

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

March 15, 2021

**DAVIS UNIVERSITY CENTER BOARD ROOM
OR VIA ZOOM
5:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Reed, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:19pm.

II. ROLL CALL

**Mr. Paul Reed, Chair - present
Ms. Taylor Rose, Vice Chair - present
Mr. Andrew Adelman - present
Mr. Mick Davenport - present
Mr. Troy Howdyshell – present via Zoom
Ms. Mary Lynne Jones - present
Ms. Sarah Munn - present
Mr. Christian Scott – present via Zoom
Mr. Joshua Smith – present**

Mr. Ryan Smith, President of the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College was present.

Staff present included: Dr. Richard Sax, Provost; Ms. Rebecca Long, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Cherokee Ruby, RGCC Treasurer; Ms. Amanda Ehman, Director of Community Partnerships & Admissions Operations; Ben Forche, Dean of Student Success; Ms. Renee DeLawder, Director of Marketing; Ms. Elizabeth Bynum, Fiscal Services Specialist.

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

III. ETHICS TRAINING – MR. RORY CALLAHAN

Mr. Reed introduced Mr. Rory Callahan, the attorney appointed to Rio Grande Community College by the Attorney General.

Mr. Callahan explained how he would be conducting an Ethics Law training, it is an executive order from the Governor's Office for anyone in

a public office to receive the training.

Mr. Callahan conducted the required Ohio Ethics Laws Training by means of a PowerPoint presentation.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8TH MEETING MINUTES (PP. 2-12)

Mr. Reed stepped out of the room briefly to take care of an immediate matter that came up. Ms. Rose, Vice Chair continued with the meeting.

Mr. Davenport made a motion to approve the February 8th meeting minutes. Mr. Howdysshell seconded the motion. Ms. Rose called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

V. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Mr. Reed requested the recent news interviews to be shown of President Smith and Ms. Long on WSAZ. He expressed how this is an exciting time at Rio and how so much has happened in the last couple of years. He further indicated that it is important as trustees to have their eyes and ears open to the community in order to gain perspective about what the changing needs are. Mr. Reed described how he met a doctor and a veterinarian, who explained how when they earned their degrees, their training did not include how to run a business. They were thrown into a professional environment without that knowledge when they opened their own practices. Mr. Reed explained how this is one example of where there could be an unmet need to build on or develop programs. He questioned what it requires to develop programs at Rio.

Dr. Sax explained how the program request is sent to the Curriculum Committee for review first. Then it goes to the Academic Policy Committee and finally to Faculty Assembly for approval. He further indicated that if we are able to rewrite the curriculum for a program and less than 50% has to be changed, then we don't have to go to the State for approval. This process has been done recently with a few programs from current curriculums that required few changes.

Dr. Sax explained how when a needs assessment is conducted it doesn't always involve the people that would benefit from it. Generally speaking we could get a new curriculum for a new program in six weeks, but due to the ratio score we have not been eligible for final approval in recent years.

President Smith explained how the ratio score is used to gage whether a school is in trouble. He indicated that the University side has dealt with some financial issues that caused a bad score. Approval for new programs is typically based on this score. President Smith expressed how the score is improving and that improvement will show on this year's completed audit, it is just a matter of time,

now that the pension debt is gone and has been refinanced. He believes it is now time to start the discussions on new programs since we are doing much better than we were. He believes the State will work with us seeing the improvements that have been made.

Mr. Reed opened the floor to the other trustees to share or interject thoughts. No further discussion emerged.

VI. JACKSON CENTER EASEMENT (PP. 13-15)

President Smith referred to the agenda on pages 14 and 15 and explained how the Jackson County CIC owns the property adjacent to the Jackson Center. They would like to put in a restaurant on the vacant land. Originally it was requested to grant them easement to the road owned by Rio. Then it was proposed to give the road to the city. The city will clear the snow and maintain the upkeep on the road. President Smith indicated that he didn't see anything negative with the proposal and explained how we want to be good neighbors. He wanted to bring it to the Board to make sure they were also in favor of this proposal. He also clarified that the request to the city doesn't mean the city will accept the proposal.

Ms. Rose made a motion to approve the proposal to give the access road to the City of Jackson. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Reed called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. RGCC TREASURER UPDATE

- **AMENDMENT TO 6.02 C. TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**
- **APPROVAL OF EFFECTIVE DATE 7/1/21**

Ms. Ruby explained how at the February meeting the travel policy amendment was presented for approval, but the effective date was not included. For clarity she would like to present that the amendment to the travel policy will take effect on July 1, 2021, the start of the new fiscal year, not from the date of the last meeting.

