

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

**JUNE 23, 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. Troy Howdyshe - absent**

**Ms. Mary Lynne Jones - present**

**Mr. Paul Reed - present**

**Ms. Kat Rinehart - present**

**Ms. Taylor Rose - absent**

**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 Long, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. David Lawrence, Provost; Ms. Cherokee Ruby, RGCC CFO; Mr. Tom Sutton, Associate Vice President of Administration; Mr. Michael McCorkle, Director of Marketing; Mr. Jeremy Heffernan, RGCC Staff Accountant; Ms. Elizabeth Bynum, Fiscal Services Specialist.

**III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 28TH MEETING MINUTES (PP. 4-16)**

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

Mr. Davenport explained how Trustee Josh Smith had resigned from the Board due to possible conflicts with his new employment. Mr. Davenport expressed how he will be missed. President Smith shared that Trustee Smith was a Governor appointee and they

discussed how the next trustee could be from any of the 4 counties.

For the Rio Trivia, Mr. Davenport explained there was a building on campus in the 70's called "Community Hall" where the theater was located. Community Hall was removed and in 1981 the Berry Fine and Performing Arts Center was built. In 1983 they held an Inaugural Language Arts Speech series in the building. What famous Ohio person came to kick off the series as the first speaker and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Rio at that event? Mr. Reed answered correctly with Mr. Woody Hayes.

**V. FINAL AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION & BUDGET (PP. 17-24)**

Ms. Jones joined the meeting at 5:11pm.

Ms. Ruby shared how the variance from the original budget was \$750,000 and it was made up of a couple of items. Part of the variance was due to grant funding that reimbursed operational expenses. The Power Grant offset some of the payroll, supplies, and teaching costs. The other contributing factor was due to the Pike Center. We didn't have the lease at the beginning of the year and we don't have the utilities switched over yet. Those two items; Power Grant reimbursement and Pike Center expenses are the biggest variants in the cost savings amount.

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

**Resolution 6.23.25(1)**

*BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Rio Grande Community College, Gallia County Ohio that to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Trustees, during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2025, the following sums be and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made for and during said fiscal year, as follows, viz:*

**General Fund: \$16,467,023**

**One Mill Tax Levy Fund: \$1,445,940**

**Capital Projects Fund: \$1,243,000**

**Meigs Parking & Safety Fund: \$70,000**

**Grants Fund: \$2,111,905**

**Total: \$21,337,868**

**VI. MEAL PLAN INCREASE - \$100**

Ms. Ruby shared how at the time of the last board meeting when most cost changes were approved the University was still under negotiations with Hallmark, but now we have the numbers we need. We need to increase meal plans by \$100 per semester, because we will be covering more meals. Ms. Long shared how we will be starting two weeks earlier. There

will also be an increase based on the renovation costs of the dining hall to create enough seating for the additional residential students. It will be amortized over the life of the contract. She further explained how URG will be absorbing the inflationary costs.

**Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the Meal Plan increase of \$100. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**VII. EXTENSION OF PRESIDENTIAL CONTRACT TO JUNE 30, 2026**

It was discussed that this is to approve the extension of the Presidential Services Contract with the University. This is not his personal contract with the University. The Community College approves this annually or up to two years to coincide with the biennium.

**Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the extension of the Presidential Services Contract through June 30, 2026. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**VIII. EXTENSION OF THE MOU FOR LEASES TO JUNE 30, 2026 (PP. 25-26)**

Mr. Reed inquired of the verbiage included in the MOU related to the lease of the property and if the way it is stated is legally necessary or can we adjust it. It was discussed that we desire to have it worded as clean as possible, but it would cost to have it changed due to the need for attorney review of the changes. It was determined it was best to keep it the way it is for now.

**Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the extension of the MOU for leases through June 30, 2026. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. APPROVAL OF MODIFIED URG/RGCC SHARED SERVICES CONTRACT (PP. 27-38)**

President Smith described how we have had two Joint Board Commission (JBC) meetings to discuss the contract. Our current instructional contract is extremely confusing and there are a lot of work arounds to make it work. The attempt with this contract is to put all revenue together and make decisions based on return on investments. He expressed how both CFO's, Ms. Ruby and Ms. Fraley, work well together and we will have two sets of eyes on all of the finances.

