

River Campus Board of Managers Minutes

May 14th, 2026

- Attendees:** Danielle Poyner, Rhonda Weller-Stilson, Doug Koch, Bruce Skinner, Lauren Jones, Brittany Schroeder
- Absent:** Kenneth Haskin
- Guest:** Ellen Wood
- Location:** River Campus Seminary, Conference Room (RCS305)
- Minutes:** Motion made by Rhonda Weller-Stilson and seconded by Doug Koch for approval of minutes from January 9th, 2026. Minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Danielle Poyner called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Agenda

- **Overall Ticket Sales Wrap-up for 2025-2026 Season-** Ellen Wood shared a handout reviewing year-over-year gross ticket-sales revenue from 2007–2026, including comparisons between touring-series and non-touring-series years. Rhonda Weller-Stilson noted that the touring series operated at a loss. The handout reflected gross revenue only and did not include net revenue for those years. Discussion also covered increased student attendance following the change from \$5 student tickets to free admission, post-Covid ticket-sales growth, and the impact of different show types on annual sales. Lauren Jones requested supporting financial data.
- **20th Season-** There was discussion about various planned events for the River Campus 20th Season, including an alumni show, a Gary Lucy show, and a President's event.
- **River Campus & Community Events for Spring 2026-** Rhonda shared a handout outlining this season's events and discussed River Campus summer programming. Bruce Skinner and Rhonda introduced a new, week-long residential, arts-focused Boy Scout Camp offering badges in Theatre & Dance, Music, Photography, and Pottery. The camp will bring students from across Missouri and provide access to River Campus classrooms and facilities. Rhonda and her staff are volunteering their time and services for the event.
- **Season Calendar-** There was discussion about the season calendar, and Ellen Wood shared a handout outlining River Campus and Scout Hall events. Renewal packets will be sent in early June, and Marketing is finalizing the 20th Season brochure and sponsorships. As of these minutes, two non-University productions are scheduled in the Bedell: Talmi Entertainment's *The Nutcracker* on November 11, 2026, and Cape Specialty Entertainment's Disney-licensed aerial/circus production of *The Little Mermaid* on May 14-16, 2027.
- **Retirements-** Dr. Leslie Jones and Dr. Chris Goeke will retire this year after more than 30 years of service. A discussion followed about interim appointments to fill their positions.
- **Board Member Role-** There was discussion about the River Campus agreement with the City, including Bruce Skinner's questions regarding the scope and authority of the City Representative's role on the Board of Managers. The Board discussed reviewing and potentially revising the agreement to clarify board roles, responsibilities, expectations, and guidelines under the Cooperation Agreement, as well as next steps for updating outdated contract language.
- **Agenda Requests by Lauren Jones-** There was discussion about board members' agenda requests and the process for placing action items on meeting agendas.

Discussion

There was discussion about the next meeting date, which was tentatively set for June 5th, 2026.

Motion to adjourn made by Doug Koch, seconded by Lauren Jones. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.