Ranger College

Board of Regents Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2026 | 6:00 PM | Golemon Library

Members Present

Jackie Stephens, Chairman

Shawn Wells, Vice-Chairman

Vanna Dains, Secretary

Gay Ann Wolford

Doug Crawley

Sandi Herod

Della Carey

Jim Cockburn

Robin Russell

CEO/Staff Present

Dr. Derrick Worrels

Dr. Lindy Matthews

Amy Spindle

Gaylyn Mendoza

Luis Ramirez

Dr. Sandra Lee

Kim Sandford

Don Hilton

Patti Woolam

Sylvia Hampton

Robert Culverhouse

Stephanie Worrels

Scott Norwood

Agenda Item #1- Call to Order Public Meeting

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

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

No comments were made.

Agenda Item #5- President's Report

a. Dr. Worrels provided an update regarding the College's ongoing efforts to secure financing for future capital improvement projects. In September 2025, the Board of Regents authorized the administration to explore financing options for the construction of a new residence hall on the Ranger campus and renovations to facilities in Comanche. Following a review of three firms, Carty, Harding & Hearn, Inc. was selected to serve as the College's bond underwriter, and Jackson Walker, LLP was selected to serve as bond counsel. The anticipated closing date for the proposed bond financing is January 2027. A special Board meeting may be expected to be scheduled in January to review and consider approval of the proposed bond structure. Discussion also addressed the long-term financial flexibility provided by the proposed bond structure, including opportunities to secure additional financing for future capital projects, particularly student housing. Consideration was given to restructuring or refinancing the existing 2013 revenue bond obligations to potentially increase the College's borrowing capacity within the next two years.
b. Dr. Worrels provided an update regarding a recent community meeting involving representatives from Ranger College, local independent school districts, and city leadership to discuss a proposed data center development in the area, potentially near Carbon. The meeting was described as positive and productive, providing an opportunity for community stakeholders to identify priorities and discuss potential needs and benefits associated with the proposed development. It was noted that the project could present significant opportunities for economic growth and community development throughout Eastland

County, particularly for the communities of Eastland and Ranger. The College will continue to monitor the project's development and potential opportunities for community collaboration.

c. Dr. Worrels discussed Base Tier Funding.

Agenda Item #6- Preliminary August 2026 Financial Statements (*Mendoza)*

Ms. Mendoza presented the August 2026 financial statements. It was noted that the statements reflect the close of the fiscal year and remain subject to year-end adjustments, including final pension and OPEB calculations. The financial statements have been submitted to the College's external auditor for review.

Statement of Net Position

As of August 31, 2026, the College reported total assets of approximately $81.5 million, consisting of $11.2 million in current assets and $70.2 million in non-current assets. Deferred outflows of resources associated with pension and OPEB obligations were also reported.

Total liabilities were approximately $28.1 million, including $7 million in current liabilities and $21.1 million in non-current liabilities. It was noted that unearned revenue is typically higher in August and January due to tuition and fee collections associated with upcoming semesters. Revenue collected in August for the fall semester is recognized in September.

Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB obligations totaled approximately $3 million. The College reported a preliminary net position of $52.8 million, which is expected to increase by approximately $800,000 following actuarial adjustments reflecting a reduction in OPEB liabilities.

Statement of Revenues

The revenue report reflected an increase in state funding, primarily attributable to grant funding and state appropriations. Federal revenue decreased compared to the prior year, largely due to reductions in Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) grant funding.

Student tuition and fee revenue experienced a slight decline in fees, attributed to a decrease in traditional student enrollment and an increase in dual credit enrollment. It was noted that dual credit students do not pay certain fees assessed to traditional students.

Miscellaneous revenue decreased compared to the previous fiscal year, which included certain nonrecurring proceeds. Donation revenue also declined significantly, as the prior year included substantial contributions associated with the Walker Estate.

Auxiliary revenues decreased in several areas, including bookstore operations, food services, and residence halls. These reductions were primarily attributed to lower traditional student enrollment.