President Smith explained how this new policy will make more sense and it will be a lot simpler version, which will create a lot of efficiencies. He believed this might be the most impactful change we have made since he has been at Rio. He explained how it may need to be modified in the future as we monitor and work through it. We set it up in a way to be able to unwind it and make changes. It will change from a 96% URG - 4% RGCC split to 87% URG - 13% RGCC split. This contract hasn't changed in 40 years, but the college has changed a lot in 40 years. With this new contract the Joint Board Commission will drive a lot. In the

past RGCC didn't always feel like they had a voice, but was providing revenue. He felt this would allow for everyone to have a voice in it and it is set up to be balanced.

Ms. Ruby added how the revenue share will be with all operational revenue for both institutions not just RGCC main campus revenues. President Smith explained how this will take away the ability for antagonistic people on either side, because we will be in it together. He gave an example using recruitment and how there could be opportunities to make who we target to be lopsided. This new contract will take that away, because it will affect both sides. President Smith feels that with this leadership team it will go well. Mr. Davenport expressed how we probably won't get it all right in the beginning, but he felt it will go well as we work through it. Ms. Ruby added how we could always bring it back to the JBC to make any changes. They wanted to make sure that was included in the plan in case we do need to make changes. Mr. Davenport expressed how the key is going to be the Joint Board Commission to meet and talk everything out. Ms. Ruby agreed and expressed how especially if there were to be a large expense item, it will ultimately be decided by the JBC.

Mr. Reed expressed concern for the Community College side of things. He referenced how in the past maintenance was an issue. He expressed how the offsite Centers are near and dear to us. He further gave an example of a concern he has by sharing what if one of the Center's HVAC systems goes down and also one on Main campus at the same time. Will main campus take priority? He wanted to ensure that the Centers would be just as much of a priority and just as valued. President Smith reassured the trustees that they would be. Then he explained how we have invested more in the offsite locations than we have at Main Campus in recent years.

Mr. Reed inquired if this approval will be pending Attorney General approval. Ms. Long confirmed this is pending the Attorney General approval. President Smith shared how it will need to go to the University Board for approval tomorrow, then to the AG for approval.

The discussion turned to the \$750,000 variance in the budget and if we need to dig in deeper to find out why it was off. It was discussed that the preliminary budget is only a best guess, so it will likely have variances when compared to the final budget for the year. Ms. Ruby and Ms. Fraley are both conservative in their numbers. It was then shared the budgeted amount for Fall 2025 for residential students was 220, but we are already 20 over budget, which is exciting.

The discussion turned to whether the current cash position was good. Right now, cash isn't great, but it is due to the delay in the Appalachian Grant reimbursements that we are working through. We are also waiting on receivables for the student payments.

Mr. Reed inquired about the outstanding balance between URG and RGCC. President Smith shared how we need to drill down that specific number. Mr. Reed inquired of what he thought the amount was. President Smith responded with how it is probably close to \$3

million, but it is hard to tell due to the ERP. Mr. Reed inquired with the changes in the contract, if it would still be owed to RGCC. President Smith replied, "Yes, it will still be owed." President Smith went on to indicate how we will likely have a cash crunch the first couple of months.

The discussion then turned to bad debt and the ability to collect it. The Attorney General will only handle collections for Community College. They won't allow us to send University debt to them. Students are not allowed to register if they owe a prior balance, but we have used the Changing Tomorrows fund to help students cover small amounts. This will remove hindrances from them being able to register and help keep them on track. Talent Ready and Work Ready grants have also been used to help reduce student balances. About 2% of our student debt goes to collections.

