Washington State College of Ohio
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 20, 2026, 4 p.m.
Health Room H108
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chair Dr. Joseph Zacharias called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Brenda Matthews took roll call and meeting minutes. The following trustees were present: Mr. Randy Barengo, Ms. Christy Chavez, Ms. Lucinda Erickson, Mr. David Vandenberg, Ms. Susan Vessels, and Dr. Joseph Zacharias. The following trustees were absent: Ms. Jodey Altier, Mr. Tyler Wilcox and Mr. Bernie Anderson.

Others in attendance included Dr. Sarah Parker (President), Ms. Angie Lang (Chief Financial Officer), Mr. Daniel Knaus (Associate VP of Finance and Operations), Ms. Maddie Galloway (Director of Financial Aid), Ms. Emily Miskimins (Director of Human Resources), Ms. Jacklyn Callihan (Executive Director of Marketing, Advancement, & Foundation), Ms. Melinda Pinkerton (Controller), Ms. Dustin Taylor (Registrar), Dr. Heather Kincaid (Dean of Health & Sciences), Mr. Nick Arnold (Director of Information Systems), and Ms. Tracey Hooper-Porter (Dean of Technology & Transfer).

Agenda Approval

Trustee Barengo moved to approve the agenda, Trustee Chavez seconded, and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

Ms. Altier	Absent	Mr. Vandenberg	Y
Mr. Anderson	Absent	Ms. Vessels	Y
Mr. Barengo	Y	Mr. Wilcox	Absent
Ms. Chavez	Y	Dr. Zacharias	Y
Ms. Erickson	Y		

The April 20, 2026 agenda was approved as Resolution R71-26.

Approval of March 16, 2026 Minutes

Trustee Chavez moved to approve the minutes, Trustee Vandenberg seconded, and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

Ms. Altier	Absent	Mr. Vandenberg	Y

Mr. Anderson	Absent	Ms. Vessels	Y
Mr. Barengo	Y	Mr. Wilcox	Absent
Ms. Chavez	Y	Dr. Zacharias	Y
Ms. Erickson	Y		

The March 16, 2026 Minutes were approved as Resolution R72-26.

Student Spotlight Allison Milligan
The Board recognized student Allison Milligan, currently enrolled in the nursing program and scheduled to graduate in May. She shared positive experiences regarding faculty support and expressed plans to continue her education through an honors/bridge program. The Board congratulated her on her achievements.

Financial Report via Consent Agenda
Chief Financial Officer, Angie Lang, reviewed the Variance Report. Academic Support increased due to grant funding allocation changes and restructuring of CCP advisor funding. Workforce development expenses rose due to exceptional program costs. Institutional Support variances were driven by staffing changes, including the president's position, as well as increased marketing and software costs. Student Services decreased correspondingly due to reclassification of expenses. Scholarships and fellowships continue to be closely monitored to remain within spending limits.

In the Statement of Revenues and Expenses, Ms. Lang noted that variances aligned with previously discussed changes when compared to budget projections.

The Balance Sheet showed total assets reported at approximately $46.6 million. Restricted funds showed a decrease in salaries and benefits due to grant expirations and absorption into general funds, with increased equipment expenditures tied to grant timelines and required spending deadlines.

The proposed FY 2026–2027 budget was presented with total projected revenues of approximately $14.9 million, including $6 million in net tuition (reflecting a tuition increase) and $7.7 million from the State Share of Instruction, supplemented by lab fees and other student-related revenues. Expenditure adjustments include salary reallocations, the strategic use of adjunct faculty to offset a faculty retirement, and reduced equipment maintenance costs due to extended warranties. Increases were noted in membership and accreditation expenses, as well as a projected 15% rise in health insurance costs, with provisions included for uncovered and vacant positions. The budget is balanced at $14,896,653.

A resolution was presented and approved unanimously for an HVAC system upgrade in the Arts and Sciences building. The project, addressing aging infrastructure and prior moisture concerns, carries an estimated cost of $616,080, with a 10% contingency bringing the total to $677,688.

The project will be funded through capital resources and required Board approval due to exceeding the $200,000 threshold.

Approval of Financial Report via Consent Agenda
Trustee Barengo moved to approve the Financial Report via Consent Agenda, Trustee Zacharias seconded, and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

Ms. Altier	Absent	Mr. Vandenberg	Y
Mr. Anderson	Absent	Ms. Vessels	Y
Mr. Barengo	Y	Mr. Wilcox	Absent
Ms. Chavez	Y	Dr. Zacharias	Y
Ms. Erickson	Y		

The Financial Report via Consent Agenda was approved as Resolution R73-26.

Administrative Report via Consent Agenda
Ms. Emily Miskimins gave the Human Resources Report. She noted several open positions pending grant funding decisions. Active and upcoming searches include roles in Electrical Engineering, Nursing administration, project support, and student advising. Second-round interviews are underway for select positions, and seasonal hiring for resident assistants is in progress. Recent personnel actions include the hiring of part time faculty Robert Ellenwood, POBA Instructor, effective March 11, 2026, and the departure of professional staff Courtney Thompson, College Pathway Advisor effective April 3, 2026.

Approval of Administrative Report via Consent Agenda
Trustee Zacharias moved to approve the Administrative Report via Consent Agenda, Trustee Vandenberg seconded, and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

Ms. Altier	Absent	Mr. Vandenberg	Y
Mr. Anderson	Absent	Ms. Vessels	Y
Mr. Barengo	Y	Mr. Wilcox	Absent
Ms. Chavez	Y	Dr. Zacharias	Y
Ms. Erickson	Y		

The Administrative Report via Consent Agenda was approved as Resolution R74-26.

