

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

APRIL 27, 2026

BOB EVANS FARMS HALL, RM 216

5:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Davenport, Chair, called the meeting to order at to order at 5:01pm.

II. ROLL CALL

**Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair - present
Ms. Kat Rinehart, Vice Chair - present
Mr. Troy Howdyshell - absent
Ms. Mary Lynne Jones - present
Mr. Paul Reed - present
Ms. Taylor Rose - present
Ms. Debbie Saunders - present
Mr. Christian Scott - present
Mr. Jeff Simmons - present**

Mr. Ryan Smith, President of the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College was present.

Staff present included: Ms. Rebecca Euton, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. David Lawrence, Provost; Mr. Jeremy Heffernan, RGCC Interim Treasurer; Ms. Elizabeth Bynum, Fiscal Services Specialist.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 23RD MEETING MINUTES (P. 4)

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the March 23rd meeting minutes. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Mr. Davenport shared how Commencement will be on May 9th. He expressed how it is always a great day and encouraged the trustees to attend.

Mr. Davenport shared how the trivia this time was from the mid 70's. He explained how streaking was prevalent at that time on campuses across the nation. In looking at

historical records Rio dealt with some incidents of streaking. He shared a couple of examples. The trivia question was, "Who claims to be the first official streaker at Rio?" Ms. Jones answered correctly with Mr. Jake Bapst.

V. APPROVAL OF THE GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2026 (PP. 13)

Dr. Lawrence pointed to the pages in the agenda listing the graduate information and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Reed inquired of the graduate summary page that listed multiple degrees with very small numbers, such as Educational Studies and English. Those programs have only one graduate and he wanted to confirm if those were accurate numbers for those programs. President Smith shared how those smaller numbers are accurate, but it is due to the students receiving certificates and degrees on their way to a bachelor's degree. He confirmed that we don't run programs for just one or two students, but these are degrees the students are getting on their way to a higher degree. It helps the students and it also helps Rio when they get multiple degrees. President Smith also explained how English as a program cannot be eliminated because many of the courses in English are general education courses required for other degrees.

Mr. Reed shared how he had spoken with a contact at Holzer who expressed the improvements in Rio's Nursing Program. Mr. Reed gave appreciation to the team for the improvements in test scores. Dr. Lawrence shared how the new Nursing Director has been doing a very good job. He further shared how there are times that students want to be nurses, but they just can't get into the Nursing program due to their GPA's. In those situations, they try to help them get into other Allied Health Programs.

Mr. Reed inquired about the 257 community college students who will graduate this year. He wanted to know what percentage of those students decide to stay at Rio to continue on for a bachelor's degree. President Smith shared how ever since we instituted tuition affordability that has helped us to retain a lot more students. He further explained that sometimes it depends on the field of study the student is interested in and whether we have it at Rio. Dr. Lawrence shared how he will work with Ms. Kelsey Doughman to retrieve the data for his question.

The discussion turned to how great it is when CCP students are able to get degrees while they are still high school students.

Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the following resolution. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 4.27.26(1)

WHEREAS, the Registrar has certified the candidates who have met all the requirements for their respective Associate Degrees as of this time, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the Board of Trustees of Rio Grande Community College approve those candidates and authorize those degrees,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Associate Degree candidates who have met all the requirements of their respective programs, as certified by the office of the Registrar, are hereby approved for awarding the appropriate Associate Degrees.

VI. RGCC FINANCIAL UPDATE (P. 22)

Mr. Heffernan went over highlights from his report in the agenda. He shared how they will find in the Budget to Actual the total revenues exceeded projections by 7%. This was primarily due to an increase in enrollment and growth in on-campus housing. The increase in housing went from 222 students in the prior year to 354 students in Fall 2025.

He shared how the property tax revenue was lower than projected for 3rd quarter creating a negative variance, but that was due to a timing issue. As of April, we have received significantly more tax revenue. Another negative variance was due to grant revenue and extended timelines for the McArthur Center and Jackson Center. There are still pay applications that need to be paid, so we haven't expended as much as we thought we would by this time. Mr. Heffernan shared we are 7% below budget in total operating expenses for this period. Payroll expenditures were lower than anticipated due to a couple of temporary vacancies and the resignation of the CFO paired with her replacement of an Interim Treasurer at a lower salary.

He explained how utilities at the McArthur Center are below budget, because we haven't achieved substantial completion yet and until then the contractor is responsible for utility bills. At the Meigs Center electric costs have increased by 17%. Total revenue has increased by about \$11 million compared to prior fiscal year at this time. This was due mainly to grant funding and to a lesser extent tuition and auxiliary fees. Total expenditures have increased by 3% due to revenue sharing which is due to higher enrollment. Travel expenses are higher due to projects in McArthur and Jackson, but those will be covered by a grant. The General Fund cash balance totaled \$4.7 million dollars. He shared how we are monitoring Fall and Summer registrations and those numbers are looking pretty good when compared to the same time last year.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the following resolution. Ms. Saunders seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- **FISCAL YEAR 2026 – 3RD QTR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
Resolution 4.27.26(2)

WHEREAS, the revenue, expenditure, and fund balances for the nine-month period ending March 31, 2026 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 March 31, 2026, be approved as presented.

