



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JAMES A. RHODES STATE COLLEGE
531st Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025

The Rhodes State College (RSC) Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 4:30 pm in the Keese Hall Board Room, Cabinet and Faculty Association President were present in the room, all other guest via Zoom a virtual platform.

CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Butch Kirk, Chair. Members present were Mr. Butch Kirk, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Ms. Jessica Cunningham, Dr. Wilfred Ellis and Ms. Jane Krites. Mr. Robert Sielschott was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2025

Chair Kirk called for the approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2025, Board Meeting. Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Jane Krites seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

RHODES STATE COLLEGE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

Dr. Ellis read the Rhodes State College Proclamation Recognizing April as Community College Month.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITIONS (unaudited) THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

General Overview

These financial statements were prepared in the format of our annual financial report. Many estimates are utilized when preparing financial statements. However, some presented amounts cannot be estimated, so they are held constant throughout the year until information is available to update them. These items include the Pension and OPEB liabilities and the corresponding deferred inflows and outflows.

Areas where estimates have the highest impact include accounts receivable, accounts payable, compensated absences, and deferred revenue on the Statement of Net Position, as well as tuition and fee revenue, scholarship expense, and depreciation on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position.

The College follows the "business-type activities" reporting requirements of GASB Statement No. 35 (as amended). The financial statement presentation required by GASB Statement No. 35 is intended to provide a comprehensive, entity-wide perspective of the College's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, net position, revenues, expenses, changes in net position, and cash flows. For financial reporting purposes, GASB Statement 35 defines business-type activities as those financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. Accordingly, these financial statements have been presented using the economic resources measurement focus and on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned. Expenses are recognized when incurred. Interfund receivables and payables have been eliminated in the Statement of Net Position.

Statement of Net Position

A – Total Current Assets

Total current assets have increased by \$4.29M through the third quarter, a 34% increase. Cash rose by approximately \$1.85 million, from \$11.20 million to \$13.05 million. This positive trend reflects the continued strength of our

enrollment numbers as well as the impact of disciplined cash management strategies implemented over the past year.

B – Total Noncurrent Assets

As of the third quarter, total noncurrent assets decreased by \$3.88 million, from \$49.30 million to \$45.42 million, representing a 7.9% decrease from the prior year. The most significant change occurred in Depreciable Capital Assets, which declined by approximately \$2.45 million. This reflects the natural depreciation of assets over time and the absence of significant new capital investments during the year.

C – Total Current Liabilities

Total current liabilities increased by \$885,041, rising from \$1.92 million to \$2.81 million, a 46% increase compared to the prior year. This increase is primarily driven by timing differences and strategic financial decisions tied to deferred revenue and debt obligations. Deferred Revenue saw the largest increase, rising by \$650,110 to \$760,122. This is due to timing differences in revenue recognition and an increase in forward-funded grants.

D – Total Noncurrent Liabilities

Total noncurrent liabilities decreased by \$2.32 million, from \$22.87 million to \$20.55 million, marking a 10.2% year-over-year decline. This trend signals continued progress in long-term debt reduction and favorable shifts in actuarial liabilities. Long-term debt declined by \$538,503, reflecting scheduled principal payments on outstanding obligations.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

A – Total Operating Revenues

Through the third quarter, total operating revenues increased by \$1.08 million, from \$8.48 million to \$9.56 million, a 13% increase over the prior year. This growth is driven by both higher net tuition and improved state grant funding.

B – Total Operating Expenses

Through the third quarter, total operating expenses remained relatively flat, increasing slightly from \$20.36 million to \$20.39 million, a 0.2% increase year-over-year. Instructional costs increased by \$945,000, reaching \$7.43 million. This reflects investments in faculty and program delivery. Student Services rose by \$232,220, totaling \$1.64 million, supporting enhanced student engagement, advising, or success initiatives through the Title III grant.

C – Operating Income (Loss)

Our operating loss has decreased by approximately 9%. This is due to the increase in operating revenues described above.

D – Nonoperating Revenues

Through the third quarter, net nonoperating revenues increased by \$1.19 million, from \$10.40 million to \$11.59 million, representing an 11.5% increase over the prior year. State Appropriations grew by \$434,160, reflecting increased enrollment-driven funding allocations, which is a positive indicator of the institution's relevance and performance.

E – Net Increase in Net Position

Our net increase is \$764,453 positive versus \$1.47 million negative last year. Some of this is due to the various timing differences in recording revenue and expenses, but most of it is due to the positive impacts of higher enrollment.