Ms. Jones questioned the rate that was approved at the last meeting. Ms. Ruby explained the reasoning behind the switch in regards to budgeting and overall cost. It will make things simpler and would give us more control as opposed to letting the IRS set our rate for us, because they change it every year.

Mr. Josh Smith made a motion to approve the effective date of 7/1/21 for the travel expense reimbursement policy amendment. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. Mr. Reed called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Ruby highlighted aspects of the financial report, including that the payable from the University is currently \$2.6 million. There is a plan in place to have it under \$500,000 by the end of the fiscal year. The Community College payable to the University is currently \$540,000 and on track to be less than \$300,000 at year end which has been the practice and target in years past.

Ms. Ruby gave an update on the RUS Grant and explained how the equipment being used in the room was purchased with those funds. It is notable how much clearer the sound is for those joining remotely. She further explained how we should have close to \$200,000 coming back to us in grant reimbursements as the funds have already been requested.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- **ACTION MATRIX (PP. 16-17)**

Ms. Long explained that the Ethics Laws training will come off of the list.

Mr. Davenport inquired of the insurance. It was discussed how there wasn't an update yet, but they will follow up with Mr. Gary Roach.

President Smith gave an update on the McArthur Center. He explained how he has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Brooks the superintendent of Vinton County Local Schools this Friday and a meeting with Jobs Ohio scheduled for Monday. He further explained how the vision is to build a building that will function for our students, as well as a space for community partners, and have the K-12 next door. There is a possibility for a health care partner and that is where the Commissioners will be involved. He expressed how there is a lot of potential in McArthur and Terri Fetherolf will help us go through the USDA if necessary or beneficial. His hope is to come at the project from a lot of different angles. It will mean a lot to Vinton County and will make a big difference, impacting the community as a whole.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS (PP. 18-28)

- **Site Visits**

Ms. Long explained how there is an upcoming site visit for the Meigs and McArthur Centers this year in April. We are on an 8-year cycle and our HLC visitor this year is from Morgantown, West Virginia.

- **Student Success Coaches**

Ms. Long asked Mr. Forche to give a brief update on the Student Success Coaches. Mr. Forche explained how they have given three offers and all three offers have been accepted. He indicated it was a unique interview

process in the way there was substantial student involvement. They presented their stories and it helped the students to think about their lives and bring about a different perspective. Mr. Forche indicated they will start the big switch over to Success Coaches in April. After a full month of training, graduation will mark the transition of practices for student advising to coaching.

Ms. Long expressed how exciting it is to see this come to pass, because we have been talking about it for years. She further expressed how this will be a game changer for our students. Ms. Long gave appreciation to Mr. Forche for his hard work and she is very excited for what this will do for campus.

President Smith added how the combination of the Appreciative Advising and the Tuition Affordability plans will really help students. Especially those students who thought they may have to transfer, now they won't.

- **Power Grant**

Ms. Long gave a brief update on the Power Grant. She explained how we are continuing to move forward, just on a smaller scale compared to last year. Ms. Morgan Saunders has been working hard on this grant. Holzer will be our main partner, but we will also be partnering with Ohio Means Jobs, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, the Meigs CIC, and others.

- **RUS Equipment Pilot**

Ms. Ehman briefly described how the equipment that was being used in the room will be used as classroom equipment. She explained how it will really make a difference in course availability across sites. There are two carts at each Center and three on main campus that will allow for a professor to teach students simultaneously on all campuses from one location. We are piloting this in the summer with our CDA course that will be taught from McArthur but offered on all campuses.

- **Marketing Update**

President Smith expressed his excitement with Marketing and wanted Ms. DeLawder to share about an upcoming event. Ms. DeLawder explained the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk is coming up and how they plan to put out a record number of 7,500 luminaries. She hopes to invite various community groups to participate; student groups, businesses, rotaries, etc. The charge will be \$1 for each luminary. This has gone national with the National Suicide Prevention donating 900 luminaries already for this event. It is a great event that has grown every year and supporting a great cause.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No motions were made for an Executive Session at this meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Jones made a motion and Ms. Munn seconded the motion to adjourn at 6:39p.m. Mr. Reed called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.



Mr. Paul Reed, Chair



Ms. Cherokee Ruby, Treasurer