Ranger College

Board of Regents Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2026 | 6:00 PM | Golemon Library

Members Present

Jackie Stephens, Chair

Shawn Wells, Vice-Chair

Vanna Dains, Secretary

Doug Crawley

Sandi Herod

Della Carey

Jim Cockburn

Robin Russell

Gay Ann Wolford

CEO/Staff Present

Dr. Derrick Worrels, President

Dr. Lindy Matthews

Gaylyn Mendoza

Amy Spindle

Dr. Sandra Lee

Stan Feaster

Chuck LeMaster

Patti Woolam

Dr. Dayna Prochaska

Gabe Lewis

Luis Ramirez

Debbie Karl

Ahmy Arca

Robert Culverhouse

Stephanie Worrels

Shayla Honeycutt

Don Hilton

Scott Norwood

Evelyn Guillen

Guests

Bruce Ackerson

Gary Wheat

Clay Wheat

Agenda Item #1- Call to Order Public Meeting

Regent Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Agenda Item #2- Invocation

Dr. Worrels voiced the invocation.

Agenda Item #3- Pledge of Allegiance

Regent Stephens led the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item #4- Public Comment for Individuals Not on the Agenda

Clay Wheat is attempting to purchase access to the back part of his land, which has title problems, and is interested in acquiring access across land in the college's possession. He seeks instruction and advice on the process. He expressed interest in marketing college properties if they become available for sale and has previously spoken to some board members about this.

Agenda Item #5- President's Report

a. Dr. Worrels commended all college employees (staff, administrators, faculty) for their willingness to stay open until 5 PM on a Friday before students arrived, demonstrating exceptional dedication to student service. Our standard workday is 8:00-1:00 p.m. on Fridays. This was employee generated and he is grateful that Ranger College employees are willing to do that.
b. Regent Dains shared a testimony. She had an opportunity to go to the doctor the other day. The young lady that escorted her back had a Ranger College t-shirt on. She was

exuberant and had a great personality. She was in the nursing program and stated that the program is absolutely wonderful and spoke very highly of the program.

c. Dr. Worrels mentioned that the Ranger Legends Golf Tournament was outstanding. The amount of overall pride that existed was great to see.
d. Dr. Worrels mentioned that today is the first day of school. We are about 40-50 students down right now but by the end of the week he is hoping to share great news.
e. Dr. Worrels discussed that the College is trying to acclimate the Board members and the community on how the budget works. We need to better educate the community and our Board on terms that go along with the funding formula. Every month we will get snapshots from the CFO and other members of the college regarding the funding formula.

Agenda Item #6- Public Hearing for the 2026-2027 Proposed College Annual Budget *(Mendoza)*

To provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed budget. The Board entered the Public Hearing at 6:13 PM.

No public comments were made.

Agenda Item #7- Resume Regular College Board Meeting *(Mendoza)*

The Board resumed the Regular Board Meeting at 6:14 PM.

Agenda Item #8- Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Annual Budget *(Mendoza)*

A public hearing for the 2026-2027 proposed college annual budget was held. There were no public comments.

Fiscal year 2026 student enrollment at Ranger College remained strong and consistent with FY 2025's record breaking enrollment. Fall 2025 enrollment increased 2.1% over Fall 2024, while the Spring 2026 enrollment increased 2.6% over Spring 2025. This sustained enrollment growth has also translated into a significant increase in student success, as the College experienced growth in the number of graduates at each commencement ceremony. These results demonstrate that Ranger College's efforts are not only attracting students but are also supporting their continued success and progression through graduation.

Building a Talent Strong Texas, the state's higher education strategic plan, emphasizes increasing education attainment and strengthening pathways to credentials that support Texas' workforce. Ranger College's continued growth in enrollment and credential attainment aligns well with these statewide priorities. Following the passage of House Bill 8 during the 88th Legislative Session in June 2023, Texas has continued its transition to an outcomes-based funding model that recognizes student achievement and institutional performance. Despite a decrease in the College's State appropriation for FY 2027, Ranger College continues to demonstrate strong performance and has outperformed prior-year metrics. This positive performance reinforces the importance of continuing to develop programs and services that attract students, support their success, and guide them from enrollment through graduation.