VII. COURSE FEE ADDITION - EFFECTIVE STARTING FALL SEMESTER 2026

- **HPE 11402 - Lifeguard Training \$48**

Mr. Heffernan explained how the instructor of the lifeguard class reached out to him. The students that take this course cannot pay the American Red Cross directly for their tests. The teacher has been taking their payments, then paying for the tests. She was told that is not the best practice. If it is added as a course fee, the fee will go on the student's bill and they will pay the school. Then the school will pay the American Red Cross for the tests through a purchase order process.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the addition of the Lifeguard Training course fee. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. CURRICULUM APPROVAL PROCESS (P. 28)

Dr. Lawrence shared how this is new and it is a combination of Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 96. The legislature requires all state institutions to have their Board of Trustees approve all curriculum changes. There are a lot of mix feelings about this. Even small changes will need to go through Board approval now. He explained how several schools are thinking about adopting a consent agenda. He shared how we are unique so some of the changes need to go to the University Board and some need to go to the Community College Board.

Dr. Lawrence shared how the current approval process usually ends with the Faculty Assembly. This will add an additional level of approval, because it will need to come to the Board as well. Currently, if someone has an idea or change to recommend, they would take the idea to their School or Program Director. If they agree that it is a good idea, it goes to the Curriculum Committee next for approval. Then to the Academic Policy Committee and ends with the Faculty Assembly.

Dr. Lawrence shared how if it is a new program it has to go to outside approval after the internal process. It has to go to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) unless we have programs in the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes already. It can take up to 9 months to get the ODHE and HLC approvals. There is also an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) approval needed for Financial Aid purposes. There are times we would need to move quickly internally, but

that would be mostly for new programs. Other items won't need a quick approval. We will just need to figure out the process.

Ms. Rose shared how if the legislators want to hold the Board accountable, we may want to increase our liability insurance. Dr. Lawrence added how he has never seen this many additional requirements. He didn't feel Rio was on their radar when they created this new process. He felt they were looking at some of the other schools when they passed this.

It was discussed how some students are changing majors due to advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI). Some students are enrolled in majors that could be replaced by AI, so they are looking to change their major to avoid future issues. It's stressful if they are deep into getting their degree and then they change their major to something unrelated to their current field of study. This will be a significant setback to them by adding several classes they will need to take to reach graduation. It was pointed out that in the next ten years there will be a lot of changes to how we operate due to AI.

The discussion turned to whether the approvals could be approved by a committee of the Board or would it need to have full Board approval. Could it be an electronic vote or does it have to be a meeting? Mr. Davenport would like us to pick this back up at the next meeting to discuss further about the potential of a committee if we find out that is acceptable.

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

Resolution 4.27.26(3)

WHEREAS, H.B. 96 (136th General Assembly) enacted Ohio Revised Code §3345.457, requiring the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education to adopt a curricular approval process for establishing and modifying academic programs, curricula, courses (including general education), certificates, and degree programs; the statute requires that the process (1) grant the faculty senate or comparable body the opportunity to provide advice, feedback, and recommendations; (2) clarify that such feedback is advisory; and (3) retain the Board's final, overriding authority to approve or reject any establishment or modification of academic programs, curricula, courses, general education requirements, and degree programs; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Provost has developed a Curriculum Approval Process that meets the requirements of O.R.C. 3345.457 by (i) delineating faculty consultation and committee review steps (School, Curriculum Subcommittee, Academic Policy, and Faculty Assembly), (ii) confirming the advisory nature of faculty recommendations, and (iii) specifying that the Provost submits items to the RGCC and URG Boards for final approval; the process also clarifies required submissions to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and the U.S. Department of Education when applicable, and provides for the Registrar's posting of approved

credentials to student transcripts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees that:

It hereby adopts the Curriculum Approval Process presented by the Office of the Provost, which governs the establishment and modification of academic programs, curricula, courses (including General Education), certificates, and degree programs at Rio Grande Community College. The adopted process is consistent with O.R.C. 3345.457.

IX. CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Ms. Euton briefly shared about the projects that are underway.

McArthur Construction:

The substantial completion date was yesterday. The furniture arrived yesterday and the landscaping is being worked on. We plan to start operations in the building on Tuesday, May 26th. We are looking at a couple of options for a ribbon cutting, but we are waiting to hear back from the Governor's Office.

