AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 28, 2026

REGENTS PRESENT:
Mr. Jay Barrett, Chair
Mr. John Betancourt
Ms. Michele Fortunato, Vice-Chair
Ms. Irene Hughes
Dr. Paul Proffer
Ms. Peggy Thomas

REGENTS ABSENT:
Mrs. Anette Carlisle
Mr. Johnny Mize
Dr. David Woodburn

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

CABINET MEMBERS ABSENT:
Mr. Mark White, Executive Vice President and General Counsel

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Regular Board 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
Student Joseph Randle prayed with Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There were two public comments.

SGA REPORT
Ms. Kennedy Juarez, SGA Vice-President, shared the SGA Report.

- Egg hunt on April 4th.
- Badgerama Spring Event
- SGA E-Board Elections April 29th
- Pizza with the President, Thursday April 30th.
- Badger Banquet on Saturday, May 2nd.
- SGA Texas Junior College State Update. SGA received eight awards at the conference: first in video of the year, first in scrapbook of the year, second in event of the year. Third in essay of the year, third in chapter of the year, gold level of chapter of excellence, most spirited, and won the sweepstakes award.

REGENT'S REPORTS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMENTS REGARDNG AC AFFILIATES

Executive Committee

Mr. Barrett reported that the executive committee discussed the items on the agenda, the possible online check register, how AC is managing resources with increased dual credit enrollment and reviewed social media numbers.

AC Foundation

Ms. Fortunato reported that the Foundation met on April 9th. At the meeting eight or nine student athletes were present. They learned during the meeting that 33 athletes made the Dean's list which represents 47% of the athletes. There was a report on the success of Kids' College and a report from the grants committee. The grants committee has awarded about $77,000 this year to various AC departments. The most recent grants were for training, equipment, and ropes for the fire academy, travel for conferences, and a new espresso machine for the café. Ms. Fortunato reported that Ms. Tracy Dougherty is retiring after 22 years with the Foundation. Ms. Fortunato concluded by discussing the recent athletic banquet, which was sponsored by the Foundation. The banquet had 230 people in attendance.

Amarillo Museum of Art (AMoA)

Ms. Fortunato reported that AMoA met on April 16th. There was a 20x20 auction that raised $17,450. There will be a big event called *Art After Dark* on June 26th, there will be fun activities, a food truck, and music from Bluegrass band *Rachels Sumner and the Traveling Light*, who won the 2025 Telluride Bluegrass Band Championship. AMoA will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary for Route 66 by bringing in three vintage cars into the museum.

Panhandle PBS

Ms. Thomas discussed that on April 23rd Panhandle PBS welcomed a sold-out studio audience for the premiere of *Cadillac Ranch*, a new documentary celebrating Texas Panhandle's most recognizable landmarks. The documentary was produced by Panhandle PBS, and highlights a special orchestral composition commissioned and performed by the Amarillo Symphony. Viewers across the region will have an opportunity to see *Cadillac Ranch* when it airs on television Wednesday, May 7th, at 7:00 p.m. on Panhandle PBS.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ)

No report.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone 2 (TIRZ 2)

No report

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone 3 (TIRZ 3)
No report.

Standing Policies & Procedures Committee
Ms. Hughes reported that the policies and procedures committee met on February 18th and April 13th to review update 50, which is up for discussion and possible approval later today. Ms. Hughes also reported that update 51 has already come out with five more policies, the committee will be meeting again soon.

Finance Committee (AC Investment, Potential Lease & Sales Opportunities)
Mr. Barrett discussed that they met, and have another meeting scheduled to discuss the President's contract renewal and review compensation.

Legislative Affairs Committee
No report.

Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT)
Ms. Thomas discussed that there are modules on data informed governance that the Board can view. She reminded Board that thee annual CCATT conference will be held September 17th – 19th at the Hyatt Regency in Houston. She reported that there is a questionnaire for those attending that asks trustees what they would like to see at the conference.

Nominating Committee
Mr. Barrett reported that he believes Dr. Woodburn will be setting a nominating committee meeting soon to discuss the slate of officers for the coming year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Dr. Jamelle Conner provided the President's report which discussed:
- The Amarillo College tour by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Dr. Wynn Rosser.
- Surging Summer and Fall enrollment, which shows 3,000 have registered for summer and the college is on track to hit 4,000. Fall registration is up 12.6% in headcount and 14.6% in credit hours year-over-year, with Washington Street Campus over 500 students above its five-year enrollment average. Dual Credit is up over 516% with 264 students enrolled with 1,953 credit hours.
- New offerings at the Innovation Outpost, such as offering a project management course with PMP certification May 4th -7th and providing open enrollment for irrigation training for licensing to help prepare for the TCEQ Irrigation licensing exams.
- Recent all-day event with the Pantex leadership team who toured AC's Health Science Simulation Center, First Responders Academy, Student Life and Conference Center, STEM Research Center, and engineering buildings. Pantex presented their university partnership strategy and both teams discussed focus areas for internships, Pantex employees as adjuncts, Pantex engagement with programs, participation with Badger Bound, and reskilling and upskilling for Pantex employees.
- Ignite the Arts student conference that saw 400 high school students in partnership with the Texas Panhandle Art Education Association.
- AI faculty workshop to develop strategies in AI governance, academic integrity, ethical use of AI, technology support, faculty professional development, AI tutoring, AI influence across curriculum, and contextual use of AI in the classroom.
- Liberal Arts Springboard event.

