

**Ozarka College  
Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting  
Thursday, March 19, 2026  
2:30 p.m.  
Ozarka College – Melbourne  
John E. Miller Building Board Room**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Ozarka College Board of Trustees met at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, in the John E. Miller Building Board Room on the Melbourne campus.

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

Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Trustee Howard led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Wright reminded the Board to give to the Board of Trustees Scholarship.

**Area Reports**

**Academic Affairs**

Dr. Chris Lorch, Provost

- The fall academic schedule has been finalized.
- Summer and fall registration will open the Monday following Spring Break.
- A new Technical Certificate in General Studies has been created to support high school students earning diplomas of distinction and merit.

**Finance**

Amber Rush, Vice President of Finance

- The midyear budget review resulted in approximately \$96,000 being reallocated to fund institutional priorities.
- Departmental budget requests for FY2026-27 have been submitted.
- Revenue projections for the FY2026-27 budget are currently being generated.
- The majority of spring financial aid has been disbursed, accounting for most tuition and fee revenue collections.
- The annual legislative audit is progressing as expected and should be completed by mid-April.

## **Student Services**

Zeda Pruitt, Vice President of Student Services

- Perkins purchased \$46,000 of equipment for various departments this year.
- The TRIO APR grant report was completed and submitted. TRIO met their participant goals this year.
- Multiple site visits for grant programs and the VA were completed successfully.
- Career Coach Program
  - Melbourne High School Career Coach Abbi Smith coordinated a career exploration tour for 5th–9th grade students.
  - Melbourne and Mountain View high schools have requested renewal of the career coach grant for next year.
  - ICC will transition to an in-house career coach.
- Commencement planning is underway.
- There has been renewed interest in the Student Government Association.

## **Advancement and Workforce Development**

Marcus Orf, Vice President of Advancement and Workforce Development

- Grants Update:
  - HIRED (Melbourne Skilled Trades) – All work has been completed. An open house/ribbon cutting is scheduled for Friday, April 17, and invites were distributed to the Board.
  - DWF (MV Tech Center) – All funds have been expended. One final document must be submitted by May 15.
  - ARDOT grant applications and advanced manufacturing wraparound funding are in progress.
  - Blue & You – Food pantries have been established on all three campuses.
- Marketing Update:
- The marketing position has been filled by Brecken Jones, who has transitioned into the role successfully.
- Industry Partnerships Update:
  - Dawsyn is coordinating a short-term machining training with Emerson.
  - A second short-term HVAC training is being planned at Melbourne for the spring semester.
  - Beasley Flooring in Melbourne has reached out to Dawsyn, and some of their maintenance technicians have been speaking with skilled trades students.
  - Bad Boy Mowers has been on campus at Ash Flat and Mountain View to weld test and interview students.
    - Fifteen students from Ash Flat and 12-15 students from Mountain View are scheduled to tour the factory and discuss employment start dates.
  - Workforce Challenge information is due to the state by the end of March.
  - Industrial Signing Day is scheduled for May 1.
- Foundation Update:
  - The Ladies Luncheon sold out approximately two weeks before the event. A record \$9,000-\$10,000 was raised.

- The Spring Gala is scheduled for April 9. Several auction items have already been received.
- Naming opportunities secured for the Melbourne Tech Center:
  - GH Miller & Sons (classroom, in honor of Kirk Miller)
  - Fred & Janet Lamb (construction and plumbing lab)
  - Bad Boy Mowers (welding lab)
- Three new scholarships have been endowed: Jennifer Starling Nursing Memorial, David Starling Culinary Memorial, and Val West Memorial.
  - The Val West Memorial Scholarship was funded through employee giving and an additional donation supporting a second scholarship
- The new signage for the Melbourne campus will be installed tomorrow; electrical connection is pending.

### **Operations and Infrastructure**

Scott Pinkston, Vice President and Chief Information Officer

- Student Center HVAC Update:
  - Scott distributed handouts to the Board detailing the history of the HVAC issues.
  - The College has established a routine maintenance contract.
  - Engineering inspections underway; further diagnostics planned for summer to address recurring issues.
- The library exterior door will be replaced with a glass entrance door.
- Sidewalks and curb repairs have been completed around the Melbourne campus.

