



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**JAMES A. RHODES STATE COLLEGE**  
**529th Meeting Minutes**  
**February 18, 2025**

The Rhodes State College (RSC) Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 4:30 pm in the Keese Hall Board Room. Cabinet and Faculty Association President and President-Elect were present in the room, all other guests via Zoom, a virtual platform.

**CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM**

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

Chair Kirk proposed an amendment to the agenda, adding Item #10, Executive Session, to discuss a Confidential Personnel Matter. Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to approve the amendment and Dr. Wilfred Ellis seconded the motion.

Chair Kirk called for a Roll Call vote: Mr. Butch Kirk, Ms. Jane Krites, Ms. Jessica Cunningham, Dr. Wilfred Ellis and Mr. Robert Sielschott were present and voted yes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2025**

Chair Kirk called for a motion to amend the January 28, 2025, meeting minutes to correct the date. Ms. Jane Krites moved to amend the first sentence of the first paragraph, changing the date from December 17, 2024 to January 28, 2025. Dr. Wilfred Ellis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Kirk then called for the approval of the amended minutes. Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to approve the minutes, as amended, and Mr. Robert Sielschott seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITIONS (unaudited) THROUGH JANUARY 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 are up by \$1.8M or 12%. This is attributed to the increase in cash of \$954K and an increase in receivables of \$869K.

#### **B – Total Noncurrent Assets**

Total noncurrent assets are down by \$2.8M or 6% compared to last year. This is due to depreciation and amortization costs and the retirement of certain assets.

#### **C – Total Current Liabilities**

Total current liabilities are down by \$1.4M, or 25%. This is attributed to the change in revenue recognition accounting, which reduces our deferred revenue.

#### **D – Net Noncurrent Liabilities**

Total noncurrent liabilities are down by \$1.0M, or 4%. This decrease is due to the payment of debt obligations, the reduction of our subscription liability, and the reduction of compensated absences.

### ***Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position***

#### **A – Total Operating Revenues**

Total operating revenues are up by approximately \$1.0M, or 12%. Tuition and fee revenue continue to be strong, with a 3% increase over the prior year, while State grant revenue has also increased by \$535K. It is crucial to note that scholarship expenses are down by \$655K, which is an estimate based on expected financial aid usage.

#### **B – Total Operating Expenses**

Total operating expenses are up \$1.2M, or 8%, compared to the prior year. Increased expenses offset our recognition of state grant revenue and increased wage and benefit costs. In addition, our higher enrollment has led to higher adjunct faculty costs.

#### **C – Operating Income (Loss)**

Our operating loss is at \$6.9M, which is around an \$220K increase from the prior year. An operating loss is normal for us, as significant revenue is classified as nonoperating.

#### **D – Nonoperating Revenues**

Nonoperating revenues are up by \$724K or 8%. State appropriations have increased by \$328K and Pell revenue by \$396K year-to-date.

#### **E – Net Increase in Net Position**

Our net increase in net position is at \$2.5M, compared to \$2.0M. Increases in net position are usually high in January because we receive large amounts of revenue at the start of the semester, but expenses are spread out over time. We expect this increase to decline over the semester.

Mr. Derek Adkins provided an update on the unaudited financial condition of Rhodes State College as of January 31, 2025, highlighting an increase in revenues, a stable cash position, and continued monitoring of financial trends to ensure fiscal health.

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT (Informational)**

Dr. Green presented the Board of Trustees with a summary of the January 2025 President’s Report, highlighting updates on national, state, and local collaborations.

Presentation – February 2025 Enrollment report – Mr. Chad Teman, on behalf of Dr. Brendan Greaney, provided a presentation on the spring 2025 and fall 2024 end-of-term enrollment, outlining student headcount trends and areas of growth within the College’s enrollment.

## **FACULTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

Mr. Jacob King, President of the RSCFA, stated that he and Dr. Jacquie Martz, RSCFA President-elect, continue working collaboratively with Dr. Spiers and Dr. Mason-Guffey to effectively address the needs of the Rhodes State faculty.

An Open Forum meeting with faculty was held on February 12, 2025 to gather discussion items for the administration.

Mr. King reported that recently, RSCFA members were able to meet with Sergeant Benroth, the new head of Security for the Campus. The meeting was productive and informative as he was able to share answers to specific questions faculty raised. Mr. King expressed a huge “thank you” to Sergeant Benroth on Main Campus; Chad Cupples at Borra; and the entire Campus Security team for the important work they do so well!

