



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

Pocahontas Campus

December 18th, 2025

4:00pm

Members present: Carolyn Collins, Bob Olvey, David Coker, Danny Moore, Sue McGowan, 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: Dean Jason Linam, Instructor Jessica Aphin and Emily Owens was present to record minutes.

Carolyn Collins, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, welcoming all in attendance.

Approval of the September Minutes

David Coker made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 4th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Bob Olvey. Motion carried.

President's Report – Dr. Martin Eggensperger

Dr. Eggensperger welcomed guests. He thanked all who helped and attended the Tate grand opening. He announced they upped their goal to 200 hires and are close to reaching that mark. Dr. Eggensperger mentioned he was invited to meet with WBU with a partnership opportunity. He also mentioned that David Coker and Stephanie Sutton joined him for a Board of Trustees Conference in Little Rock. Dr. Eggensperger expressed pride in the LPN program's NCLEX pass rates. He mentioned the process for the strategic planning and the five year plan has begun. He confirmed that the Barracks are nearing close to completion. He announced that he is planning to attend the Shotshow Partnership with NRA. He announced that the BRTC Leadership group was in attendance and introduced those who were in attendance to the Board: Bridgette Branson, Brittney Milligan, Jody Callahan, and Dr. Zachary Singleton.

Dr. Brad Baine –Vice President of Academic Affairs

Rhonda Stone –Vice President of Finance & Administration

At year-end 2024, the appropriation from the State of Arkansas for the funding on the Barracks was recognized as a liability because it had not yet been obligated, and thus not yet eligible to be recognized as revenue. This balance makes up 85% of the increase in the Total Net Position for FY25. Construction in Progress for various projects around campus. The increase in Total Operating Revenue reflects increases in state and federal operating grants as well as increased workforce training revenue for FY25. During FY25, we paid \$3,689,316 on assets under construction, but we also received payments on previous year end receivables for the workforce challenge scholarship. Overall, Cash & Cash Equivalents only decreased \$403,920. Our revenue and expenditures are tracking closely to the same quarter last fall. Our enrollment mix has changed a bit, but there hasn't been a

significant change. Grill operations continue to improve, and the plan is to modestly increase prices again in January. We have been short a part-time employee in the Grill, but recently hired a replacement. The Grill and Coffee Shop employees are cross-trained and can work in either location. Sales in the bookstore continue to decline. Bev and Julie are working together to complete some trend analysis and an evaluation of the cost of goods sold/inventory valuation. With both of our bookstore employees considering retirement in the Next year or so, we are looking at options available. While the average balance owed per student increased from \$590.90 in FY24 to \$833.55 in FY25, the total number of students owing a balance decreased by 17%. Dr. Martin Eggensperger referred to the Student Accounts Receivable graph to clarify that the collection amounts are down, but that is what is owed from the State and not from students. Since our last board meeting,, we hired John Lloyd as the Computer Support Tech also hired Eric Vickrey to be our part-time Grant Writer and Coordinator. We are also using Jonathan Redman, a full-time LETA instructor, as part-time help with Campus Police. We do have interest in the full-time officer opening in Paragould and will hopefully fill that position soon. We currently have seven active construction and renovation projects underway. Our internal maintenance and IT teams have been working very hard to complete aspects of the renovations for the Cobot welding lab, the Adult Ed space on Pruett Street, and the DOL grant renovations for the Education Building. Shannon Jacobson has submitted a vulnerability report for your review. We partner with CISA for external scans and as you can see in the report, we have no high or critical vulnerabilities. received an inquiry for additional information on the DRA Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) grant application for CDL driving/testing ranges submitted in August. That is a positive sign! The next awards are supposed to be announced on December 15, 2025.

Jason Smith –Vice President of Student Affairs

Jason Smith reported that Spring enrollment was up 15% compared to last spring. He announced working with Tate placing top student Alaric Coleman for internship as very first intern with Tate. Audits completed this semester title 6 audit triggered by walking trail project. Title 9 audit and passed all audits. Trap and Skeet club placed 2nd in Clay power hit conference. Lastly mentions, well underway for renovations for Bridge, simulators, kiosk, and equipment.

Dr. Karen Liebhaber – Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Dr. Liebhaber mentioned attending Legislation meetings. Board Appreciation event. on January 27th. Donor App. March 14th in place of Gala event. Created 5 year analysis for the foundation and announces under budget. Hired website company to rewrite website to make it ADA compliant. Getting professional photos of facilities and programs also portrait photos for board members. Finishing campus exterior signage. Thanksgiving Fundraiser raised \$3,857.20 and provided 35 students with a holiday meal. Announces and congratulates Dr. Eggensperger for winning the executive of the year!

Julie Edington – Executive Director of Human Resources

Filling positions, Eric Vikrey, John Lloyd, Kelly Colbert, and Melanie Jones. Advertising positions for Campus Police, Weldings Instructor LPN to RN Coordinator, and Part time custodial Assistant for Paragould campus. Julie and Rhonda have been meeting with a third party company called Plan Guide to offer more benefits for employees without charging the college. Rhonda signed agreement with Plan Guide.

Priscilla Stillwell – Executive Director of Workforce Training

Pell Grant for credit bearing programs, recent legislation has expanded need-based aid to programs with 15-599 clock hours and between 8 and 15 weeks. She has attended meetings in regards to Workforce pell, but there are a lot of guidelines that still have not been made and are not expected as of July 1st. Working with ACC to help assist with this, and this initiative works with clockhours instead of course hours. We are identifying all courses that are currently in our WT Catalog that match the industry sectors. In addition, with the Workforce Challenge we are attending every meeting provided to find out how the scholarship rules will change when the new sectors are put in place. was contacted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and told the BRTC CDL

training program would be audited within the week. Coordinator Jody Callahan met with the auditor on December 10, 2025 and the program was found to be in 100% compliance. Board member Bob Olvey asked about the method of BRTC being selected for this audit, and Chair Carolyn Collins announced that it was every CDL Program in the U.S. was being flagged for audits. We are glad to announce that Leigh Ann Gibson has joined the WT team.

Strategic Planning – Presented by Dr. Brad Baine, Julie Edington, and Instructor Travis Harris

Dr. Brad Baine refers to the Assessment report and the multi-page strategic plan and requested acknowledgement from the board. Dr. Eggenesperger proudly points the Board's attention to the Composite Financial Indicator Score referred to on the Assessment Progress Report page. Chair Collins also commented how impressed she was by the Incentive Funding shows BRTC and one other institution on the 2 year colleges section. Dr. Baine expanded that BRTC had a 26% increase in credentials. Julie mentioned that Sissy Gray worked with her and her assistant, Cami Alexander, with Institutional Survey and have received great feedback. Faculty Member Travis Harris mentions that the Annual Planning for the FY27 is currently on hold, with focus remaining on building the five year strategic plan. Dr. Eggenesperger and Brad Baine commends Travis Harris and all who have been involved in the strategic plan.

Action Items

1) 2026-2027 Student Handbook

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

2) Revision/Updates to Policy & Procedure Manual

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

New Business

No new business to be discussed.

Executive Session

Danny Moore made a motion that the board go into executive session. Sue McGowan seconded. Motion carried.

Return to Regular Session

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

Adjournment

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Olvey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert G. Olvey, Secretary

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