

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 24, 2026**

REGENTS PRESENT:

Mr. Jay Barrett, Chair
Mr. John Betancourt
Mrs. Anette Carlisle
Ms. Michele Fortunato Vice-Chair
Ms. Irene Hughes
Dr. Paul Proffer
Ms. Peggy Thomas
Dr. David Woodburn

REGENTS ABSENT:

Mr. Johnny Mize

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Ms. Sara Pesina, Representative for the Hereford Hinkson Memorial Campus
Mr. Jeff Turner, Representative for the Moore County Campus

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT:

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Bob Austin, Vice President of Student Affairs
Mr. Kevin Ball, Vice President of Communications and Marketing
Dr. Mychal Coleman, Vice President of Human Resources
Dr. Jamelle Conner, President
Mr. Joe Bill Sherrod, Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Ms. Denese Skinner, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives
Dr. Frank Sobey, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Mr. Mark White, Executive Vice President and General Counsel

CABINET MEMBERS ABSENT:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mr. Jay Barrett, Chair of the Board of Regents. He welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER

Abraham Michael prayed with Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was one public comment.

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Ms. Kennedy Juarez, SGA Vice-President, gave the SGA Report. Topics discussed were:

- Breakfast Club Event
- Welcome Week
 - Kickoff
 - Stress Management guest speaker
 - Welcome week movie Night: Superbad
 - Welcome Week AMP'D Night – Family Program
- Hide and Peep – All Amarillo Campuses
- Egg Hunt – Family Program
- Badgerama
- West Campus Breakfast
- April Movie – Despicable Me
- Club Clash
- Upcoming Events:
 - Arts and Education Jobs Fair – partnering with Career Services and Employment Services
 - All Majors Job Fairs
- Upcoming Travel: Texas Junior College Student Government Association State Conference April 16-19 in Dallas.

REGENT'S REPORTS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMENTS REGARDING AC AFFILIATES**Executive Committee**

Mr. Barrett reported that the committee met last Tuesday and put together the Board agenda.

AC Foundation

Ms. Fortunato reported that the foundation met on March 12th at the Health Science SIM center for a tour of the new space. Mr. John Smoot presented about the SIM Center that opened in the Fall of 2025 and served 2,500 students. In the first 8 weeks of the Spring semester the center has served 2,000 students.

Amarillo Museum of Art (AMoA)

Ms. Fortunato reported that AMoA did not meet in March due to spring break. The 20x20 art auction is April 2nd. Auction is all online, items will be available to view on March 27th.

Panhandle PBS

Ms. Thomas reported on a new documentary chronicling the performance of “Cadillac Ranch”, a piece of music specially commissioned by the Amarillo Symphony in celebration of its 100th anniversary. The documentary features exclusive interviews with symphony conductor George Jackson, Executive Director Larry Lang and composer Michael Daugherty. The documentary will have a special studio premiere on Thursday, April 23rd, with the television debut on May 5th.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ)

Dr. Woodburn reported that the meeting was canceled.

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Ms. Skinner reported that they met and discussed options of expanding the zone of TIRZ 2 and did Conflict of Interest training.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone 3 (TIRZ 3)

Dr. Proffer reported that there will not be meeting until April.

Standing Policies & Procedures Committee

Mrs. Carlisle reported that they will be meeting to go through the policies.

Finance Committee (AC Investment, Potential Lease & Sales Opportunities)

Mr. Barrett discussed that the Finance committee did not meet.

Legislative Affairs Committee

No report.

Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT)

Mrs. Thomas discussed recent newsletters that focus on data informed governance learning modules. Discussed the CCATT annual conference September 17th – 19th , conference registration will open in May.

Nominating Committee

No report.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dr. Jamelle Conner provided the President's report which discussed:

- Activity at the Health Science and Simulation Center is in high demand and is on track to have held 160 events with over 4,000 participants.
- Enrollment is up over 7% from last year for the Spring second term.
- The Pantex Innovation Challenge in partnership with TTU and Pantex at the Innovation Outpost.
- 50th Anniversary of FM 90 events.
- Coffee Memorial Blood Center recognized Amarillo College for their 2025 blood donation that resulted in saving over 240 lives.
- The recent AC Legacy Awards where 980 years of combined service was recognized.
- Director of Financial Aid, Kelly Steelman, has been appointed for a new 3-year term to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Boards Financial Advisory Committee.
- Birthday Cards for local World War II veteran Charles Elliot 100th year birthday.
- Update on AC's Baseball and Volleyball teams.
- Coffee and Conversations with Conner (C3) meetings.
- United Way Victory Celebration and Pam Madden's volunteer of the Year award.
- Amarillo Children's Home *Roots and Wings* banquet.
- Theatre Program "*School of Lies*" production
- Golden Spread Council Good Scout Luncheon
- CISD/Canyon ISD Business and Community Luncheon.

MINUTES

Minutes of the regular board meeting on February 24, 2026, and special board meeting on March 12, 2026, were provided to the Regents.

Dr. Proffer moved to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on February 24,

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2026. Ms. Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Carlisle moved to approve the minutes of the special board meeting on March 12, 2026. Dr. Woodburn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was provided to the board.

Ms. Fortunato moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Hughes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BADGER BOUND UPDATE

Ms. Becky Burton provided an update on *Badger Bound* to the Board. *Badger Bound* is a program where if students complete 15 hours of dual credit with AC they qualify for up to 45 hours of free tuition and books after they graduate from high school. This applies to high school students in the AC service area, beginning with the Class of 2026. By the end of Spring 2026 AC will have 1100 dual credit students who have earned 15 hours, which is 300 more than last year. That will earn 3.8 million in HB8 funding by the end of this semester. Badger Bound is last money in, students must fill out a FAFSA. Ms. Burton discussed the many ways the college is promoting and advertising the program with educators, students, and parents.

