Washington State College of Ohio
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 16, 2026, 4 p.m.
Health Room H108
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chair Dr. Joseph Zacharias called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Lisa Walsh took roll call and meeting minutes. The following trustees were present: Mr. Randy Barengo, Ms. Christy Chavez, Mr. David Vandenberg, Ms. Susan Vessels, Mr. Tyler Wilcox, and Dr. Joseph Zacharias. Ms. Jodey Altier and Mr. Bernie Anderson attended virtually, and Ms. Lucinda Erickson arrived at 4:20 p.m.

Others in attendance included Dr. Sarah Parker (President), Dr. Jona Rinard (VP of Academic Affairs), Dr. David Hermann (VP of Institutional Advancement), Ms. Angie Lang (Chief Financial Officer), Mr. Daniel Knaus (Associate VP of Finance and Operations), Mr. Brandon Herb (Director of Facilities), Ms. Maddie Galloway (Director of Financial Aid), Ms. Emily Miskimins (Director of Human Resources), Ms. Jacklyn Callihan (Executive Director of Marketing, Advancement, & Foundation), Ms. Kathy Temple-Miller (Dean of Students), Ms. Melinda Pinkerton (Controller), Ms. Dustin Taylor (Registrar), and Ms. Amanda Stilgenbauer (Director of Student Success).

Agenda Approval

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

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

The March 16, 2026 agenda was approved as Resolution R65-26.

Approval of February 16, 2026 Minutes

Trustee Barengo noted corrections needed to remove a movement by Trustee Wilcox for a vote on the Administrative Support Report and approval of the Academic Report, due to Trustee Wilcox's absence from the meeting.

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

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

The corrected February 16, 2026 Minutes were approved as Resolution R66-26.

There were no Public Comments nor Guests.

Financial Report via Consent Agenda
Chief Financial Officer, Angie Lang, reviewed the Variance Report. There were no Then and Now entries. In the Variance Report, some of the differences between last year and this year exceeding 5% were due to salary and fringes for positions that were left vacant student services, salary and fringes for vacant positions or those which were moved on the organizational chart. Regarding Institutional Support, the biggest variance was attributed to IT costs, the Interim President's salary and fringes, and a few open positions. There was a decrease in scholarships and fellowships, with noted line item differences including $28,000 in fee waivers and $27,000 in the Early Enrollment Program.

On the Statement of Revenues and Expenses, Ms. Lang noted that in preparation for the approval of the FY27 budget, there was a removal of practicum fees which became effective in the spring semester. The removal of those fees were notated in the first line as a $10,000 decrease from last year. Other revenue sources, such as investment income, were down around $40,000 due to the current stock market.

The Balance Sheet showed current assets and differed output at $46,000,000 compared to nearly $45,000,000 last year. The Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the restricted funds had a difference of $100,000 due to the ARC grant ending and moving a portion of the Title III salaries to the General Fund.

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

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

The Financial Report via Consent Agenda was approved as Resolution R67-26.

Administrative Report via Consent Agenda
Ms. Emily Miskimins gave the Human Resources Report. She stated that hiring is underway for one Nursing faculty member. There was also an offer made for an Electrical Engineering faculty member, with their decision expected by the end of March.

New hires include Director of Career and Workforce Development, Kari Lowe, who starts on March 30th, and Facilities Custodial Technician, Carrie Mugrage, who started on March 16th.

There was one resignation reported. Dr. David Hermann, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, has taken a position at a college in Chicago. Dr. Hermann's last day at Washington State will be April 10th. Dr. Parker recognized the contributions Dr. Hermann made to advance the work of the college, and thanked him for all that he has done. Dr. Hermann commented that the move was due to the failure of the levy funding Ewing School, and the need to seek services for his son outside of the area. He noted that he is proud of what has been accomplished at Washington State, and he will be cheering the college on from afar. Dr. Hermann thanked the Board and Dr. Parker for their support.

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

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

The Administrative Report via Consent Agenda was approved as Resolution R68-26.

Academic Report via Consent Agenda

Dr. Jona Rinard presented a proposed revision to Academic Credit Policy 10.210, updating the definition of a blended course from "50% online and 50% face-to-face" to "instruction conducted up to 50% online." The revision aligns with ODHE guidelines and allows for greater flexibility in course delivery, including the option to increase face-to-face instruction.

Dr. Rinard also requested approval of program changes. The Curriculum Committee recommended renaming the Advanced Manufacturing and Integration program to Manufacturing Engineering Technology to better reflect program content and align with advisory board feedback. The change will also improve alignment with related certificate programs. Students from the deactivated Process Technology program may complete a Chemical Operator certificate and transition into the revised degree pathway.

Dr. Rinard presented data for the Health Science programs. Data indicated a 28% enrollment increase from 2019–2025, with the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program maintaining the highest enrollment and offering two entry points annually. Dr. Rinard noted that the Practical Nursing (PN) program should increase enrollment due to LPNs being pulled back to bedside duties.

Discussion focused on enrollment trends. Dr. Heather Kincaid reported that ACEN accreditation is currently in process, with a site visit scheduled for March and a decision expected in October. Accreditation will be retroactive to prior BSN graduates. Full accreditation is expected to strengthen the program's competitiveness, particularly for graduates seeking employment outside the local region. While local healthcare systems continue to hire graduates regardless of accreditation status, it is increasingly required by larger employers.

