



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JAMES A. RHODES STATE COLLEGE
530th Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2025

The Rhodes State College (RSC) Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, March 18, 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 and Dr. Wilfred Ellis. Ms. Jane Krites and Mr. Robert Sielschott were absent.

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

Chair Kirk called for the approval of the minutes from the February 18, 2025, Board Meeting. Dr. Wilfred Ellis moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Sam Bassitt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITIONS (unaudited) THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 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 approximately \$3.5 million, growing from \$12.32 million in the prior year to \$15.86 million this year. The biggest driver of this increase is a significant rise in cash and cash equivalents, which grew by \$1.24 million (12.5%) to \$11.15 million. This improved liquidity is due to higher enrollment.

B – Total Noncurrent Assets

Total noncurrent assets have declined by approximately \$3.85 million, falling from \$49.45 million last year to \$45.64 million this year. The primary driver of this decrease is a \$3.41 million reduction in depreciable capital assets, which dropped from \$45.72 million to \$42.31 million. This change reflects annual depreciation on existing buildings, equipment, and infrastructure outpacing new capital investments. The decline in noncurrent assets is

primarily due to normal depreciation and amortization. Evaluating capital reinvestment strategies will be essential to ensure that infrastructure and long-term assets are maintained and modernized.

C – Total Current Liabilities

Total current liabilities have decreased significantly, dropping from \$5.48 million in the prior year to \$2.65 million this year; a reduction of nearly \$2.83 million (51.7%). The largest driver of this decline is the reduction in deferred revenue, which fell from \$3.75 million to just \$176K. This aligns with the college's adjustment for improper deferred revenue recognition.

D – Net Noncurrent Liabilities

Rhodes State College's total noncurrent liabilities have decreased by \$2.25 million (9.6%), dropping from \$23.15 million in the prior year to \$20.89 million this year. The decline in noncurrent liabilities is a positive indicator of financial stability, driven by debt reduction, decreases in pension liability, and reduction in contractual obligations. Prudently managing long-term debt will be key to maintaining financial strength.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

A – Total Operating Revenues

Total operating revenues have increased significantly, rising from \$7.17 million last year to \$10.60 million this year, a 48% increase. The most substantial contributor to this growth is student tuition and fees, which increased by \$2.65 million (28%), reflecting our higher enrollment. It should also be noted that spring tuition revenue had not been fully recognized at this juncture last year, which also contributes to the size of the increase.

B – Total Operating Expenses

Total operating expenses have also increased from \$18.36 million last year to \$19.58 million, a 20% increase. Approximately \$550K of this increase is due to increases in salaries and wages for instruction, which aligns to our higher enrollment numbers. We have also increased wages and benefits in Student Services as we implement the Title III grant. The Title III grant reimburses us for those expenses.

C – Operating Income (Loss)

Our operating loss has decreased by approximately 20%. This is due to the increase in operating revenues described above.

D – Nonoperating Revenues

Nonoperating revenues have increased from \$9.04 million last year to \$10.63 million this year, reflecting a 17.6% improvement. A large portion of this is the increase in Pell revenue compared to last year. Not all Pell revenue had been recorded at this juncture last year. The increase in State appropriations is positive and expected to continue into next year.

E – Net Increase in Net Position

Our net increase is \$1.65 million positive versus \$2.15 million negative last year. Some of this is due to the various timing differences of when revenue and expenses are recorded, 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 February 28, 2025. He highlighted a notable increase in cash compared to the previous year and reported a growth in overall revenues.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Informational)

Dr. Spiers presented the Board of Trustees with a summary of the February 2025 President's Report, focusing on updates regarding national, state, and local collaborations. She also discussed the State Budget Timeline, highlighting potential changes in federal and state legislation and their possible impact on RSC, as well as the institution's capacity to adapt.

Additionally:

- Dr. Eric Mason-Guffey delivered a presentation on Grants, highlighting RSC's grant financials, grants awarded and the grant management process.
- Mr. Derek Adkins, provided a handout and presentation on the status of the FY2024 Audit, stating that the information is due to the Department of Education by the end of March 2025.

FACULTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Mr. Jacob King, President of the RSCFA, and Dr. Jacquie Martz, RSCFA President-elect, shared that their primary focus has been centered around Senate Bill One. They have actively worked to keep the Faculty informed about Dr. Spiers's Information Sessions, and have raised questions and concerns from the RSCFA regarding the proposed bill.

He gave a special shout-out for the new Student Advocacy Resource Center (A.R.C.) space in the Public Service Building, which held their ribbon cutting on March 18, 2025.

Additionally, Dr. Patricia Hampshire's "**Spring Into Action: Planting Ideas in Behavioral Health**" conference took place on March 14th here at Rhodes.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR A TUITION INCREASE, EFFECTIVE FALL 2025 Resolution No. 2025 – 30

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services, that upon the enactment of House Bill 96 that approval be given to increase tuition by \$5.00 per credit hour, effective Fall Semester 2025.

Overview:

The 136th General Assembly introduced the Main Operating Budget through House Bill 96 for the biennium starting in fiscal year 2026. Section 381.260 of the House Bill 96 states "*For the 2025- 2026 and 2026-2027 academic years, each community college established under Chapter 3354., state community college established under Chapter 3358., or technical college established under Chapter 3357. of the Revised Code may increase its in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees by not more than five dollars per credit hour over what the institution charged for the previous academic year.*"

The requested increase would be effective for the Fall Semester of 2025. The \$5 per credit hour increase would increase our in-state tuition to \$195.00. This tuition increase will generate approximately \$250,000 in additional revenue in academic year 2025-2026.

Attachment:

- History of Tuition Increases

Mr. Derek Adkins provided an overview of the effects of the tuition increase to \$195 per credit hour.

Dr. Spiers requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-30 (Consideration of Approval for a Tuition Increase, Effective Fall 2025). Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-30, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Sam Bassitt. Chair Kirk asked for a Roll Call vote: Mr. Butch Kirk, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Dr. Wilfred Ellis and Ms. Jessica Cunningham were present and voted yes.

SUCCESSOR FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES VICE CHAIR POSITION

Chair Kirk stated that, per the Board of Trustee (BOT) Policy 2.4. B.4. (Vacancies), the Vice Chair position is vacant following Dr. Ann Pohl's resignation. Chair Kirk asked the Board to consider nominees for the position, to be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

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

The Board adjourned to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


- a. Business Matter
- b. Personnel Matter

Discussion occurred with regard to a Business Matter and a 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: Mr. Butch Kirk, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Dr. Wilfred Ellis and Ms. Jessica Cunningham were present and voted yes.

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 Ms. Jessica Cunningham. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approved Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2025



Mr. Everett "Butch" S. Kirk III
Chair

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