**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 6.23.25(2)**

*WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Rio Grande Community College has previously approved a Shared Services Agreement between the University of Rio Grande (URG) and Rio Grande Community College (RGCC) to facilitate the efficient and effective delivery of shared administrative, academic, and operational services; and*

*WHEREAS, the parties have reviewed and proposed modifications to the existing Shared Services Contract to reflect updated responsibilities, cost allocations, and service delivery expectations; and*

*WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the proposed modifications and finds them to be in the best interest of the institution and its stakeholders;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the Modified URG/RGCC Shared Services Contract as presented contingent on attorney general approvals; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President, COO, and CFO are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Modified Shared Services Contract on behalf of Rio Grande Community College and to take any and all actions necessary to implement the terms and conditions of the agreement.*

**Adopted this 23rd of June, 2025 by the Board of Directors of Rio Grande Community College**

**X. ENROLLMENT REPORTS**

- **SUMMER (PP. 39-40)**
- **FALL (PP. 41-42)**

Ms. Ruby shared how she had already given a brief update on housing for Fall and how it was already more than what had been budgeted for, so she moved on to Summer enrollment. She explained how Summer enrollment came in above budget by 5%. Summer is less of a revenue discount, because in the summer we don't have high school courses for CCP that are only the \$41.64 per credit hour.

Mr. Reed inquired about whether the curriculum was up to date. Ms. Long shared how in some ways it is. She went on to describe an example of EMS and how in one semester it is up and the next it is down. She expressed how they are hopeful with construction in Jackson and McArthur it will increase enrollment with the curriculum that can be offered.

Mr. Reed inquired if there was a way of getting a report for what curriculum was offered at each Center. Since curriculum drives the enrollment, what can be done to encourage enrollment? They discussed how Meigs enrollment is down. Dr. Lawrence confirmed that he could provide a report of what is offered at each Center at the next meeting. President Smith feels that as the projects finish up at Jackson, McArthur, and Pike more will be opened up.

The discussion moved to InSolves. They do high end manufacturing. Dr. Lawrence expressed how the company was surprised at how many classes we already offer, because they need specifically trained employees. It has been a struggle to find those employees. President Smith shared how Ms. Rinehart and her team have been working through what is needed for General Mills to train the specific workers they need. Ms. Rinehart shared how there are other local companies that need similar training for workers. It was also mentioned that there is potential with NUCOR in West Virginia as well.

Mr. Davenport inquired about the titanium plant in Ravenswood. President Smith shared how we have hired Mr. Taylor Stepp as the Director of Economic Development. He believes Mr. Stepp will be able to help us uncover needs and match up what we offer with the needs.

#### **XI. DESIGN BUILD CONTRACT FOR JACKSON**

Ms. Long shared how this is the approval for the construction firm to renovate the back portion of the Jackson facility. This will be part of the Happy Appy Grant. We are hiring the construction firm that will hire the architect, which is different for us. We don't have the price for construction yet, but they know the budget and they will work within that budget amount, which is not to exceed \$1,286,330.00. This is pending the Attorney General's approval.

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

**Resolution 6.23.25(3)**

*WHEREAS, Rio Grande Community College had completed the public bid process as required by the Ohio Revised Code to award a public construction contract for the renovation of the Jackson Manufacturing Garage using the design-build construction modality, and*

*WHEREAS, two companies submitted an RFQ in response to the bid, and the state procurement process for design-build projects was followed in conjunction with support from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, and*

*WHEREAS, design-build is a qualification based procurement allowing RGCC to select the most qualified contractor prior to negotiating a Gross Maximum Price, and*

*WHEREAS, Foremost Management Incorporated (FMI) was selected as the most qualified contractor, and*

*WHEREAS, \$1,286,330.00 is the total budget for the project and the contract with FMI will not exceed this amount*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees approve the awarding of an initial design-build construction contract to Foremost Management Incorporated pending the signature of the Attorney General's Office.*

## **XII. CONSTRUCTION UPDATES (PP. 43-45)**

Ms. Long went over the highlights from her agenda report.

It was noted that the McArthur Center and Pike Center projects are going well. Mr. Scott inquired about the paper plant. Ms. Long explained how Mr. Chad Sinnott, Assistant Professor of Career-Technical Education, is working on a rapid response team for certificates and eligible retraining programs to help offer educational options.

## **XIII. STAFF REPORTS**

- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - MR. RYAN SMITH (PP. 46-47)**

President Smith shared from his agenda report. He shared that the State budget should be finalized this week. There is potential for some increase.

He shared how things are going well with the Mitchell Scholarship funding at the McArthur Center. He shared how Ms. Christine Will-Calvin was interested in the McArthur project and said there was a check in the mail for \$100,000 to help. She also indicated there was potential for future help from her. She seemed genuinely excited about where we were headed with the project. McArthur has been very good for raising funds.

