

**Ozarka College**  
**Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 21-Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**DoubleTree Hot Springs – Degray Room**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Ozarka College Board of Trustees met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, at DoubleTree Hot Springs – Degray Room in Hot Springs, AR.

Present: Chair – Fred Holzhauser, Vice Chair – Robert Wright, Secretary – Mike Watson, Trustee Ben Cooper, Trustee Ryan Howard, Trustee Pam Setser, Trustee Gayle Cooper, Dr. Josh Wilson, Dr. Chris Lorch, Marcus Orf, Scott Pinkston, Amber Rush, Zeda Wilkerson, and Valerie Long

Chair Holzhauser called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Trustee Howard led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting was made by Trustee Watson and seconded by Trustee Setser. The motion passed unanimously.

**Area Reports**

**Academic Affairs**

Dr. Chris Lorch, Provost

- Strong enrollment in summer events
  - Kids College
    - Melbourne – June 2-5
    - Mountain View – July 7-10
  - Culinary Camp at Melbourne next week
- Finishing up preliminary enrollment for high schools.
  - School districts have their own preference for registration which makes it difficult to estimate concurrent numbers until August.
    - Highland and Salem prefer spring enrollment.
    - Melbourne prefers fall.
    - Mountain View prefers summer
  - Dr. Lorch prefers earlier registration especially for tech classes, such as CNA, welding and skilled trades to ensure that sufficient space and resources can be properly allocated.
- Working with campus directors on enrollment strategies for summer.
- HLC Assurance Argument
  - Teams have completed their work.

- Dr. Lorch and Kim Wilson will finalize before presenting to Administrative Council.
- Must be submitted by July 15, 2025.

## **Finance**

Amber Rush, Vice President

- The onsite portion of the audit has concluded.
  - It is still under review at this time.
  - There may be one minor error due to misclassification of some accounts receivable.
- The finance office will be working on end-of-year reporting and closing out the fiscal year from now until around September.
- Exploring options for extending the fitness center's hours of operation.

## **Student Services**

Zeda Wilkerson, Vice President

- Zeda provided a handout showing a comparison of enrollment from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024 and Fall 2024 to Spring 2025.
- More students are maintaining federal aid eligibility due to less students not making academic progress.
- For 2024-25, we have received over \$1.2 million in AR Future grant, with more expected for summer.
- Zeda commended the student services staff for their hard work; specifically, Tiffney Miller, for learning quickly and doing a great job as the registrar.
- We are on track to have more credentials completed this year than in the last several years.
- Grant programs update
  - Career Pathways
    - A handout showed how funds are being allocated to students.
    - Met or exceeded all objectives for this year.
  - TRIO
    - Awaiting word on state approval for the next cycle, as well as federal funding legislation.
    - Used funds this year to replace equipment in the student support tutoring lab.
  - Career Coach
    - Melbourne, Mountain View, and ICC renewed for 2024-25 and the state has approved the request for next year.
  - Perkins
    - Has purchased a lot of equipment for different programs this year.
    - Will continue to host workshops for students next year, including those enrolled in Pathways Academy.
- Continuing to work on summer and fall enrollment.

## **Advancement and Workforce Development**

Marcus Orf, Vice President

- Foundation update
  - Gala
    - There were over 280 people in attendance.
    - We made a record-breaking \$77,000 profit.
  - Foundation Board retreat went well.
    - Topics of discussion were an update on investments, campus projects, and scholarships.
  - Fall events
    - Golf Tournament – tentatively set for Thursday, September 25
    - Casino Night – tentatively set for Saturday, November 1
    - Fall Concert – TBD
    - Scholarship Reception – Tuesday, September 23
    - Holiday Event – Friday, December 5
- HIRED Grant
  - We have hired a Director of Workforce Development and her first year's salary will be paid with this grant.
  - Farco was awarded the contract for renovation and addition to the physical plant for the skilled trades program.
    - Pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next week.
    - Work is tentatively scheduled to start on June 1.
  - Classes will begin in August for construction and plumbing in the current facility.
    - About 1/3 of the needed equipment has already been purchased and received.
- Industry Partnerships
  - Industrial Signing Day with Bad Boy
    - They hired six high school students from Melbourne and Mountain View.
    - They will start prior to June 1.
  - Emerson hired some students from Ash Flat.
  - Majority of adult students from Mountain View skilled trades program have already been hired.
    - Three were hired at a local HVAC company in Mountain View.
- Marketing update
  - Working with campus directors to produce videos highlighting the programs offered at each of their campuses.

## **Operations and Infrastructure**

Scott Pinkston, Vice President and Chief Information Officer

- OSHA inspections have concluded at all sites.
  - Five findings at Melbourne.
  - One finding at Ash Flat.
  - No findings at Mountain View.
  - The 90-day deadline to take corrective action will be met.
  - No further inspections expected until 2035.
- Maintenance
  - The department has relocated into the Admin building.

- Reorganizing is underway to improve efficiency and shift focus to a proactive approach.
- Summer projects include deep cleaning inside buildings, shampooing carpets, interior painting, and exterior power washing.
- IT
  - Completed the legislative audit with no findings or recommendations.
  - Software upgrades are scheduled for implementation over the summer.
- Aviation
  - We had a record number of graduates this year – 16.
  - Expecting good enrollment for the fall – 22 returning, 25 new.
  - Upcoming inspection scheduled for July; no issues are anticipated.
- Aviation Claim Issue
  - The college sold an airplane last summer “as is”; the new owner was made aware that it had not had an annual inspection and that there was an issue with the left engine.
  - The new owner later sold the aircraft to another individual, who subsequently experienced a mechanical issue while in flight and claimed that Ozarka was responsible for providing compensation.
  - The state attorney general’s office has advised that the college is not liable; we are awaiting further information at this time.