Rental income also decreased due to one College-owned property not being leased for hunting during the reporting period.

Total preliminary revenues for fiscal year 2026 were reported at $28,320,491.

Statement of Expenditures

The expenditure report reflected increases in several departmental budgets compared to the previous fiscal year. It was explained that these increases were largely attributable to the College's transition to the J1 financial system and the inclusion of employee benefit expenses within individual departmental accounts.

The current fiscal year includes 12 months of employee benefit expenses, compared to only eight months in the prior year. As a result, a more accurate year-over-year comparison of personnel-related expenditures will be available during the next fiscal year.

Academic and workforce instruction expenditures increased, partially due to the inclusion of these additional benefit expenses.

Depreciation expenses also increased as a result of additional buildings and equipment acquired through grant funding and other institutional investments. During the review, a system issue was identified that resulted in excessive depreciation being recorded on certain assets. An adjustment of approximately $50,000 is anticipated to correct the discrepancy.

Cash and Investment Detail

The College reported ending cash and investment balances of approximately $6.6 million, representing an increase compared to the previous fiscal year.

Checks Issued Over $500

The Board reviewed the report of checks issued over $500 during August. Discussion included clarification of several expenditures and ongoing capital improvement projects.

An expenditure of approximately $3,000 for ice machine repairs was discussed. It was explained that the College is responsible for maintaining its owned ice machines, including those located in the athletic building, gymnasium, cafeteria, and maintenance building.

Improvements near the Meyerson facility were also reviewed. The project involved removing an existing drainage pipe and installing curbing to prevent vehicles from driving onto grassy areas, which had contributed to drainage issues and standing water.

A bus repair totaling approximately $13,000 was discussed. Bus No. 2 experienced fuel system damage caused by metal contamination, requiring replacement of the entire fuel system.

The College also purchased an automatic roping chute for approximately $7,000 using restricted funds raised specifically for the Rodeo Program.

Additionally, approximately $32,000 was expended for the installation of an artificial turf putting green and tee line to support the Golf Program. The improvements, located adjacent to the baseball field, were funded through donations and will provide a dedicated practice area for putting and chipping.

Discussion also included the College's purchasing card program. It was noted that the College receives an annual rebate of approximately $6,000 for timely payment of its credit card purchases.

Rodeo Facility Construction Update

An update was provided regarding the ongoing construction of the College's rodeo facility. Concerns were expressed regarding delays in construction and the contractor's performance. Progress has been slower than anticipated, with the contractor reportedly maintaining a limited presence at the construction site.

The individual responsible for project oversight has maintained weekly communication with the contractor regarding progress and outstanding concerns. Dr. Worrels has also contacted company leadership and personally communicated concerns about the project's delays and workmanship.

It was explained that construction payments are processed through the standard American Institute of Architects (AIA) payment application process, with the most recent application being paid out over the summer.

The Board discussed the impact of the delays on the project's completion timeline and the importance of maintaining donor confidence. Despite the construction challenges, the importance of the facility to the Rodeo Program was emphasized. Once completed, the facility is expected to provide much-needed resources for student-athletes, strengthen the program's training capabilities, and support Coach Rust's student recruitment efforts.

Regent Herod made and Regent Wolford seconded a motion to approve the preliminary August 2026 financial statements. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7- Resolution for the Prevailing Wage Determination on Construction Projects for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 ***(Mendoza)***

Ms. Mendoza discussed that the College has quite a few current and projected construction and renovation projects. This item is to make sure that the College maintains compliance.

As required by the Texas Government Code 2258.002(a), the Board of Trustees, when contracting for a public work awarded by a political subdivision of the state, shall determine the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the public work is to be performed for each craft or type of worker needed to execute the contract and the prevailing rate for legal holiday and overtime work. Subsection (1) and (2) go on to state the public body’s options in fulfilling its statutory responsibility of determining prevailing wage rates as being:

1. Conducting a survey of the wages received by classes of workers employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the political subdivision of the state in which the public work is to be performed; or
2. Using the prevailing wage rate as determined by the United States Department of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. Section 276a et seq.), and its subsequent amendments.

