

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

**DECEMBER 9, 2024**

**BOB EVANS FARMS HALL, RM 216**

**5:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER- Mr. Davenport, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair - present  
Mr. Joshua Smith, Vice Chair - present  
Mr. Troy Howdysshell - present  
Ms. Mary Lynne Jones - absent  
Mr. Paul Reed - present  
Ms. Kat Rinehart - present  
Ms. Taylor Rose - present  
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. Jeremy Heffernan, RGCC Staff Accountant; Ms. Elizabeth Bynum, Fiscal Services Specialist.

Other Attendees present: Mr. Rory Callahan, Principal Assistant Attorney General, Education Section.

**III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28TH MEETING MINUTES (PP. 2-12)**

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

**IV. ANNUAL OHIO ETHICS LAW PRESENTATION – MR. RORY CALLAHAN**

**Mr. Rory Callahan conducted an Ethics Law Training by means of a PowerPoint presentation.**

**V. CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

Mr. Davenport shared how his trivia question this time was not about Rio. He described how on this day in history on December 9, 1965 something happened for the first time that he felt was very significant. Mr. Reed gave the correct answer of Charlie Brown Christmas aired on TV for the first time.

**VI. AUDIT REPORT (PP. 13-60)**

Ms. Ruby expressed how the auditors did a very good job at covering every possible scenario that could occur in the management's responsibility letter. It was a good audit report with no issues found and an unmodified opinion. She shared how overall it went well, but we do still have the same comment that we get year after year. She didn't feel we would be able to get away from it due to the nature of the ratio and how the University is still on probation with the Department of Education. We don't have our own financial aid, so it is always a risk that is outside of our control. We are in a better financial position than in the previous year.

The increase in enrollment has helped with SSI, but SSI is non-operational funding. That is why it looks like we are in the hole for operations, but once the non-operational funds are added it puts us in the black. She explained how last year when we thought we would be in the red, we ended in the black due to some grant funds that came in and were not expended prior to June 30. She continued with how we are on track with current year budget as approved so far this year. Our projects are just taking longer than expected, but this is a problem at other schools as well, confirmed in the 2-year construction forum we attended today.

Mr. Reed referred to page 24, where it explained how state appropriation amounts are based on completion rate. Mr. Reed inquired if the SSI breakdown is presented to the Board. Ms. Ruby shared how this specific breakdown is not given, but that information can be provided. Mr. Reed inquired if we are getting the maximum reimbursement. Ms. Ruby explained how the dollars are split between all 23 community colleges. The SSI amount we receive depends on what we have in comparison to all the others community colleges. She continued with how there are areas we are working diligently on to improve our enrollment and achieve more completion. She shared how they have presented to faculty about the importance of the completion rates and the need for more awarding of earned 2-year degrees in order to increase our funding.

Mr. Reed inquired if we should celebrate the enrollment increases, if we don't get the completion rates. Ms. Ruby explained how we only lost \$7,000 dollars due to completion this time, but we have lost as much as \$300,000 in times past. She noted how we have increased in our SSI each year in the last 3 years. She explained how in comparison to other schools the only area where we are really lacking is the 30-hour certificates, but we are working to add more 30-hour certificates to our curriculum.

President Smith shared how at the University Board meeting last week Rio added a 36-hour General Education certificate. Middle Childhood and Early Childhood Associates degrees are also being added. He shared how it is good for us to improve our completion rate with 2-year degrees and certificates. He explained how our focus at Rio has been on 4-year degree completion, and we haven't issued as many 2-year degrees as other schools. He explained how we are working on adding more 2 Plus 2 degree programs. He expressed how we will grow through enrollment and through efficiency of what we do here. Ms. Ruby added how we only have 35% of Bachelor degree students that get the Associate degrees awarded.

Mr. Reed inquired about how there wouldn't be a year to year comparison in this audit report due to this being the first year with the new auditors. Ms. Ruby shared the only place where it compares year to year is in the note section. This is the State financial reports and audit in the template that they request. She explained how she has been approved to close out the past year now and could get a year over year comparison if he would like in the format that we report to the board quarterly.

**Mr. Howdyshell made a motion to accept the audit report. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**VII. CONSTRUCTION UPDATES (PP. 61-63)**

Ms. Long explained how Mr. Sutton, Ms. Ruby, and herself attended the Construction Forum in Columbus earlier that day to share about their construction experiences from the past year. She expressed how it was a good presentation and they had a lot of good takeaways from the meeting. Then she pointed to her construction updates included in the agenda packet and went over the highlights.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **PRESIDENT SMITH'S CAMPUS CHRISTMAS DINNER**
  - **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 5PM-7PM**
    - **DAVIS UNIVERSITY CENTER CAFETERIA**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION - DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL LEGAL ACTION**

A motion was made at 6:04pm by Ms. Rose to enter into executive session to discuss potential legal action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed. President Smith, Ms. Long, Ms. Ruby, and Mr. Callahan were invited to join the trustees in executive session.

**Executive Session Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Mr. Mick Davenport</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Joshua Smith</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Troy Howdyshell</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Mr. Paul Reed	Yes
Ms. Kat Rinehart	Yes
Ms. Taylor Rose	Yes
Mr. Christian Scott	Yes
Mr. Jeff Simmons	Yes

**APPROVED**

**Executive Session ended at 6:19pm.**

Mr. Davenport opened the floor for any other questions or concerns.

A discussion about a portion of the Meigs Center property was brought up. There is a car dealership next to the Meigs Center. The owner of the dealership has poured concrete and built a small building on it. The owner believed he owned the property, but when he tried to add electric the electric company confirmed that the property was owned by the Community College. We don't have a good use for the property and the local school has the first right of refusal if we try to sell that portion. It was suggested that maybe the students could benefit from this in the form of a scholarship for use of the land. It was mentioned that a lease for that portion could help to reduce liability. The discussion presented multiple options, with multiple questions of what was allowable and what would be the best possible route to take going forward.

Mr. Callahan shared that he would need to look into options to know what was possible with this situation.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed made a motion and Ms. Rose seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously.

  
Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair

  
Ms. Cherokee Ruby, Chief Financial Officer