No action was required for this item.

THEATRE STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS

Mr. Monty Downs shared successes from the recent American College Theatre Festival which AC has participated in since 1978. Of the four AC students that presented work at the conference, all four were recognized. Talon Russell received the Heart of the Arts award for sound design in *Street Car Named Desire*, Aiden Volden received the Heart of the Arts award for lighting in *Title of Show*, Annemarie Pulliam received material achievement in lighting for *Street Car Named Desire*, and Abby Atwood was a National qualifier in stage management.

No action was required for this item.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Tiffani Crosley discussed the monthly financial analysis and the financial statements for January 31, 2026, with the Board.

Mr. Betancourt moved to approve the January 31, 2026, financial reports. Ms. Carlisle seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

INVESTMENT REPORT

Ms. Crosley discussed the Quarterly Investment Report for the period December 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026. A copy of the report was provided to the Regents.

Dr. Woodburn moved approve the Quarterly Investment Report. Ms. Carlisle seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PURCHASE OF HSI STEM FUNDED EQUIPMENT - PEDIATRIC SIMULATION

Ms. Holly Hofmann, Director of the HSI STEM Grant, requested board approval for the Amarillo College's Health Science Simulation Center to expand its simulation experiences to support pediatric training for students. This equipment includes the following:

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- SimNewborns (quantity of two includes cases, airway lubricant, blood concentrate, syringes, IV/IO drain bag, IO sealing tape, meconium aspiration kit, umbilical cord, blanket, cap, and diaper) – SimNewborn is a newborn tether less simulator designed to improve neonatal resuscitation training.
- MegaCode Kid Medium and SimPad PLUS 2 System (includes remote control, headset, microphone, wrist strap, manikin strap, and software) - MegaCode Kid paired with the SimPad PLUS System provides training for a wide range of emergency skills including CPR, ACLS, trauma, first aid and child abuse awareness training in field, transport and in-hospital settings.

The pediatric simulation equipment will enhance instructional quality and support enrollment growth by providing hands-on simulation learning experiences. The equipment will be purchased from Laerdal Quote #Q-1257305 utilizing the BuyBoard Contract 704-23 in the amount of \$68,023.40.

Items will be purchased with HSI STEM grant funds.

Mrs. Carlisle moved to approve. Dr. Proffer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASE OF HSI STEM FUNDED ITEMS – WASHINGTON CAMPUS BIOLOGY LAB

Ms. Hofmann requested approval from the board so that Amarillo College's Biology Department can equip a new biology lab to support student instruction for anatomy & physiology, biology, and zoology courses. The requested items included the following:

- 21 different anatomy & physiology instructional models of various quantities
- Nine (9) sets of ten (10) zoological models
- Human muscular model which shows the deep and superficial musculature in detail with removal parts.

Items will be purchased with HSI STEM grant funds.

These items will enhance instructional quality and support enrollment growth by providing hands-on work-based learning simulation experiences. The equipment will be purchased from Anatomy Warehouse Quote #QN22089 utilizing the TIPS Contract # 230807 in the amount of \$63,751.52.

Mr. Betancourt moved to approve. Ms. Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CONCERT HALL THEATER RENOVATION PROJECT – Dr. Frank Sobey

Dr. Frank Sobey asked for approval for a Concert Hall Theater renovation project. The renovation would be a cost-effective alternative to a full structural overall. There are two funding sources; the VPAA budget will pay for labor and the AC foundation will pay for the rest. Renovation is a strategic, cost-effective alternative to a full structural overhaul, ensuring the facility meets National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) accreditation standards ahead of the 2028-2029 site visit.

The project utilizes Cooperative Purchasing Agreements were noted to streamline procurement and ensure competitive pricing without additional bidding.

- **VPAA Funded Improvements (\$85,003.95 total)**
 - **Seating Removal:** \$13,431.00 (Panhandle Steel Building - Cooperative)
 - **Flooring:** \$8,015.14 (Casey Carpet One – RFP # 1401)
 - **Lighting & Painting:** \$59,510.00 (A-1 Electric & Wardlaw)
 - *Includes a 5% project contingency.*

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- **Foundation Funded Improvements (\$145,616.15 total)**
 - **New Seating:** \$114,900.00 (GOAT Athletix Inc.- Cooperative)
- **Optional: Specialty Lighting:** \$2,441.00 (LEP Lighting)
 - **Curtains/Drapery:** \$28,275.15 (Rose Brand - Cooperative)

Work is scheduled for Summer 2026, beginning May 18 and concluding July 31. This timeline ensures the hall is operational for the Summer Choir Recruiting Camp in August 2026.

Ms. Fortunato moved to approve the Concert Hall Theater renovation project. Ms. Carlisle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S EVALUATION

Mr. Barrett discussed that this item was placed on the agenda for the Board to discuss the President's annual evaluation for the previous year. The evaluation results were provided to the Regents. Mr. Barrett called for a closed session so that the board may discuss the evaluation with Dr. Conner.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Barrett called for a closed meeting at 7:32 pm so that the regents could deliberate the evaluation and employment of the College President pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074 and to consult with the college's attorney, Counsel Mark D. White, on legal matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071. Dr. Conner was asked to stay for the first part of the closed session, with Mr. White joining for the second part. The closed session concluded at 8:20 pm. No final decision or vote was taken during closed session. The open session convened at 8:20 pm. A quorum was present.

ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S EVALUATION

Mr. Barrett returned to the President's annual evaluation. The regents were complementary in their remarks on Dr. Conner's performance and congratulated her for her first year as President of Amarillo College.

No action was taken on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Carlisle moved to adjourn. Dr. Woodburn seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Sara Pesina, Secretary