Rose	Yes

APPROVED

Executive Session ended at 7:04pm.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Rinehart made a motion and Mr. Reed seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously.


Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair
Ms. Cherokee Ruby, Chief Financial Officer