- Student success at the National Cyber League Spring 2026 practice game, all participants placed in the top 6% nationally among 3500 competitors. One student ranked 11th overall.
- Successes by Student Media at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Conference where they received 36 awards. Two overall excellence awards, thirteen first place awards, nine second place awards, nine third place awards, and five honorable mentions.
- Updates on procurement and contract processes, credit card limits, and the consent agenda.
- Invitation for Dr. Conner to serve as an inaugural member of the Texas Success Center's new strategic advisory council.
- Presentation at the Why Teach Region 16 event at WT.
- Coffee and Conversations with Conner (C3) event in March
- Strategic Student focus group on the Strategic Plan
- Strategic Planning Community Forum
- Recent Creative Mind Lecture
- STEM Scholars luncheon
- Business and CIS Celebration
- Keep Us Live! From Bach to Rock & Everything in Between Event
- AC tour by the current Leadership Amarillo and Canyon cohort
- United Way CEO luncheon and request for Dr. Conner to serve as an Executive Advocate of the campaign this year.
- Sharing Hope Ministries recent Hope Fest Banquet
- Celebration of Dr. Robert Bauman as this year's Professor Emeritus.
- Dr. Conner's request to join the Amarillo Executive Women.
- Spring Badgerama
- Recent Aspen and Texas Trustees Collaborative.
- *Hello AC* podcast.
- University of Texas Permian Basin and MOU signing event.
- Athletic Banquet
- Annual Badgers-to-Buffs signing event on campus.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS TRIP TO PORTUGAL AND SPAIN – Ms. Lesley Ingham
Ms. Lesley Ingham, Ms. Emersen Beiland, Ms. Allison Ingham, Mr. Joshua McCrary, Ms. Ashley Herrera, Ms. Mallory Moore, and Ms. Maryn Culwell presented a presentation on the recent Presidential Scholars travels to Portugal and Spain.

This item was for information only, no action was taken.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION & COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT – Ms. Jacqui Jones
Ms. Jacqui Jones shared a presentation on the grants department and how the department is helping the college and students meet innovation goals. The grants administration and compliance department have a 17 million+ portfolio, with funds coming from state, federal, and private sources to strengthen the colleges institutional budget. Ms. Jones highlighted the Nursing Shortage Reduction Program that was just awarded $445,651.02 for the grant period of 2026-2028, the NSRP grant program provides institutional support for nursing education. Ms. Jones discussed stewardship, stability, and growth. The program is seeking $1.6 million in new proposals to continue fueling academic innovation. Ms. Jones concluded that their department recently passed two audits.

This item was for information only, no action was taken.

MINUTES
Minutes of the regular board meeting on March 24, 2026, were provided to the Regents. Mr. Barrett discussed a change to the minutes on page 88.

Mr. Betancourt moved to approve the minutes as amended for the regular board meeting on March 24, 2026. Mrs. Hughes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA
The consent agenda was provided to the Board. Dr. Conner discussed that to further strengthen transparency regarding the college's purchasing procedures, the consent agenda has been expanded. The items included are generally considered routine and non-controversial such as annual renewals for our software agreements that have been previously approved. Dr. Conner requested the Board look over these in advance and clarified if there is anything that they would like to discuss further or vote on separately the item can be pulled from the consent agenda for separate voting. The chair will check for such requests when the board reaches the consent agenda item at each meeting.

A. APPOINTMENTS

Alexander, Tina – Instructor – Legal Studies

Effective Date:	3/28/2026
Salary:	$51,860.75
Qualifications:	Bachelor's Degree
Experience:	17 years of industry experience
Replacement for:	N/A

Reeser, Sherrel – Instructor – Associate Degree Nursing

Effective Date:	3/20/2026
Salary:	$53,593.34
Qualifications:	Master's Degree
Experience:	15 years of Industry Experience
Replacement for:	Brittney Laughter

B. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Business Admin/Heavy Equipment – transfer of funds from Heavy Equipment to Business Administration for faculty position.

