

OHIO

SENATE

JOURNAL

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH DAY
Senate Chamber, Columbus, Ohio
Monday, March 2, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Pursuant to Senate Rule No. 3, the Clerk called the Senate to order.

Senator DeMora was selected to preside according to the rule.

The journal of the last legislative day was read and approved.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The following bill was introduced and considered for the first time:

S. B. No. 371 - Senator Cirino.

To make capital reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2028.

OFFERING OF RESOLUTIONS

Pursuant to Senate Rule No. 55, the following resolutions were offered:

S. R. No. 287 - Senators Antonio, Smith.

Honoring Laila Edwards as a 2026 Olympic gold medalist.

S. R. No. 288 - Senators Gavarone, Wilson.

Honoring the Mars Hill Academy girls volleyball team as the 2025 OCSAA State Champion.

The question being, "Shall the resolutions listed under the President's prerogative be adopted?"

So the resolutions were adopted.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MARION TECHNICAL COLLEGE
TRUSTEE SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Marion Technical College
Trustee Selection Committee
Thursday, February 26, 2026
Virtual

Roll Call

Trustee Selection Committee members Mr. Ken Young, Mr. Rex Parrot, and Dr. Justin Hamper were present. Also present were Dr. Ryan McCall, President, and Ms. Laura Woughter, Chief of Staff.

The Committee began its meeting at 9:01 a.m.

College Updates

Dr. McCall provided some general College updates:

- The College continues to see strong enrollment, topping 3,800 students for spring 2026.
- Marion Tech Downtown is officially owned by the College. Dr. McCall is intent on securing funds to update the facility.
- Renovations on Bryson Hall will begin this spring to update the Advising Office, as well as corridors and classrooms.
- The College has worked through a major organizational restructure.
- The College transitioned to 8-week courses for all first-year classes beginning in the fall.
- The Title III grant concluded at the end of September 2025. The College saw major improvements in the retention of its part-time student population, reaching 63% from its baseline of 28%. The overall retention rate for all students is 65%.
- The College won the Planning, Governance and Finance for the Bellwether Awards for the collaboration with Columbus State community College for grant writing.

Dr. Hamper asked about the staff transition at the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, and Dr. McCall shared information about the new leadership of the organization.

Request for Reappointments

Two current trustees were requested for reappointment, to serve terms beginning May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2029:

- Mary Fox – Partner – Fox Osborn Co., L.P.A.
- Roxane Somerlet – Director - Marion County Job and Family Services

Mr. Young made a motion to reappoint both trustees, and Mr. Parrot seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the Committee approved both

reappointments.

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RHODES STATE COLLEGE TRUSTEE SELECTION COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FROM THE RHODES STATE COLLEGE TRUSTEE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR DR. RUSSELL J. DECKER TO BE APPOINTED TO THE RHODES STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resolution No. 2026-01

WHEREAS, the Rhodes State College Trustee Selection Committee is empowered by the O.R.C. 3357.05 to appoint members to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board established a Trustee Selection Committee to select and appoint qualified candidates for the Rhodes State College Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Trustee Selection Committee has completed its review process and has recommended Dr. Russell J. Decker for appointment to the Board, based on his qualifications, experience, and alignment with the mission and values of Rhodes State College:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustee Selection Committee hereby approves the appointment of Dr. Russell J. Decker to serve as a member of the Rhodes State College Board of Trustees, in accordance with Rhodes State College Board of Trustees Policies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rhodes State College Chair and Vice Chair are authorized and directed to take any and all necessary actions to effectuate this appointment and update official records accordingly, contingent on the advice and consent of the Senate.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Trustee Selection Committee on December 10, 2025, by a unanimous voice vote.

Sincerely,

/s/RICHARD P. KORTOKRAX
Mr. Richard P. Kortokrax

Chair, Rhodes State College Trustee Selection Committee

Said appointments were referred to the committee on Rules and Reference.

On the motion of Senator Craig, the Senate adjourned until Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Attest:

VINCENT L. KEERAN,
Clerk.