The Academic Report via Consent Agenda was approved as Resolution R69-25.

Cybersecurity and Fraud Prevention Report

Nick Arnold, Director of Information Systems, provided an overview of the institution's current cybersecurity posture and ongoing efforts to mitigate fraud, particularly related to "ghost students" and fraudulent financial aid applications. Mr. Arnold noted the national cybersecurity threat level for higher education institutions remains high, as identified by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Key threat actors include nation-state sponsored groups, primarily focused on infrastructure disruption and data exfiltration, as well as hacktivist groups, typically motivated by ideological causes and focused on defacement or public disruption.

The institution continues to emphasize a comprehensive, institution-wide approach to cybersecurity, recognizing that risk mitigation extends beyond the IT department and requires engagement from all faculty and staff.

Significant investments have been made in both technology and personnel over recent years. The institution actively collaborates with organizations such as Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), Center for Internet Security (CIS), Arctic Wolf (Security Operations Center services), Ohio Education Computing Council (OECC), and Two-Year College Technology Consortium (OTCPC). These partnerships support threat intelligence sharing, monitoring, and coordinated response efforts.

Mr. Arnold informed the Trustees that the primary Cybersecurity threats are ransomware and dual extortion, data exposure and third-party risk, financial aid fraud (ghost students), phishing and credential theft, as well as insider threats.

Mr. Arnold reported the institution has implemented multiple safeguards, including ransomware protection, data security, phishing prevention, and insider threat controls. Upcoming priorities will include enhancing fraud detection capabilities through advanced machine learning tools (e.g., TensorFlow), expanding cybersecurity training using real-world case studies, upgrading endpoint protection and antivirus systems, strengthening collaboration with K–12 partners to mitigate shared phishing threats, and preparing for emerging risks involving AI-generated impersonation (audio and video).

Mr Arnold's report emphasized that cybersecurity and fraud prevention are dynamic and evolving challenges requiring continuous adaptation. The institution remains proactive in strengthening its defenses through technology, collaboration, and institution-wide engagement.

The Board received the report and expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts to safeguard institutional systems and resources.

President's Report

ODHE Completion Plan and Academic Program ROI

The Board received and reviewed the biennial Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) Completion Plan, which aligns with the institution's strategic priorities and ongoing initiatives. The plan establishes measurable goals to increase enrollment by 13% by 2028 and ensure 90% of students engage in workforce or transfer pathways. It also emphasizes strengthening pathways between non-credit and degree programs and enhancing advising support, particularly for College Credit Plus (CCP) students. All outlined strategies reflect initiatives already in progress, with no concerns raised by the Board.

The Board also reviewed the Academic Program Return on Investment (ROI) Dashboard, a data-driven tool used to evaluate program performance and financial sustainability. The dashboard integrates tuition revenue, State Share of Instruction, direct and indirect costs, and key student success metrics, including enrollment, retention, and completion rates. For the most recent fiscal year, the institution reported approximately $1.26 million in net revenue across programs.

Analysis indicates that high-cost programs, particularly those with lab, clinical, and accreditation requirements, require continued investment and enrollment growth to achieve sustainability. In contrast, lower-cost programs present opportunities to strengthen overall financial performance through increased enrollment. Nursing programs demonstrated positive financial and employment outcomes, supported by grant funding and strong employer partnerships, with high job placement rates among graduates.

The Board recognized the importance of continued focus on enrollment growth, student retention, and program efficiency. Ongoing enhancements to the ROI model will further refine cost analysis and support informed decision-making.

Approval of the ODHE Completion Plan via Consent Agenda
Trustee Vessels moved to approve the ODHE Completion Plan via Consent Agenda, Trustee Barengo seconded, and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

Ms. Altier	Absent	Mr. Vandenberg	Y
Mr. Anderson	Absent	Ms. Vessels	Y
Mr. Barengo	Y	Mr. Wilcox	Absent
Ms. Chavez	Y	Dr. Zacharias	Y
Ms. Erickson	Y		

The ODHE Completion Plan via Consent Agenda was approved as Resolution R75-26.

New/Old Business

The Board received an update on the recent Foundation Benefit Concert, which Jacklyn Callihan reported as highly successful. Attendance included both returning supporters and a notable number of new participants, reflecting effective outreach and promotional efforts. The event also secured new sponsorships, contributing to its overall success.

Ms. Callihan reported that the fundraising goal was exceeded in advance of the event, with total proceeds surpassing $10,000. The event was positively received by attendees and featured a special guest appearance by Dr. Jona Rinard, which enhanced the overall experience.

The Board expressed appreciation for the support and contributions that led to the event's success.

Adjournment
Trustee Vessels moved to adjourn, Trustee Barengo seconded, and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

Ms. Altier	Absent	Mr. Vandenberg	Y
Mr. Anderson	Absent	Ms. Vessels	Y
Mr. Barengo	Y	Mr. Wilcox	Absent
Ms. Chavez	Y	Dr. Zacharias	Y
Ms. Erickson	Y		

The Adjournment of the April 20, 2026 meeting of the WSCO Board of Trustees was approved as **Resolution R76-26.**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2026.

Dr. Joseph Zacharias Date Dr. Sarah Parker Date

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