- **PROVOST'S REPORT – DR. DAVID LAWRENCE (PP. 48-50)**

Dr. Lawrence went over the highlights from his agenda report.

- **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S REPORT - MS. REBECCA LONG (PP. 51-52)**

Ms. Long went over the highlights from her agenda report, noting that Housing numbers are looking really strong this year.

- **DIRECTOR OF MARKETING – MR. MIKE MCCORKLE (PP. 53-72)**

Mr. McCorkle shared his PowerPoint from the agenda on the projector screen and went over the highlights.

It was discussed about whether there was a risk with brand ambassadors. What would happen if they started posting content that did not line up with the institution? It is a risk, but there is a contract in place that states what the boundaries are and how it could be terminated if necessary.

#### **XIV. OLD BUSINESS**

- **ACTION MATRIX (PP. 73-74)**

Ms. Long shared how Mr. Rory Callahan has left the Attorney General's office and Ms. Sally Montell is our new AG rep. Ms. Long is scheduled to meet with her later this week. Hopefully with a new person we will make some progress.

#### **XV. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **SENATE BILL 1**

Dr. Lawrence explained how Senate Bill 1 passed and part of the bill requires each State institution to adopt a Statement of Commitment. Dr. Lawrence provided a handout and he explained at the top of the document it showed what they expect to have in the statement. He only changed the format from a bulleted list to a paragraph, other than that it is the same. He explained that everywhere we list our vision and mission this statement will also need to be on display.

The discussion turned to whether URG would also need to adopt this statement. President Smith explained how they are trying to figure that out. URG will likely adopt the statement at their meeting tomorrow, but there are a lot of moving parts and pieces.

Ms. Rinehart felt the use of the words they provided was the right approach to take with this statement. Mr. Davenport agreed and felt the paragraph format Dr. Lawrence used was better than the bullet points.

Dr. Lawrence shared how there will be more items to review in the future as they work through the requirements of Senate Bill 1. The Statement of Commitment is due to ODHE by the end of this week.



**Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the Statement of Commitment below presented by Dr. Lawrence. Ms. Rinehart seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

“Rio Grande declares that it will educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth. Its duty is to equip students with the opportunity to develop the intellectual skills they need to reach their own informed conclusions. Rio Grande is committed to not requiring, favoring, disfavoring, or prohibiting speech or lawful assembly. It is committed to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the autonomy of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and tolerates the differences in opinion that naturally occur in a public higher education community. Rio Grande declares that its duty is to treat all faculty, staff, and students as individuals, to hold them to equal standards, and to provide them equality of opportunity, with regard to those individuals' race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.”

- **2025 OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION (ODHE)  
ANNUAL TRUSTEE CONFERENCE – COLUMBUS, OH  
○ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

Ms. Ruby explained how they plan to talk about Senate Bill 1 at the Annual Trustee Conference in September and they would like for as many trustees to attend as possible.

**XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL LEGAL ACTIONS & PERSONNEL**

- Executive Session was not initiated at this meeting.

**XVII. UPDATE - OACC DELEGATE & ALTERNATE - TABLED**

- **DELEGATE: MR. JOSH SMITH**
- **ALTERNATE: MR. TROY HOWDSHELL**

Mr. Howdysshell was not present at this meeting, so it was decided to wait until the next meeting to vote on this.

**XVIII. NEW CHAIR & VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS**

- A. CHAIR NOMINATIONS:**
- B. VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS:**

Mr. Davenport opened the floor for nominations. It was discussed that this will be a very

important upcoming year. The option to extend the current Chair was suggested as a potential option.

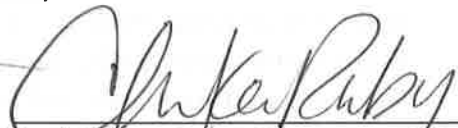
**Mr. Reed made a motion to nominated Mr. Davenport to be the Chair for an additional year and Ms. Rinehart to serve as Vice Chair for one year. Ms. Jones seconded the nomination. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Scott made a motion and Mr. Simmons seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously.



Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair



Ms. Cherokee Ruby, Chief Financial Officer