## **Staff Council**

Valerie Long, Staff Council Vice-President

- We are holding a Jeans Day fundraiser throughout the summer.
  - \$1 per day or \$20 for the whole summer
  - Funds go toward activities such as the annual chili cook-off, prizes for various games throughout the year, and professional development.

### **Information Item – Personnel 5.A.1**

Dr. Wilson informed the Board of the following new full-time personnel:

- i. Dawsyn Cole – Director of Workforce Development
- ii. Jay Mabry, Jr. – Skilled Trades Instructor MV

### **Information Item – Personnel 5.A.2**

Dr. Wilson informed the Board of the following resignations, retirements and others:

- i. Harrison Hicks – Institutional Services Assistant Mountain View
- ii. Sterling Davis – Welding Faculty
- iii. Penny Ramsey – Maintenance Technician (retirement)

### **Information Item – Personnel 5.A.3**

Dr. Wilson informed the Board of the following active searches:

- i. Practical Nursing Instructor
- ii. Career Coach – Mountain View School District
- iii. Welding Instructor

**Action Item 6.A.1**  
**Finance – End-of-Month and Year-to-Date Financial Reports**

- Amber Rush presented the End-of-Month and Year-to-Date Financial Reports to the Board for approval.
- A motion to approve the report was made by Trustee Howard and seconded by Trustee Setser. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item 6.A.2**  
**Finance – Annual Budget Approval**

- Amber Rush and Dr. Wilson presented the Annual Budget to the Board for discussion and approval.
- A motion to approve was made by Trustee G. Cooper and seconded by Trustee Wright. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item 6.B.1**  
**Election of Board Officers**

- The Board of Trustees voted to elect a new Board of Trustees Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. The positions will be held for the next two years.
- Trustee Howard made a motion to elect Robert Wright as Chair, Mike Watson as Vice Chair, and Pam Setser as Secretary to fill the two-year terms. Trustee B. Cooper seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item 6.C.1**  
**President's Review and Contract**

- A motion to go into executive session at 3:05 p.m. was made by Trustee Howard and seconded by Trustee Watson. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Board returned from executive session at 4:15 p.m.
- After discussion of the review with Dr. Wilson, a motion to extend the president's contract through June 30, 2027, was made by Trustee Setser. Trustee Howard seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on Thursday, May 22 at 9:00 a.m. was made by Trustee Watson and seconded by Trustee G. Cooper. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

The Ozarka College Board of Trustees reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, at DoubleTree Hot Springs – Degray Room in Hot Springs, AR.

Chair Holzhauser called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Action Item 7**

## **New Business**

- No new business was discussed.

### **President's Report – Discussion Item 8**

Dr. Wilson introduced the following:

- **Strategic Planning**
  - Handouts provided by Dr. Lorch outlined the strategic plan for 2025-2030.
  - There was a strong intent to involve community members in the planning process.
  - The Committee engaged in productive discussion with an emphasis on setting goal-oriented and measurable objectives.
  - The mission, vision, and values statements were revised; the Board expressed approval.
  - The strategic planning committee will become a standing committee, meeting at least twice per semester to monitor progress toward goals and recommend changes as needed.
- **Facilities and Infrastructure Master Planning**
  - Scott distributed a handout detailing project priorities and estimated costs.
  - A five-year timeline is feasible if done aggressively; Amber reported on budget and funding sources.
  - Marty has inventoried all heating and air units.
  - Replacing the admin building roof is the top priority; we do currently have funding available to complete this project.
  - We are in the process of securing an on-call architect to support future projects.
- **Dr. Lorch gave an update in academics planning**
  - Leslie – Searcy County School District
    - Ozarka was approached by the superintendent that manages the tech center, which includes CNA, construction trades and automotive programs.
    - They serve about 65 students from Marshall, Clinton, and surrounding rural districts.
    - We are currently going through the usual exploratory process.
      - Several meetings and tours of the facility have occurred; more to be scheduled.
      - Planning to reach out to the chamber of commerce and assess regional workforce needs.
    - Engaged in a discussion of potential benefits and risks associated with the project.
  - Ozarka Pathways Academy will launch this fall at all three campuses.

- Tech students will attend workforce and life skills sessions on Fridays.
    - Student services, grant staff, and campus directors will all be involved with implementation.
    - Planning will take place in summer to create a consistent calendar of events.
  - Salem High School will begin sending students in the fall.
    - Working to accommodate the additional students, especially for welding and CNA; expecting automotive to grow.
    - AFTC welding program will expand capacity to 21.
    - CNA will require creative staffing solutions due to instructor limitations.
  - Mountain View School District has expressed interest in program expansion.
    - They will be sending students to Melbourne this fall for automotive.
    - Evaluating capacity and options to meet increased demand.
  - Workforce Challenge update
    - New legislation will increase funding from \$800 to \$3000 by next fall.
    - Considering plans to maximize use of funds through shorter, more frequent cohorts and program adjustments.
- Organizational Structure
  - Dr. Wilson distributed handouts illustrating the organizational structure of the college overall as well as individual divisions.
  - Reviewed each page, discussing roles and responsibilities within each division.
- Board Self-Assessment
  - Decided to give the Board more time to complete the survey and report results at the September regular meeting.

Chair Holzauer stated that he was honored to have served as Board Chair. He commended and expressed confidence in Administrative Council, and led the Board in round of applause for the admin team.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Wright and seconded by Trustee G. Cooper. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.