

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES **BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Friday, Sept. 19, 2025 | 8:00 AM
Center for Workforce Development, 315 Cleveland Avenue

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

John Ammendola, Chair
Sandy Doyle-Ahern, Vice-Chair
James Fowler, Immediate-Past Chair
Corrine M. Burger
Jean M. Halpin
Traci L. Martinez, Esq.
Jerome Revish
Rick Ritzler
Lorina W. Wise, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbus State Community College Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Chair Ammendola at 8:00 am.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- John Ammendola
- Sandy Doyle-Ahern
- James Fowler
- Corrine M. Burger
- Jean M. Halpin
- Traci L. Martinez, Esq.
- Jerome Revish
- Rick Ritzler
- Lorina W. Wise, Esq

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

President Harrison advised that the record should show that notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with provisions of §121.22(F) of the Ohio Revised Code.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison thanked the Board for their support and active participation in what has been a big week for the College. On Sept. 15, the College announced the Buckeye Bridge partnership with The Ohio State University, which will enable eligible Columbus State associate degree graduates to complete a bachelor's degree tuition-free. On Sept. 18, the College hosted the Ohio Department of Higher Education annual trustees conference, featuring Gov. Mike DeWine and other state leaders. And later on Sept. 19, the College would be celebrating the groundbreaking event for OhioHealth Hall, its new healthcare education building.

He also briefly introduced Gillian Desormeaux, the new ex-officio student member of the Board for the 2025-26 academic year. Ms. Desormeaux will share her story at the Sept. 25 Regular Meeting of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Burger moved, Member Doyle-Ahern seconded, that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Committee of the Whole, held on Friday, July 18, 2025, be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES: Ammendola, Doyle-Ahern, Fowler, Burger, Halpin, Martinez, Revish, Ritzler and Wise

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

AWARDING OF EMERITUS STATUS

President Harrison asked Martin Maliwesky, senior vice president of academic affairs and chief academic officer, to present the action item, which would grant emeritus status to 13 retired individuals in recognition of their outstanding service to the College.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

PLAN TO ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN CIVICS EDUCATION COURSE

President Harrison asked Dr. Maliwesky to present the action item, which is part of the College's response to the requirements of state legislation, Senate Bill 1. The proposed action item seeks Board approval of the College's plan to establish a course in American civic literacy. The College is required to submit the implementation plan to the Ohio Department of Higher Education by September 30, 2025.

The College is planning several courses to meet this SB1 requirement, including modifying an existing Intro to American Government course into POLS 1101 Intro to American Government and Civic Literacy. Pending all needed approvals, the course would launch in Spring Semester 2027. Course(s) are required to be in place for students graduating with bachelor's degrees in Spring 2030.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

NEW POLICY 13-16, INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

President Harrison shared that the action item, which is also required by Senate Bill 1, uses language directly from the law. The law requires institutions of higher education to establish a policy, approved by the Board of Trustees, addressing specified topics related to intellectual diversity and controversial beliefs or policies. To meet that requirement, the proposed action item would authorize the adoption of new Policy 13-16, Intellectual Diversity, effective September 25, 2025.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

UPDATE ON LOW-ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

Before moving to the next action item, President Harrison asked Chief of Staff Rob Messinger to provide an update on a requirement of Senate Bill 1 related to low-enrollment degree programs.

Mr. Messinger shared that SB1 requires colleges and universities to eliminate or obtain waivers for any undergraduate degree program if fewer than five degrees on average are conferred over any three-year period. The Ohio Department of Higher Education set a deadline for waiver requests of Aug. 26, 2025. For programs to be eliminated, new students can no longer be admitted into those programs as of Sept. 25, 2025.

Mr. Messinger said that Columbus State has a long history of adjusting academic programs based on student interest and the needs of employers in our region. Based on the specific requirements of SB1, Columbus State reported 17 low-enrollment degree programs for the three years ending with the 2023-24 academic year. Of these, the college sought waivers to continue

and/or evaluate mergers for 7 programs. The other 10 degree programs were discontinued or combined with ongoing programs. Mr. Messinger noted that the College had begun the work to combine or discontinue most of those programs before Senate Bill 1.

TUITION AND FEES WAIVER FOR COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS NONPUBLIC STUDENTS

President Harrison asked Deputy Chief Financial Officer Matthew L. Stiffler to present the action item, which asks the Board to provide ongoing approval that the College charge the same tuition and fee rates to nonpublic and homeschooled students that are charged to public school students who participate in the College Credit Plus (CCP) dual enrollment program.

There are some nonpublic students who would otherwise be eligible to participate in CCP but are not awarded state funds to subsidize all or some of the college course tuition and fees costs under the program. As a measure that advances Columbus State's commitment to affordability, the College has traditionally provided the same rates of tuition and fees for these students.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK CONTRACT - GMP AMENDMENT 2: OHIOHEALTH HALL

President Harrison asked Kieran Sherry, executive director of Planning, Design, and Construction, to present three action items related to the OhioHealth Hall project. This action item would authorize the College to enter into the second guaranteed maximum price (GMP2) amendment related to OhioHealth Hall.