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

### **Resolution No. 2025 – 26**

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

- a. Faculty/Staff appointments – February 18, 2025

#### **Attachments:**

- N/A

Ms. Andrea Goings provided an overview of the personnel actions dated February 18, 2025.

Dr. Green requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-26 (Consideration of Approval of Personnel Actions). Mr. Robert Sielschott moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-26, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Sam Bassitt. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ADOPT NEW POLICY 2.21 OHIO ETHICS**

### **Resolution No. 2025 – 27**

**Resolved**, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Human Resources that approval be given to adopt new Rhodes State College Policy 2.21, Ohio Ethics, to be effective immediately upon approval.

#### **Description:**

Policy 2.21, Ohio Ethics, has been developed in consultation with the Attorney General's office to ensure all employees are aware of the requirement to comply with the Ohio Ethics Law found in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 102 Section 2921.42 and Section 2921.43.

#### **Attachment:**

- Recommended Ohio Ethics Policy 2.21

Ms. Andrea Goings provided an overview of the new Policy 2.21, “Ohio Ethics”.

Dr. Green requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-27 (Consideration of Approval to Adopt New Policy 2.21 Ohio Ethics). Ms. Jane Krites moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-27, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE REVISION OF POLICY 2.22 EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT**

**Resolution No. 2025 – 28**

**Resolved**, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Human Resources, that approval be given for the revision of Rhodes State College Policy 2.22, External Employment, to be effective immediately upon approval.

### **Description:**

External Employment Policy 2.22, last approved by the Board of Trustees on April 16, 1996, has been reviewed and revised in consultation with the Attorney General's office. The revisions include the following significant changes:

- Renumbering to Policy 2.22 to align with the updated chapter structure (previously Policy 5.8);
- Renaming the policy to External Employment to clarify policy content (previously Conflict of Interest Policy);
- Providing definitions;
- Removing grant-specific language; and
- Clarifying that external employment is acceptable provided it does not constitute a conflict of interest under Ohio Ethics Law, interfere with College designated work time, or involve the use of the College's intellectual property without written permission.

### **Attachments:**

- Recommended Revised External Employment Policy 2.22
- Current Board of Trustees Approved Conflict of Interest Policy 5.8

Ms. Andrea Goings provided an overview of the revised Policy 2.22, "External Employment".

Dr. Green requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-28 (Consideration of Approval to Adopt the Revision of Policy 2.22 External Employment). Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-28, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jane Krites. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE REVISION OF POLICY 7.14 STRATEGIC AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS PLANNING (SIEP)**

**Resolution No. 2025 – 29**

**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 7.14, Strategic and Institutional Effectiveness Planning (SIEP), to be effective immediately upon approval.

### **Description:**

Strategic and Institutional Effectiveness Planning (SIEP) Policy 7.14, last approved by the Board of Trustees on March 20, 2018, has been reviewed and revised in consultation with the Attorney General's office. The revisions include the following changes:

- Clarifying language which aligns with the College SIEP process; and
- Updates to definitions

### **Attachments**

- Recommended Revised SIEP Policy 7.14
- Current Board of Trustees SIEP Policy 7.14 – in Track Changes Format

Dr. Nanette Smith provided an overview of the revised Policy 7.14, “Strategic and Institutional Effectiveness Planning (SIEP)”.

Dr. Green requested the Board’s consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-29 (Consideration of Approval to Adopt the Revision of Policy 7.14 Strategic and Institutional Effectiveness Planning (SIEP)). Ms. Jane Krites moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-29, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Sam Bassitt. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Kirk asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Confidential Personnel Matter. Dr. Wilfred Ellis moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham. Chair Kirk asked for a Roll Call vote: Mr. Butch Kirk, Mr. Robert Sielschott, Ms. Jane Krites, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Dr. Wilfred Ellis and Ms. Jessica Cunningham were present and voted yes.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **a. Confidential Personnel Matter**

Discussion occurred with regard to a Confidential Personnel Matter. Following the discussion, Chair Kirk asked for a motion to adjourn from the Executive Session and return to Public Session. Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to adjourn from Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Sam Bassitt. Chair Kirk asked for a Roll Call vote: Ms. Jane Krites, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Mr. Butch Kirk, Mr. Robert Sielschott and Ms. Jessica Cunningham were present and voted yes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kirk asked for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to adjourn the Board meeting, and was seconded by Mr. Robert Sielschott. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approved Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2025



Mr. Everett “Butch” S. Kirk III  
Chair

Randi Hilt, Acting Recording Secretary