### **Staff Council**

Valerie Long, Staff Council Vice-President

- A mandatory professional development presentation consisting of advisor overview session and customer service skills session will take place on Friday, April 3.
- An online form has been created for institutional improvement suggestions which will be reviewed by Staff Council and forwarded to the Administrative Council as appropriate. A QR code linked to the form will be posted on all campuses.
- Officer Elections will take place on April 17 for the positions of president and vice-president.
- A bingo fundraiser is being organized, in part to support the newly established campus food pantries.

### **President's Report – Discussion Item 5.A**

Dr. Wilson introduced the following:

- Academic Planning
  - Exploration of program restructuring for areas with fluctuating enrollment.
  - Expansion of 1+1, 2+2, and 1+3 articulation agreements.
  - Consideration of degree pathways toward three-year (90 hour) baccalaureate.
  - Development of additional short-term workforce training funded through OSD and Workforce Challenge.

- Introduction of an Associate in General Studies degree (15 required hours, 45 elective hours).
- Potential partnership with a 4-year institution to offer bachelor's degrees on campus, beginning with Education.
- Spring Nursing Conference and Job Fair successfully held, with participation from all campuses and over 20 healthcare employers.
- Infrastructure Updates:
  - SSC HVAC
    - Discussed in area reports.
  - Administration Building Roof
    - An architect and contractor were onsite to conduct structural testing and provide specifications for the bid.
    - The architect finalized the bid, which will go out next week.
    - A pre-bid walk through is scheduled for April 2, and bids will be opened on April 14.
    - Project start targeted for June 1.
    - Additional testing will determine whether existing concrete can be overlaid or must be replaced.
  - Spring Bid Processes
    - The Foundation banking bid was awarded to FNBC. The transition will occur after the Gala.
    - Exploring an on-call architect contract.
    - Efforts to secure new vending contracts are ongoing.
- May Board Retreat
  - This year's retreat will take place at The Waters Hotel in Hot Springs, AR.
  - Schedule
    - Arrival – Wednesday, May 20
    - Meeting – Thursday, May 21
    - Departure – Friday, May 22 (optional second night)
  - Rooming list due April 5.

#### **Information Item – Personnel 6.A.1**

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

- i. Ronald “Aaron” Shaw – Skilled Trades Instructor – MV
- ii. Audrey “Renee” Cowl – Nursing Instructor – Melbourne
- iii. Kendall Morrison – Director of Adult Education
- iv. Brecken Jones – Advancement and Marketing Specialist
- v. Maggie Thomas – Admissions and Recruitment Specialist
- vi. Laura Lawrence – Director of Enrollment Services

#### **Information Item – Personnel 6.A.2**

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

- i. Chris Mosley – Director of Admissions
- ii. Chrisha Savell – Administrative Specialist for Admissions

### **Information Item – Personnel 6.A.3**

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

- i. Director of Nursing Programs

#### **Action Item 7.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 Setser and seconded by Trustee Holzhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Action Item 7.B.1**

##### **Personnel – Reappointment of Full-Time Administration, Faculty and Staff for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year**

- Dr. Wilson presented the reappointment of full-time administration, faculty and staff for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to the Board.
- A motion to approve was made by Trustee Watson and seconded by Trustee Setser. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Action Item 7.B.2**

##### **Personnel – Approve Provisional Positions for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year**

- Dr. Wilson presented the provisional positions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to the Board.
- A motion to approve was made by Trustee G. Cooper and seconded by Trustee Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Action Item 7.C.1-7.C.2**

##### **Governance – BP 2.11 and BP 2.12**

- Dr. Wilson presented revisions to BP 2.11 Position Vacancy Posting and BP 2.12 Faculty Appointments to the Board for approval.
- A motion to approve the policies as presented was made by Trustee Howard and seconded by Trustee Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Action Item 7.C.3**

##### **Governance – ARDOT Resolution**

- Dr. Wilson presented the ARDOT resolution to the Board for approval.
- A motion to approve the resolution as presented was made by Trustee Watson and seconded by Trustee Setser. The motion passed unanimously.
- The resolution was signed by Dr. Wilson, Chair Wright, and Secretary Setser, and affixed with the Ozarka College seal.

### **New Business**

- No new business was discussed.

With no further business, Chair Wright asked that a motion be made to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Watson and seconded by Trustee Howard. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.