The Board in May 2024 approved a \$59.3 million Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) contract for OhioHealth Hall, a new 80,000-square-foot classroom and laboratory building devoted to healthcare education. The CMR process includes the development of contract amendments that further specify the GMP and other details of project phases. The GMP2 for the OhioHealth Hall project is \$44.4 million. This amendment does not change the previously approved CMR contract total. A third and final GMP amendment is expected to come to the Board in November 2025.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION – RIGHT-OF-WAY ASSOCIATED WITH OHIOHEALTH HALL

Mr. Sherry said that the proposed action would approve the acquisition of approximately 2,800 square feet of right-of-way from the City of Columbus. This acquisition, aligned with a series of

utility and sanitation easements, will provide greater efficiencies for the construction for OhioHealth Hall. The right-of-way acquisition is being provided at no cost to the College.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

RATIFICATION OF UTILITY EASEMENTS REQUIRED FOR OHIOHEALTH HALL

Mr. Sherry reported that the action item would ratify four utility easements with the City of Columbus that support the development of OhioHealth Hall. They include a sanitary easement, Columbus Department of Power easement and two stormwater control practice easements.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK CONTRACT - GMP AMENDMENT 2: FRANKLIN HALL RENOVATION

Mr. Sherry presented the action item, which authorizes the College to enter into the second guaranteed maximum price (GMP2) amendment related to the Franklin Hall renovation.

The Board in November 2024 approved the \$26.5 million Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMR) contract for the Franklin Hall renovation, which will convert and update Franklin Hall into a state-of-the-art classroom building for general education. The CMR process includes the development of contract amendments that further specify the GMP and other details of project phases. The GMP2 for the Franklin Hall project is \$25.4 million. This amendment does not change the previously approved CMR contract total.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION – 408 N. 6TH STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

President Harrison asked Zach Woodruff, the college's chief real estate development officer, to present the action item. Mr. Woodruff reported that the proposed acquisition would enable the College to relocate and right-size its shipping, receiving and storage functions, which are currently located at 164 N. Grant Street. These functions need to be relocated to enable the development of the Opportunity Pointe housing complex, which was facilitated through a joint venture between Columbus State Community Partners and Woda Cooper Companies Inc.

The property at 408 N. 6th Street would cost the College \$1,088,250. The property is valued at \$1.95 million. The current owner plans to contribute the remaining \$861,750 as a donation to the College. The purchase will use funds that had been set aside but not transferred to Columbus State Community Partners.

Mr. Sherry noted that, if the College purchases the 408 N. 6th Street property, it is planning a \$2.1 million renovation of the site to prepare it for use. Those costs would be funded with voter-approved bond proceeds.

After the presentation, the Committee of the Whole agreed to refer this item to the Board of Trustees for approval.

INFORMATION-ONLY ITEMS

The following items were presented to the Board for information only:

- Capital Project Report
- Financial Statements as of and for the One Month Ended July 31, 2025
- Personnel Information Items

CURRENT UPDATES

Dr. Harrison asked Executive Vice President Rebecca Butler to share updates on the college's student success efforts and enrollment for autumn semester 2025.

Dr. Butler reported that the College achieved 8.1% growth among headcount for all students, and a 7.1% gain in the credits taken by these students. She noted that College's total enrollment for Autumn Semester 2025 was 30,488 as of the official census count – the highest total for a semester since 2012. She provided further detail about segments of the College's enrollment, including traditional undergraduates, College Credit Plus students, adult students and those attending the Delaware Campus and Dublin Regional Learning Center.

Dr. Butler then shared an update about the College's student success catalysts. She said the College had made strong progress on its goals for autumn 2025 for compressed term lengths; course re-design work to improve gateway course success; expanding proactive program advising; and enrollment growth at the Delaware campus and among adult students.

Dr. Harrison then asked Mr. Woodruff to provide an update on projects under way through Columbus State Community Partners. Mr. Woodruff reported that the College had successfully announced a proposed partnership that would create a YMCA recreation center on the college's downtown campus, including drop-in child care for student parents while on campus.

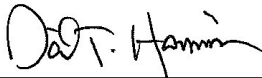
The College began conducting a student vote on Sept. 16 to determine support for a proposed fee that would fund most of the costs of the Columbus State YMCA and services. Already, nearly 1,000 students have cast ballots. If a majority of voting students support the \$65 per semester fee, the plan would move forward for consideration by the Board and the Ohio Department of Higher Education. The vote will conclude on Sept. 30, 2025.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.



David T. Harrison, Ph.D. Secretary, Board of Trustees

Office of the President/rm