



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JAMES A. RHODES STATE COLLEGE
539th Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026

The Rhodes State College (RSC) Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 4:30 pm in the Keese Hall Board Room, Cabinet and Faculty Association President 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 Ms. Jessica Cunningham, Vice Chair. Members present were Ms. Jessica Cunningham, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Mr. Robert Sielschott and Ms. Jill Jacobs. Mr. Butch Kirk and Dr. Wilfred Ellis were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2026

Vice Chair Cunningham called for the approval of the minutes from the January 20, 2026, Board meeting. Mr. Sielschott moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Bassitt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

JANUARY BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

Notes

Revenue Overview

Total cash receipts through January are 13.1 million, representing 61.9 percent of the FY26 budget. This is consistent with the same point last year (61.7 percent) and reflects normal seasonal revenue patterns.

Tuition and fees are at 64.1 percent of budget, slightly ahead of last year's pace. This reflects stable enrollment and expected billing and collection timing. State appropriations are at 61.5 percent of budget and are tracking closely with the prior year, consistent with the State's distribution schedule.

Sales and services of educational activities and other operating income both exceed budgeted percentages year-to-date. These variances are timing-related and reflect conservative budgeting assumptions rather than sustained overperformance. Investment income is at 56.8 percent of budget and generally consistent with expectations given market conditions and the timing of earnings recognition.

Gifts from the Foundation have not yet been recognized year-to-date, which is consistent with prior-year timing and does not raise concern at this point in the fiscal year.

Expense Overview

Total cash outlays are 11.6 million, or 55.1 percent of the FY26 budget. Overall spending is running below revenue realization, resulting in a positive net cash position year-to-date.

Wages and benefits are at 59.0 percent and 60.8 percent of budget, respectively, and remain aligned with historical patterns for this point in the year. Travel expenditures remain low at 29.9 percent of budget, reflecting continued restraint and the timing of planned travel later in the fiscal year.

Equipment and supplies show a higher percentage of budget utilization (71.0 percent), largely due to upfront purchases made earlier in the year. Maintenance spending is moderately elevated but remains within expected parameters.

Miscellaneous expenses are at 54.8 percent of budget and are significantly improved compared to the prior year, when expenditures exceeded budget due to expense classification issues rather than true overspending. Improvements in coding and internal controls have helped normalize this category.

Net cash position

The College reports a net cash gain of approximately \$1.4 million in the operating accounts through January, compared to a budgeted break-even position. The report does not include approximately \$500,000 in grant spend down for a net cash increase of approximately \$900,000 since the start of the fiscal year. At the same point last year, the College reported a net cash loss. The positive variance reflects stable revenues, disciplined spending, and improved expense classification and monitoring.

Overall assessment

At the mid-point of the fiscal year, the College's financial position remains stable. Revenues and expenditures are tracking in line with expectations, and no material concerns are evident at this time. Continued monitoring will focus on expense timing, one-time revenue variances, and maintaining budget discipline through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mr. Adkins presented the January Budget-to-Actual Report and noted that the College's overall financial position remains stable, with no material concerns at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Informational)

Dr. Spiers presented the January 2026 President's Report, highlighting the American Association of Community Colleges' (AACC) release of its FY2026 federal legislative priorities, the launch of the new state initiative WorkOhio, and the formation of the RSC Student Government Executive Committee.

The February 2026 Enrollment Report was presented by Dr. Brendan Greaney, and the Rhodes State College Report Card was presented by Dr. Nanette Smith and Ms. Lindsey Balliet.

FACULTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The Faculty Association, led by Dr. Jacquie Martz, RSCFA President and Ms. Traci Bitler, RSCFA President-Elect, hosted a faculty open forum to share updates and gather feedback on topics discussed during the recent meeting with administration. Topics included ADA course compliance timelines, personal days, Spring Break 2027, graduation preferences, and preparation time between fall and spring semesters.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Resolution No. 2026 – 30

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

- Faculty/Staff Appointments – February 17, 2026

Vice Chair Cunningham requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-30 (Consideration of Approval of Personnel Actions). Ms. Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-30, and seconded by Mr. Bassitt. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES OVER \$50,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FOR THE KEESE HALL BOARD ROOM
Resolution No. 2026 – 31

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, with the concurrence of the Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services, that approval be given for the College to spend up to \$62,000 to purchase furniture from Innovative Office Solutions.

Vendor:	Innovative Office Solutions, Inc.
Amount:	\$62,000
Source of Funds:	Operating Funds

Overview:

The College wishes to continue to upgrade the spaces in Keese Hall. These upgrades have included the removal of wallpaper, new carpet, and replacement of overhead lights. The next step will be to purchase a new board room conference table and chairs, with the existing tables and chairs being moved to Keese Hall 120. This will increase the utilization of unused space in Keese Hall and provide an overdue upgrade to the Board Room.

Attachment:

- Proposal from Innovative Office Solutions, Inc.

Mr. Adkins provided an overview of the proposed furniture purchase for the Keese Hall Board Room.

Vice Chair Cunningham requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-31 (Consideration of Approval for Purchases over \$50,000 for the Purchase of Furniture for the Keese Hall Board Room). Ms. Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-31, and seconded by Mr. Bassitt.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR A TUITION INCREASE, EFFECTIVE SUMMER 2026
Resolution No. 2026 – 32

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 Summer Semester 2026.

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 Summer Semester of 2026. The \$5 per credit hour increase would increase our in-state tuition to \$200.00. This tuition increase will generate approximately \$168,000 in additional revenue in academic year 2025-2026. The increase would not affect College Credit Plus tuition rates.

Attachment:

- 10-Year History of Tuition Increases

Mr. Adkins provided an overview of the history of RSC's tuition rate changes.

Vice Chair Cunningham requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-32 (Consideration of Approval for A Tuition Increase, Effective Summer 2026). Ms. Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-32, and seconded by Mr. Sielschott.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Cunningham called for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Ms. Jacobs moved to adjourn the Board meeting, and was seconded by Mr. Sielschott. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approved Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2026



Mr. Everett "Butch" S. Kirk III
Chair

Pamela Mooneyhan, Recording Secretary