Increase Business Admin – Appointed Personnel Pool	$60,000.00
Decrease Heavy Equipment Training – Appointed Personnel Pool	($60,000.00)

Engineering/Math – transfer of funds from Math to Engineering for faculty position.

Increase Engineering – Appointed Personnel Pool	$28,076.51
Decrease Math – Appointed Personnel Pool	($28,076.51)

Physical Plant Safety – transfer of funds to cover the expense of the monthly fire system inspections and monitoring for all campus locations.

Increase Safety – Other Pool	$25,000.00
Decrease Vehicles-Plant – Capital Equipment Pool	($25,000.00)

C. ITEMS OVER $50,000

HSI Workplace Compliance Renewal

The college is requesting approval for HSI Workplace Compliance software bundle for 1200 users in the amount of $69,534.68. This is an annual renewal for a system already embedded in college operations. Renewal is the most cost-effective option, avoiding higher costs and disruption associated with replacement.

Funding will be provided from the IT Infrastructure budget.

Ellucian Software Maintenance Renewal

The college is requesting approval for the annual maintenance and renewal of support for the Payment Gateway with EMV Client Subscription in the amount of $ 55,268.00. Renewal is the most cost-effective option, avoiding the higher costs and disruption associated with replacement.

Funding will be provided from the IT Infrastructure budget.

Journey Education Marketing Renewal

The college is requesting approval for Adobe Creative Cloud Enterprise Platforms for Multi-Lingual Subscription Renewal for Higher Education shared device license lab and classroom level 4 in the amount of $ 50,018.95. Renewal is the most cost-effective option, avoiding higher costs and disruption associated with replacement. Renewal is the most cost-effective option, avoiding higher costs and disruption associated with replacement.

Funding will be provided from the IT Infrastructure budget.

Watermark Insights, LLC Renewal

The college is requesting approval of annual renewal maintenance and support for Watermark Student Success and Engagement Enterprise License in the amount of $87,118.16. Renewal is the most cost-effective option, avoiding higher costs and disruption associated with replacement.

Funding will be provided from the QEP Maintenance Contracts budget.

Lifecycle Replacement of IT Hardware

The IT Department is requesting approval for the purchase of lifecycle replacement DC switches and Wireless Controllers to be installed at WSC SLCC 201 Networking Services. The quote received is from Insight Public Sector in the amount of $218,307.35 and will be purchased utilizing the DIR-CP0-5347 cooperative contract.

Funding will be provided from the TREC budget.

Cisco Firewall Maintenance Renewal

The college is requesting approval for the maintenance and renewal from 3/18/2026 through 6/24/2027 for Firewall Maintenance and support for Cisco Ironports in the amount of $148,262.45 to Insight Public Sector. This is an annual renewal for licenses on existing hardware embedded in college operations. Renewal is the most cost-effective option, avoiding the higher costs and disruption associated with replacement.

Funding will be provided from the TREC fund.

Duo Authentication Maintenance Renewal
The college is requesting approval for the annual maintenance and renewal for support from 7/30/2026 through 7/29/2027 for a Duo Authentication subscription in the amount of $61,420.78 to Insight Public Sector. Renewal is the most cost-effective option, avoiding the higher costs and disruption associated with replacement.

Funding will be provided from the TREC fund.

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

ONLINE CHECK REGISTER – Dr. Jamelle Conner
Dr. Conner discussed that Amarillo College is committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public funds, and has been reviewing several online check registers of other organizations. Dr. Conner proposed that the college move forward with a modified check register on the college's website. The proposed check register would provide summary information about payments made by AC, including payment date, vendor, and payment amount. Important context that the college would include on the web page as an explanation is that to protect privacy and confidentiality the posted information would not include employee payroll, financial aid, student details, refunds, bank account and payment card information, and other confidential and sensitive information. The information provided would be unaudited and may be adjusted as part of normal accounting processes. Some payments may be one time, grant funded, or legally restricted, and should not be interpreted as ongoing or discretionary spending. The posted register would be informational and would not replace AC's audited financial statements. For the implementation timeline the college would develop a customized report automated to run and take into the consideration the parameters that she described above and what would be included and what the college would make sure was not included for confidentiality and security purposes. The process is important to ensure the accuracy of the data and to create an efficient means to produce it without requiring manual work each time. Considering other priorities, report customization and testing, the college estimated that the new check register would go live in six months if the Board approves.

