



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

Pocahontas Campus

May 15th, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Members present: Carolyn Collins, Bob Olvey, David Coker, Danny Moore, Sue McGowan, Jeremy Baltz, Stephanie Sutton, & Dr. Martin Eggensperger. Cabinet members present: Dr. Brad Baine, Rhonda Stone, Jason Smith, Dr. Karen Liebhaber, Julie Edington, and Priscilla Stillwell. Others present: Emily Owens was present to record minutes.

Carolyn Collins, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm, welcoming all in attendance.

Approval of the September 05, 2024 Minutes

David Coker made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19th, 2024 meeting; seconded by Stephanie Sutton. Motion carried.

President's Report – Dr. Martin Eggensperger

President Dr. Eggensperger voiced his excitement of the development and initiatives at Black River Technical College. He noted that the college is currently working on the Accreditation and Assessments. Dr. Eggensperger noted that as BRTC is wrapping up its final year in the current 5- year strategic plan, they are preparing for the next 5-year strategic plan. As mentioned, this includes a reviewing process of BRTC's mission, vision, and values. President Dr. Eggensperger voiced his excitement of the milestones reached with the DOL Grant to help underrepresented populations enter our healthcare programs, and the Department of Education "Workforce Effectiveness Skills". Dr. Eggensperger noted how well Student Engagement has done with recent events such as the Beach Bash and Arc at the Armory. Dr. Eggensperger gave updates on the Facility projects underway. He mentioned that the welding lab has been completed. He also mentioned that both the Black Hawk Walking Trail and LETA barracks construction are well underway,

Dr. Brad Baine –Vice President of Academic Affairs

Vice President Dr. Baine welcomed new hire Candy Taylor for the DOL Grant Director position. He shared his appreciation for those who assisted and attended the retirement reception for Butch Dail and also Donna Statler, both with 38 years of service dedicated to BRTC. Dr. Baine referred to the table provided to the board and opened the floor for questions, which were none. He proudly announced that there will be 115 non duplicated credentials given to graduates with at least 97 to 115 graduates expected to walk for graduation.

Rhonda Stone –Vice President of Finance & Administration

Vice President Stone provided an update on the Budget to Actuals that the State appropriations are on track. She mentioned that salaries and expenditures are tracking well and are running ahead of the previous year. She also advised that the Auxiliary book sales are currently down, however she said her department is searching for ways to increase sales. She noted that maintenance is working on multiple projects. She proudly announced along with the President's summary that the welding lab has been completed. She mentioned despite the cold and wet

weather the LETA barracks are on track as well. She also mentioned a change order was executed and will decrease the barracks construction amount by nearly \$165,000. Vice President Stone updated that there are still some renovation projects underway.

Jason Smith –Vice President of Student Affairs

Vice President Smith announced that the Admissions Team has wrapped up the Mobile Registration for area highschools. He also announced that Student Affairs has assembled a team to attend ASUMH Summer Conference 2025 to participate with a sister institution they work closely with. He gave an update on the SGA Legacy Project “Phase 1” has been completed with the sun sails on Paragould Campus. He mentioned the Regional Job Fair & Career Expo which held 36 Employers. He added that this summer they are working to be compliant to all State requirements, audits, and updates required with the latest legislative session.

Dr. Karen Liebhaber – Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Vice President Dr. Liebhaber announced multiple event dates already planned; The Golf Tournament will be held on October 3rd. She proudly announced that October 21st and 22nd will be the Annual Holocaust survivors series held as usual, but announced there will be a survivor to attend and speak in person. She also announced that the Black History month event is scheduled. She also announced she and her team attended a training at Ozarka College which was beneficial to the newest hires to see what else other colleges do. She announced the Foundation received an endowed scholarship.

Julie Edington – Executive Director of Human Resources

Director Edington gave an update on the most recent hires and positions advertised. She announced she has completed the annual performance evaluations and revised job descriptions for all employees. She also announced that the Milestone awards will be presented on May 16th at the end of year wrap up. She invited all to attend.

Priscilla Stillwell – Executive Director of Workforce Training

Executive Director of Workforce Training Priscilla Stillwell announced they have worked to add 45 new courses to the Workforce Challenge Scholarship list. She noted they are working to include every course on Canvas for all credit and noncredit. She noted that they have been adding the workforce training department to Colleague. She shared her appreciation to Vice President Stone and her team along with others on all assistance they provided on this process.

Sissy Gray – Director of Institutional & Strategic Projects

Director Sissy Gray announced she has moved to part-time. She announced she has begun working on the multi-year Strategic Plan. She noted that the workforce initiatives are on schedule. She also announced improvements have been made in Student-Faculty Communications.

Action Items

1) 2025-2026 Course Catalog

Dr. Brad Baine presented information. Stephanie Sutton read the resolution and made a motion to approve; seconded by Danny Moore. Motion carried.

2) Proposed FY 2025-2026 Operating Budget

Rhonda Stone presented information. Danny Moore read the resolution and made a motion to approve; seconded by Sue McGowan. Motion carried.

3) 2025-2026 Student Handbook

Jason Smith presented information. Sue McGowan read the resolution and made a motion to approve; seconded by Bob Olvey. Motion carried.

4) Policies and Procedures

Julie Edington presented information. Bob Olvey read the resolution and made a motion to approve; seconded by Jeremy Baltz. Motion carried.

New Business

No new business to be discussed.

Executive Session

Jeremy Baltz made a motion that the board go into executive session. David Coker seconded. Motion carried.

Return to Regular Session

David Coker made a motion that the board return to regular session. Stephanie Sutton seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items

5) 2025-2026 Employment of Personnel

Dr. Brad Baine presented information. Stephanie Sutton read the resolution and made a motion to approve; seconded by Danny Moore. Motion carried.

6) 2025-2026 Provisional Positions

Rhonda Stone presented information. Danny Moore read the resolution and made a motion to approve; seconded by Sue McGowen. Motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business, Sue McGowen made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Bob Olvey. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees Meeting

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Robert G. Olvey, Secretary

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Meeting Dates: September 04, 2025 (Paragould); December 18, 2025 (Pocahontas) February 12th, 2026 (Paragould), and May 14th, 2026 (Pocahontas)