During the past fiscal year, the College continued to make meaningful progress toward the three wildly important goals (WIGs) identified in the 2023-2028 strategic Plan: 1. Increase enrollment, 2. Improve communication, and 3. Improve facilities. Several initiatives supporting these goals were successfully completed or advanced during the year. The College's SIS upgrade is improving communication and providing enhanced support for students and employees. Significant facility improvements included the completion of Ranger Hall updates, Phase 2

renovations to the Pathways Center, completion of the softball field and synthetic turf conversion, construction of indoor softball and baseball hitting facilities, renovations for our new construction management program in Erath, and the commencement of construction on the Rodeo Grounds multi-purpose facility. These investments demonstrate the College's continued commitment to providing students with high-quality academic, athletic and student life experiences.

As we enter the next fiscal year, Ranger College is well positioned to build upon this momentum. The College continues to identify opportunities to address challenges, improve processes, and enhance the student experience that are consistent with Ranger College's mission.

Regent Crawley made and Regent Cockburn seconded a motion to approve the fiscal year 2026-2027 annual budget. The motion was carried unanimously. Regent Wolford abstained from the vote.

Agenda Item #9- 2026 Property Tax Rate *(Mendoza)*

The Board of Regents is required annually to set the tax rate for the Ranger College taxing district. The following information includes the applicable tax rates per $100 of appraised value as provided by the Eastland County Appraisal District:

- 2025 Adopted Tax Rate | $0.258474
- 2026 No-New-Revenue Tax Rate | $0.252089
- 2026 Voter-Approval Tax Rate | $0.216343
- 2026 Proposed Tax Rate- M&O | $0.018358
- 2026 Proposed Tax Rate- I&S | $0.197985

- 2026 Proposed Tax Rate | $0.216343

The 2026 property tax levy to fund maintenance and operations expenditures exceeds the 2025 maintenance and operations property tax levy. The proposed tax rate for 2026 adopts the voter-approval tax rate.

As required by law, the Notice About 2026 Tax Rates and Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet were posted on our website on August 4, 2026, and the Notice of Meeting to Vote on Tax Rate was posted on our website on August 4, 2026, and published in the newspaper on August 13, 2026.

The proposed tax is necessary to fund debt service costs from the Limited Tax bonds authorized by district voters on November 8, 2016 as well as facility and operating costs for the 2026 tax year.

The proposed tax rate is 0.216343 per $100, a decrease from the 2025 adopted rate of 0.258474.

Regent Crawley made and Regent Herod seconded a motion to approve the resolution to set the 2026 tax rate of $0.216343 per $100, which includes a Maintenance & Operations tax rate of $0.018358 per $100 of taxable value and an Interest & Sinking tax rate of $0.197985 per $100 of taxable value. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #10- May 2026 Financial Statements *(Mendoza)*

Gaylyn Mendoza presented the May 2026 financial statements.

The May financial statements reflected total assets of approximately $77.8 million, total liabilities of $23.4 million, and a total net position of $53.6 million.

Total revenues were approximately $24.3 million. It was noted that May is typically a slower revenue month due to the conclusion of the spring semester. Total expenditures were approximately $21.2 million, resulting in a positive change in net position of approximately $3 million. This favorable financial position provides a financial cushion to support College operations during the traditionally slower revenue months.

The report included discussion of checks over $500, including higher-than-anticipated costs associated with a property survey due to challenging terrain. Additionally, an emergency repair was required for a fountain that sustained damage from freezing temperatures during the winter months.

Regent Crawley made and Regent Herod seconded a motion to approve the May 2026 Financial Statements. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #11- June 2026 Financial Statements *(Mendoza)*

Gaylyn Mendoza presented the June 2026 financial statements.

The financial report reflected a positive financial position for the College, with total assets of approximately $79 million, total liabilities of $23.4 million, and a total net position of $54.8 million.

Total revenues were approximately $26.9 million, reflecting a significant increase primarily attributable to the receipt of the third and final state funding payment in June. State appropriations increased compared to the prior year, largely due to the timing of payments, as funding had been delayed during the previous fiscal year. Grant revenues also increased throughout the fiscal year, although federal grant funding declined following the conclusion of

the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) grant. Additionally, the College received donations from the Walker family during the fiscal year.