Jackson Renovation:

The substantial completion is projected to happen the first week in May. She expressed how it looks great and it's really exciting. They will plan a ribbon cutting for Jackson after they get the McArthur ribbon cutting set. This will add 3 classrooms to the facilities that can be used for other classes outside of the Manufacturing Program. That will be very helpful to the director, Ms. Kristen Mershon.

Locker Rooms:

She indicated that the locker rooms were 98.2% complete.

Moulton & Holzer Halls:

Ms. Euton shared they will be working on these two dorms in the summer, so they should be able to add students in the Fall.

Kidd/Math Science:

We are waiting to hear back on the capital funding for this project. We won't know until June. We will fix the foundation on the building and do lab updates if we receive the funding.

Lyne Center Roof Replacement:

The building is very large and we have replaced portions of the roof, this will be to replace the remaining portion. Right now, we have secured two quotes and are waiting on the 3rd. Once we have all 3 quotes this will come to the Board for approval, before it goes to the Controlling Board.

Ms. Euton expressed how great the McArthur building is. President Smith shared how it is a great building and Randy Evans Construction has done a wonderful job. He believes the trustees will be really impressed when they see the building and he is anxious to show it off. Ms. Rinehart added how the community needs it and deserves it. Ms. Euton shared how she has already received requests to rent the community space and one inquiry to lease space.

Ms. Euton explained they are looking to charge \$24 per square foot. She indicated that they will receive \$48,000 a year from Holzer to lease their portion. It was noted that we will have some expenses to cover from that amount, such as utilities.

X. STAFF REPORTS

- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - MR. RYAN SMITH (P. 34)**

President Smith shared highlights from his agenda report. He also shared about a connection he made with Marshall University's President, Mr. Brad Smith. He felt it was a great conversation and he hopes to work together with him.

- **PROVOST'S REPORT – DR. DAVID LAWRENCE (P. 38)**

Dr. Lawrence went over his agenda report. One important item he pointed out to the trustees is there is a resolution for Senate Bill 1 due by December 31, 2026. It is a resolution acknowledging they have formally evaluated the components of Rio's general education curriculum.

He explained how he was excited about a new requirement for every state institution of higher education to develop a Co-op Internship. He believes this will be great, because it will connect students to employers.

Dr. Lawrence went over the new organizational structure on page 33 of the agenda. He shared how he met with the Deans and discussed what the best approach would be. They decided it was best to divide it into 3 schools, creating a new College of Health Studies. He further shared this would be an example of something the Board would need to approve if we were already under the new process of curriculum approval.

He shared how there is a lot happening now, but he will keep them up to date with the items they need to be aware of.

- **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S REPORT - MS. REBECCA EUTON (P. 42)**

Ms. Euton shared highlights from her agenda report.

XI. CREDIT CARDS HOLDERS & LIMITS (PP. 45)

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

- There are no updates at this time.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

- **CCP HONORS NIGHT**
 - **APRIL 30, 2026 - 6PM**
 - **BERRY FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING**

- **COMMENCEMENT**
 - **SATURDAY, MAY 9TH - 1PM**

Dr. Lawrence shared how the hooding for Master of Nursing students will take place from 11:00am-12:00pm on the day of graduation.

- **FEBRUARY FOLLOW UP**
 - Dr. Lawrence addressed a question Mr. Reed posed at the February meeting. Mr. Reed inquired of the students that are taking online courses how many are also taking face to face courses. Dr. Lawrence presented a report from Ms. Kelsey Doughman, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment. The data showed the breakdown of the course delivery methods and the completion rates. Each trustee received a copy of the report. It was pointed out that a lot of students who live in the dorms also participate in sports, so online courses help them be flexible with sports schedules.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 6:31pm by Ms. Jones to enter into executive session to discuss a legal issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons. President Smith and Ms. Euton were invited to join the trustees in executive session.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Mick Davenport	YES
Ms. Kat Rinehart	YES
Ms. Mary Lynne Jones	YES
Mr. Paul Reed	YES
Ms. Taylor Rose	YES

Ms. Debbie Saunders YES
Mr. Christian Scott YES
Mr. Jeff Simmons YES

Executive Session ended at 6:55pm.

It was discussed that a meeting in May might be necessary to authorize a resolution for the Lyne Center Roof Project. If the meeting is needed, it will likely be held at the new McArthur Center location. May 18th will be the first day of occupancy. There will be follow up when more information is collected.

Mr. Scott shared how there are some milestones coming up in the next few weeks. He will be retiring from the Gallipolis City Schools, his two daughters will be graduating this year, and his son is opening a business. He wanted to say thank you to Rio for being such a big part of his family's lives. Mr. Scott's wife is also an instructor at Rio. The trustees congratulated him and expressed gratitude for him and his family.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed made a motion and Ms. Jones seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02pm. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously.



Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair



Ms. Elizabeth Bynum, Fiscal Services Specialist