Dr. Proffer moved to approve this proposal to implement an online check register. Mr. Betancourt seconded. The regents deliberated on how the process would work. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Ms. Tiffani Crosley
Ms. Tiffani Crosley discussed the monthly financial report for February 28, 2026, with the Board. Ms. Crosley highlighted the variance analysis and discussed large changes with the Board, first discussing the tax revenue change. For this year the college has received 2.7 million dollars more in tax revenue than at this time last year and is an 18% difference. For Investment Income the college has received a 38% increase. Miscellaneous income was down by 4 million, due to funds being depleted from the movement of funds by the AC Foundation to complete construction, there have not been funds moved over this year and that is why there is that change. In the expense section supplies and travel are both down 19% and 21% due to overall initiatives at the college to reduce the budget for this year. Capital equipment is down 90% since most construction was completed last year. Ms. Crosley discussed operating cash flows, and noted that a bond payment was made February 15, 2026 which is why the amount has dropped from 6.9 million to 600,000. Ms. Crosley reviewed the financial metrics and mentioned again that the bond payment effected the current ratio but debt ratio remained the same.

Dr. Proffer moved to approve the February 28, 2026, financial reports. Ms. Hughes seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITATION TO BID PACKAGE NO. 1428 – Best Value Invitation for Bid for Food Delivery and Related Services for Amarillo College Badger Central Bookstore and Café, Hagy Childcare Center, & Lab School – Ms. Tiffani Crosley
Ms. Crosley discussed that the IFB No. 1428, best value invitation for bid for food delivery and related services for AC's Badger Central Bookstore and Café, Hagy Childcare Center & Lab School, was advertised in the Amarillo Globe News on February 22, 2026, and March 1, 2026. Bid Documents were obtained by (1) one company. A tabulation of the proposal was received and provided to the Board. Approval of the award being granted to Affiliated Foods for $200,000 for a (1) one year contract with the option to renew for (4) four additional (1) one year renewal periods is requested.

Ms. Thomas moved to award IFB No. 1428 to Affiliated Foods. Ms. Hughes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INVITATION TO BID PACKAGE NO. 1429 - Best Value Invitation for Bid for the Purchase and Installation of KACV-TV Television Transmitter and Related Components for Amarillo College
Mr. Kevin Ball discussed IFB No. 1429, best value invitation for bid purchase and installation of KACV-TV television transmitter and related components for Amarillo College. It was advertised in the Amarillo Globe News on March 15, 2026, and March 22, 2026. Bid documents were obtained by (1) one company. A tabulation of the proposal was received and provided to the Board. Approval of the award being granted to GatesAir "as one lot" for $272,969.87.

Funds for this project comes from the Public Media Company's Bridge Fund grant which was accepted and previously approved by the Amarillo College Board of Regents.

Ms. Thomas moved to award IFB No. 1429 to GatesAir. Mr. Betancourt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF UPDATES TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS ONLINE POLICY MANUAL.
Ms. Thomas discussed that the committee reviewed and requested changes to update 50. There were three rejected CRB, EFAA, and GB. This item was placed on the agenda so the regents could review TASB Community College Services Update 50 arising from changes to federal statues and rules issued by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and other state and federal agencies. The following Local Amarillo College policies will be revised as recommended by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and approved by the Board Policy Committee in response to Update 50:

BA	Delete	College District Governance
BAA	Add	College District Governance: Board Legal Status
BBE	Replace	Board members: Authority
BD	Replace	Board Meetings
BGC	Replace	Administrative Organization: Councils and Faculty Senates
CDB	Replace	Accounting: Inventories
CL	Add	Facilities Planning
CM	Replace	Facilities Construction
CS	Replace	Information Security

DC	Replace	Employment Practices
DGBA	Replace	Personnel-Management Relations: Employee Grievances
DGC	Replace	Employee Rights and Privileges: Employee Expression and Use of College Facilities
DH	Replace	Employee Standards of Conduct
DHB	Replace Reporting	Employee Standards of Conduct: Child Abuse and Neglect
DJA	Add	Assignment, Work Load, and Schedules: Telework
DM	Replace	Termination of Employment
EFB	Replace	Curriculum Design: Degrees and Certificates
EGA	Replace	Academic Achievement: Grading and Credit
FB	Replace	Admissions
FC	Replace	Registration and Attendance
FLA	Replace	Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Expression and Use of College Facilities
FLB	Replace	Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Conduct
FLBE	Replace	Student Conduct: Alcohol and Drug Use
FLD	Replace	Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Complaints
GD	Replace	Community Expression and Use of College Facilities

The Policy and Procedures committee recommended to approve and adopt the updates to the Board of Regents Policy Manual as described in the materials that were provided to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Barrett called for a closed meeting at 7:21 pm. so that the regents could deliberate the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel pursuant to Section 551.076 of the Texas Government Code. Dr. Jamelle Conner and Chief Elizabeth Brown were asked to stay. The closed session concluded at 7:59 pm. No final decision or vote was taken during closed session. The open session convened at 8:00 pm. A quorum was still present.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Thomas moved to adjourn. Ms. Fortunato seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Sara Pesina, Secretary