Total expenses were approximately $22.6 million. Instructional expenses increased, reflecting additional expenditures associated with serving students. Athletic expenses also increased, particularly due to travel costs associated with the Track and Cross Country teams competing in Nashville. Commencement expenses rose significantly, with the cost of caps and gowns increasing approximately two to three times compared to previous years. Legal expenses were also higher, primarily due to matters involving an unauthorized occupant of College property and issues related to the rodeo grounds.

The College reported a positive change in net position of approximately $4.3 million. This favorable financial position was expected to continue through July and August.

Regent Russell made and Regent Cockburn seconded a motion to approve the June 2026 Financial Statement. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #12- Property Insurance for 2026-2027 ***(Mendoza)***

Ranger College purchases property and casualty insurance policies annually. The list of policies also includes excess crime, cyber liability, active assailant, as well as workers' compensation. The last two years Texas education institutions saw large increases in premiums due to the increased number of claims arising from Texas' severe weather patterns. Insurance replacement costs which have risen with our current economy. For 2026-2027, our total insured property values are $77,698,068, which is a 2.49% increase. The proposed premium for 2026-2027, included in the accompanying proposal is $372,143.37, which is a decrease of 9.8%. Per review

of the premiums, the property premium is where we saw about 18% decrease. However, we also had a large increase in Workers' Compensation payroll increasing 12% from the previous year's payroll. Per discussion with USI, the decrease in property premiums are the result of efforts to negotiate favorable terms and explore the best available options. After a few years of rate increases, they are seeing signs that the insurance market is becoming more competitive. More carriers are actively pursuing business, loss trends have improved, and underwriting conditions are easing, all of which are helping drive better pricing.

According to the College's CF (LOCAL) policy, any single, budgeted purchase of goods or services that costs $100,000 or more are to have Board approval before the transaction takes place.

Regent Russell made and Regent Carey seconded a motion to approve the property and casualty insurance coverage proposal package for fiscal year 2026-2027 with USI for $372,143.37. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #13- Oath of Office for New Board Members *(Mendoza)*

Gaylyn Mendoza issued the Officer Statement. Regent Wolford read and signed the Officer Statement. Amy Spindle issued and Regent Wolford recited the Oath of Office.

Agenda Item #14- Personnel *(Spindle)*

- **a. New Hire and Separations**
  - i. New Hires
    1. Kristin Huggins
    2. Estafania Whitmer

3. Jackson Dillingham
4. Alayna Parram

ii. Separations

1. Justice Fox
2. Glenn Clark

Regent Herod made and Regent Wells seconded a motion to approve the new hires and separations as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #15- Designate Cassadi Ward, Assistant Registrar, as the Residence Status Determination Official in Accordance with FDA (*LOCAL*)

Cassidi Ward, Assistant Registrar, is nominated to be the official for determining Texas residency status, a requirement for financial aid and tuition. This is not a new duty but a formal designation for Cassidi, who has experience in this area.

Regent Wells made and Regent Cockburn seconded a motion to approve the designation of Cassadi Ward, Assistant Registrar, as the Residence Status Determination Official in accordance with FDA (LOCAL). The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #16- Title IX Coordinator Report *(Woolam)*

Patti Woolam presented the second quarter Title IX report. No reports, incidents, or violations were found in the reporting areas.

Agenda Item #17- Electrical easement for airport (*Lemaster)*

Chuck LeMaster informed the Board that Oncor inquired about an aerial electrical easement across the field behind Jameson, across the fence line to the airport. This will be aerial, not affecting the ground or requiring digging. Oncor will handle all work, including survey drafting.The easement will be recorded.

Agenda Item #18- Board Meeting Minutes 6-29-2026

Regent Dains made and Regent Russell seconded a motion to approve the June 29, 2026 Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #19- Special Board Meeting Minutes 8-3-2026

Regent Herod made and Regent Dains seconded a motion to approve the August 3, 2026 Special Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #20- Announcements

i. **Upcoming Events**
    a. Today is the first day of school. No problems to report.
    b. Dr. Worrels was approached by a community member about a mural in downtown Ranger. The city is roughly $3,000 short and they have requested for the college to contribute.

ii. **The Date of the Next Board Meeting is September 28, 2026**

Agenda Item #21- Adjourn

Regent Herod made and Regent Dains seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:08 PM.