Mr. Derek Adkins provided an update on the unaudited financial condition of Rhodes State College (RSC) as of March 31, 2025. He reported an increase in cash compared to the previous year and highlighted the key factors contributing to this growth.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Informational)

Dr. Spiers presented the Board of Trustees with a summary of the March 2025 President's Report, highlighting recent developments in national, state, and local collaborations. She also announced the official opening of the New

Student Advocacy & Resource Center (A.R.C.) on March 18th. The ARC serves as a centralized hub designed to support students by providing access to a range of essential services. These include The SHOP, the Career Closet, the Student Advocate, and connections to various on-campus community partners. Whether students need help connecting with resources, a quiet place to study, or a space to relax with friends, the A.R.C. is designed to meet those needs.

Additionally, Mr. Kevin Reeks delivered a presentation on Alumni and Foundation Scholarships, informing the Board that the RSC Foundation will host its 27th Annual Scholarship Reception on April 16, 2025, at the Veterans' Memorial Civic and Convention Center. The event celebrates the awarding of student scholarships, with over \$267,000 in funding and 245 scholarships available for the 2025-2026 academic year.

FACULTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Mr. Jacob King, President of the RSCFA, and Dr. Jacquie Martz, RSCFA President-elect, continue to collaborate with Faculty and Administration through Open Forums, Information Sessions, and other meetings to maintain open lines of communication and address questions and concerns from Faculty. Recently, this work has focused on Faculty inquiries regarding course evaluations, including upcoming changes initiated by the Chancellor as part of SB 1, and the timing of evaluations to ensure Faculty can effectively receive and act on student feedback to enhance course delivery.

Shout-outs this month go to everyone who has volunteered for a College or Faculty Association Committee! A reminder that our end-of-the-year RSCFA Meeting will take place on Friday, May 2nd, prior to Graduation Rehearsal.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Resolution No. 2025 - 31

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Executive Staff, that the following personnel actions be approved:

Attachment:

- Faculty/Staff Appointments – April 15, 2025

Dr. Spiers requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-31 (Consideration of Approval of Personnel Actions). Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-31, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jane Krites. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES OVER \$50,000 FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE PHASE THREE

Resolution No. 2025 - 32

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services, that approval be given for the College to purchase IT equipment for \$333,854.

Vendor	Amount
Dell	\$ 301,021
CDW	\$ 4,186
ComDoc	\$ 28,647
Total.....	\$ 333,854

Source of Funds: Capital Appropriations or Institutional if not approved by the Controlling Board

Overview:

Rhodes State College is in the final stage of a strategic, multi-phase cybersecurity upgrade initiative designed to enhance the College's ability to protect sensitive data, improve system resilience, and align with evolving cybersecurity best practices and state guidelines. This request seeks approval to purchase new laptops, desktops, and network switches critical to completing Phase Three of this initiative. Phase One, completed in FY 2023, addressed immediate vulnerabilities and established baseline security controls. The College implemented multi-factor authentication across key systems, upgraded its firewalls, and deployed enterprise-grade antivirus and endpoint detection software. In addition, the College conducted a full cybersecurity risk assessment, enhanced policies and procedures, and launched cybersecurity awareness training for staff and faculty.

Phase Two, completed in FY 2024, built upon this foundation by focusing on infrastructure hardening and modernization. This included network segmentation, implementation of security information and event management tools, and the deployment of more robust backup and disaster recovery systems. The most significant advancement in this phase was migrating the College's ERP system from an on-premises environment to the cloud. This move significantly improved our security posture by reducing reliance on local servers and enhancing data access controls, availability, and encryption. Phase Two also saw refinements in our identity and access management strategy and the introduction of routine incident response exercises.

Phase Three, which this request supports, targets the most vulnerable layer of any security model: the endpoints and network edge. The College's current fleet of laptops and desktops includes many aging devices that are no longer compatible with modern security protocols and cannot be reliably patched or secured. The requested devices are essential to fully realizing the benefits of the prior phases. All new laptops will be equipped with Absolute Resilience software, a powerful tool that allows the College to remotely lock, locate, and wipe a device if it is lost, stolen, or compromised. This capability significantly reduces the risk of unauthorized access and data breaches and supports our compliance with federal privacy regulations. The request also includes updated network switches required to support advanced segmentation, device authentication, and secure traffic management at the access layer. These switches will enable real-time monitoring and enforcement of network security policies, helping to prevent lateral movement in the event of a breach.

Procurement of this equipment will be completed through competitively bid consortium contracts such as those offered by the Dell Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) Master Agreement-Contract Number MHEC-04152022, Inter-University Council Purchasing Group (IUC-PG), and OhioBuys, ensuring that the College secures the best value while complying with all state procurement guidelines. This equipment is essential to completing the College's cybersecurity roadmap. It is the final step in a thoughtful, phased effort to modernize the institution's defenses, protect sensitive student and institutional data, and create a secure foundation for future growth.

Attachments:

- Dell Quote
- CDW Quote
- ComDoc Quote

Mr. Derek Adkins provided an overview of the Information Technology Infrastructure, Phase Three.