Ranger College has recommended Texas Government Code Section 2258.002(a), Subsection (2) as its option in determining the general prevailing wage rate of per diem wages in the locality which the public work is to be performed for each craft or type of worker needed to execute the contract and the prevailing wage rate for legal

holiday and overtime work as determined by the United States Department of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. Section 276a et seq.) and its subsequent amendments, for all the construction projects whose contracts are entered into and executed between September 1, 2025 and the end of the fiscal year on August 31, 2026.

Regent Dains made and Regent Cockburn seconded a motion to approve the Resolution for the Prevailing Wage Determination on Construction Projects for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8- Purchase of an additional shuttle bus for athletic department *(Mendoza)*

Ms. Mendoza is currently working on getting all of the vendor information together for this particular item; however, one of the vendors has not turned all of the required paperwork in. She discussed the need to purchase an additional shuttle bus due to the age, high mileage, and increasing maintenance costs of the College's existing fleet. The current buses, are 2016 and 2019, have accumulated approximately 160,000 to 180,000 miles each. With increased athletic travel demands, particularly during the spring semester, an additional bus would improve transportation efficiency, reduce reliance on multiple vehicles, and provide a backup in the event of mechanical issues.

Several purchasing options were reviewed, including a used 2022 Ford bus priced at $140,000 and a new 2027 Freightliner diesel bus with a 35-passenger capacity priced at $241,853. The new bus was recommended based on its capacity, anticipated service life, and potential long-term cost savings compared to charter transportation, which can cost $7,500 to $10,000 per trip. The purchase would be made through the TIPS purchasing cooperative.

Regent Crawley made and Regent Carey seconded a motion to approve the purchase of the 2027 Freightliner shuttle bus for College use from Master's Transportation, Inc. for $241, 853 through TIPS Contract Number 260204. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #9- Personnel *(Spindle)*

- **a. New Hire and Separations**
  - **i. Additions**
    1. Herman Dempsey- Criminal Justice Adjunct
  - **ii. Separations**
    1. Patrick Barrett- Assistant Baseball Coach

2. Connie Gonzalez- TRUE Grant Director
3. Cale Wallace- Assistant Librarian
4. Don Hilton- Director of Financial Aid- We would like to announce that Mr. Don Hilton will be retiring at the end of December 2026 after 17 years of dedicated service to the College. We are incredibly grateful for Mr. Hilton;s years of commitment, hard work, and contributions to our institution. We wish him all the best as he begins this exciting new chapter. Regent Cockburn voiced his kudos and well wishes for Mr. Hilton.

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

b. Title Change

i. Sylvia Hampton- Director of Financial Aid effective January 5, 2027

Regent Cockburn made and Regent Dains seconded a motion to accept the title changes as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

c. Receive Board of Regents Self-Evaluations and CEO/President Evaluation

i. Ms. Spindle distributed the Board of Regents Self-Evaluations and CEO/President Evaluation to each Board member. The evaluations are due back by the November Board meeting.

Agenda Item #10- Announcements

a. Upcoming Events

i. Mr. Norwood provided an update regarding the Men's and Women's Soccer Teams, both of which are scheduled to compete in championship matches on Thursday at Hill College. A victory by the Men's Team would allow Ranger College to host the District Championship. If the Women's Team advances, it will face Trinity Valley, Navarro, or Tyler in the next round of competition. Both teams remain in contention for national tournament qualification, with hopes of advancing to the NJCAA National Championships.

ii. Dr. Worrels mentioned that the College will be closed on November 4th in observance of Veterans Day.

b. The Date of the Next Board Meeting is November 16, 2026

Agenda Item #11- Adjourn

Regent Herod made and Regent Dains seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.