Trustee Wilcox asked about graduation data on employment success rates. Dr. Kincaid replied that those rates are tracked, but she did not have that data to share at the meeting. She added that most students pursuing a BSN are already working as RNs. Dr. Kincaid noted that most students secure employment prior to graduation due to strong clinical partnerships. Also, Memorial Health System continues to provide scholarships tied to a three-year employment commitment.

Dr. Rinard added that additional pipeline development efforts include a partnership with Caldwell High School and a private funder to support students pursuing nursing degrees, including fully funded pathways and expanded access to general education coursework. This model is intended to strengthen long-term enrollment in nursing programs.

Trustee Vessels asked for clarification on BSN enrollment data, noting that the program officially launched in 2024, but the chart included data from 2022 and 2023 and appeared to show a decline. Dr. Kincaid explained that students began declaring the major in fall 2023, with 19 initial enrollees, and that earlier data may reflect students taking coursework leading into the program. Dr. Rinard added that the data would be reviewed and further clarified for the Board.

In response to additional questions, Dr. Kincaid shared that the first BSN graduating class included 12 students, with 14 students entering the program in fall 2025. Dr. Kincaid estimated the current headcount at 32 students across two cohorts. Trustees also inquired about program-level financials, and Dr. Kincaid noted that return on investment is evaluated when launching cohorts, with enrollment growth needed to strengthen sustainability.

Trustee Barengo raised a concern regarding RN pass rates decline. Dr. Kincaid clarified that only a small number of students required retesting across spring and fall cohorts, with most having since passed and one remaining retake pending. So, the final pass rate may change. Dr. Parker confirmed that additional information on program outcomes, including return on investment and employment data, will be shared with the Board in April.

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

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

The Academic Report via Consent Agenda was approved as Resolution R69-26.

President's Report

On February 26, the College hosted Future Plans' GRIT Days of Learning Conference, welcoming nearly 300 attendees from across the state. The WorkForce30 initiative was featured as the opening session, helping to frame discussions around workforce alignment. The event included breakout sessions and collaborative work focused on the Playbook for Progress to identify actionable next steps. Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel also visited campus to share remarks on WorkOhio, collaboration, and leveraging regional assets.

On March 3, Dr. Jona Rinard and Dr. Parker provided testimony at the State House in support of SB 328, which focuses on strengthening career readiness in K–12 through career coaching, professional skills standards, and expanded career exploration. The bill also includes an Education and Workforce Return on Investment Initiative to better connect data across education and workforce systems. The legislation is expected to advance to the House.

Additionally, the College was invited by Jobs for the Future to participate in the IDEAS project, a national initiative to expand access to high-quality dual enrollment. The project will expand on the work the college is already doing in creating pathways with local school districts. The College will collaborate with peer institutions to strengthen pathways aligned with workforce needs and will receive $200,000 through June 2028 to support this work.

On March 11 through 13, Dr. Parker reported that she, along with Dr. Jona Rinard, Lisa Walsh (Director of CCP Partnerships) and Kristin English (Director of Educational Technology and Instructional Design) traveled with local school leaders to Pittsburgh for Institute 3 of the Rural Guided Pathways project. Dr. Mary Schaeffer (Superintendent, Marietta Schools), Ryan Caldwell (Superintendent, Frontier Local), Greg Gifford (Superintendent, Morgan Schools), and Tiffany Speck (Curriculum Director, Caldwell) joined for three days of informational sessions, key note speakers, and strategic team time.
The convening focused on strengthening dual enrollment and CCP efforts by identifying barriers and aligning action steps with the College's five-year strategic plan, including expanding additional locations, increasing matriculation, and supporting degree completion through early enrollment. The collaborative sessions fostered strong engagement, relationship-building, and trust among partners, with an emphasis on listening and shared planning.

Discussions reinforced the importance of intentional student pathways to maximize time, cost, and outcomes, while also highlighting opportunities for co-branding and clearer communication with families. The group left with defined action items and a shared commitment to advancing regional partnerships and student success.

Dr. Parker reminded trustees that the Foundation Concert with The John Walsh Trio will be at the Adelphia on April 10th. She thanked Jackie Callihan for hitting the ground running to get everything in order for the Foundation. Fundraising has been open for a little over a week, and the college is doing well.

She concluded with a reminder for the trustee to complete the Ethics Commission's financial disclosures, due May 15th. She noted that when she completed her report she downloaded a copy and sent it to Brenda Matthews. Trustee Zacharias asked if there is a running tally of who has completed the report. Dr. Parker replied that an email confirmation was sent.

New/Old Business

Trustee Barengo noted the two-year trustee training under Old Business. Trustee Vandenberg said there are 18 sessions, with some online and four covered in the seminar in September. The remaining 14 units need to be completed by the middle of 2027.

Dr. Parker said that ODHE is leading the effort in compliance with Ohio's Senate Bill 1, but they have yet to release the required training for trustees. She said that when communication is received, her office will respond and update the Board.

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

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

The Adjournment of the March 16, 2026 meeting of the WSCO Board of Trustees was approved as **Resolution R70-26.**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2026.

Ms. Jodey Altier Date Dr. Sarah Parker
Date

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