Dr. Spiers requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-32 (Consideration of Approval for Purchases Over \$50,000 for the Completion of the Information Technology Infrastructure Phase Three). Dr. Wilfred Ellis moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-32, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jane Krites. Chair Kirk asked for a Roll Call vote: Mr. Butch Kirk, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Dr. Wilfred Ellis, Ms. Jane Krites and Ms. Jessica Cunningham were present and voted yes.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE REVISION OF POLICY 7.03 OUT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION

Resolution No. 2025 - 33

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Planning, that consideration be given for the Rhodes State College Policy 7.03, Out of State Authorization, to be effective immediately upon approval.

Description:

Out of State Authorization Policy 7.03, last approved by the Board of Trustees on May 17, 2022, has been reviewed in conjunction with its corresponding procedure. Updates to the procedure were necessary due to a federal requirement approved in July 2024. The policy itself remains unchanged, as it aligns with federal law and references NC-SARA documents. The review process included consultation with the Attorney General's office. The revisions include the following change:

- Corrections were made to broken hyperlinks identified during the Attorney General's office review.

Attachments:

- Recommended Revised Out of State Authorization Policy 7.03
- Current Board of Trustees Out of State Authorization Policy 7.03 – in Track Changes Format

Dr. Nanette Smith provided an overview of the revised Out of State Authorization Policy 7.03.

Dr. Spiers requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-33 (Consideration of Approval to Adopt the Revision of Policy 7.03, Out of State Authorization). Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-33, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Wilfred Ellis. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENCEMENT UPDATE

Commencement will be held in person at the Civic Center on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Please see details about the day.

Parking

Board of Trustees will receive a parking pass for the parking garage. The President's Office will provide the parking passes. When parking in the garage, please leave the parking pass on your dashboard.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 – COMMENCEMENT DAY

Graduation Ceremony – 10:00 am

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:45 a.m. | Arrive at Civic Center (report to Rooms West 1 and 2). Your regalia will be in the room (unless you are bringing your own regalia). Individuals will be available to assist you. |
| 9:30 a.m. | VIP pictures with Mr. Michael Ayers outside of Rooms West 1 & 2. |
| 9:45 a.m. | Dr. Greaney will escort Dr. Spiers, the Board and VIPs to Ms. Krista Richardson, who will walk the President and Trustees to the side stage. |
| 10:00 a.m. | Ceremony begins |

Dr. Spiers will lead Board of Trustees from side of stage. Faculty and student procession will begin once Trustees and President are on stage.

Conclusion of Ceremony – Trustees and President will exit to the side of stage. Stage participants will lead recession to back of auditorium and form line for gauntlet outside, weather permitting.

Following The Ceremony

An Alumni reception will be held in the North and Central Halls for graduates and guests. You are welcome to attend and congratulate Rhodes State's newest alumni.

Disrobe in rooms West 1 and 2. Leave regalia (unless you brought your own).

As part of the commencement discussion, Dr. Brendan Greaney provided an overview and handout of the graduation ceremony with specific details regarding the schedule for the Board.

REVIEW OF NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES VICE CHAIR POSITION

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding the nominees for the Vice Chair position. During the discussion, Ms. Jessica Cunningham voluntarily expressed her interest in the role. Her willingness to serve was acknowledged and appreciated by the Board.

Chair Kirk requested a motion to add a new item to the agenda: the election of the Vice Chair for the Rhodes State College Board of Trustees.

Dr. Wilfred Ellis made a motion to add Resolution 2025-34 (Consideration of Approval to Elect the Rhodes State College Board of Trustees Vice Chair Position) and was seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ELECT THE RHODES STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES VICE CHAIR POSITION

Resolution No. 2025-34

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Board Chair that approval be given to elect the Rhodes State College Board of Trustees *Vice Chair*.

Overview:

The Board of Trustees shall elect a successor in the event of a continuing vacancy in the position of Vice Chair (Policy 2.4 B.4).

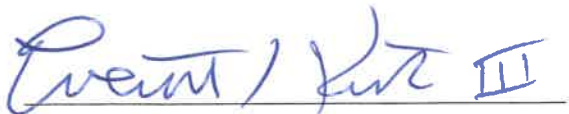
- **Vice Chair** – Trustee Elected, Ms. Jessica Cunningham

Dr. Spiers requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-34 (Consideration of Approval to Elect the Rhodes State College Board of Trustees Vice Chair Position). Mr. Sam Bassitt moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-34, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Wilfred Ellis. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kirk asked for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Dr. Wilfred Ellis moved to adjourn the Board meeting, and was seconded by Mr. Sam Bassitt. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approved Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2025



Mr. Everett "Butch" S. Kirk III
Chair

Randi Hilt, Acting Recording Secretary &
Pamela Mooneyhan, Recording Secretary