Your Community's College

TEMPLE COLLEGE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 19, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT	Mr. Larry Wilkerson, Chair; Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins, Secretary; Mr. Harry Adams; Mr. John Bailey; Dr. Hope Koch
ADMINISTRATION	Dr. Christy Ponce, President; Dr. Susan Guzmán-Treviño, Provost/Vice President; Ms. DeDe Griffith, Vice President, Workforce Development
OTHERS PRESENT	Audrena Ativalu; Elizabeth Chivers; DeDe Griffith; Laura Hutchens; Carrie Svayde; Cienna McMurry; Derek Mudd; Patrick Finnegan; James Skinner; Cynthia Gonzales; Jeff Fritz; Christopher Melendez; Robin Ray; Chris Krejci; Tristen Capley; John White; Catlain Melendez; Tracey Cooper; Dana Riegel; Priscilla Santana; Sandra Melendez; Caleb Hogue; Juanita Lockett

Item 1. Call to Order

The Temple College Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Item 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Harry Adams offered the invocation, and Mr. John Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3. Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Board

Citizens were provided the opportunity to address the Board regarding agenda items, with comments limited to three minutes. No discussion or final action would be taken during public comments. No citizens addressed the Board.

Item 4. Consideration of Approval of Consent Agenda

Before consideration of the consent agenda, Chair Larry Wilkerson invited Mr. Harry Adams to provide an update on Item 4.G. Mr. Adams reported that the new Board Policy Advisory Committee consisted of Dr. John (Jack) Myers, Chair; Dr. Mark Durham; Ms. Lydia Santibanez-Farrell; and Mr. Adams. The committee met on September 28 and October 6, 2026, to review the 24 policies included in the October 19 consent agenda and recommended their approval.

Dr. Hope Koch requested that the Sexual Harassment, Employee Grievance, and Artificial Intelligence policies be removed from the consent agenda for discussion. Her comments and the responses were recorded as follows:

Sexual Harassment Policy

Dr. Koch requested an independent telephone reporting option and revisions to provisions that could discourage participation. She also requested clarification of conflicting language regarding discipline and of reporting procedures when a concern involves the Title IX coordinator or a trustee. She emphasized the need for an accessible reporting process, noting that students may be uncomfortable reporting concerns to college employees, and suggested an 800 reporting line.

Dr. Susan Guzmán-Treviño stated that the College's legal consultant had reviewed the policy and that the decision was to retain it. Dr. Christy Ponce stated that a direct reporting number was published. Dr. Koch did not approve the policy because of the concerns stated above.

Employee Grievance Policy

Dr. Koch emphasized the need for a clear, accessible pathway for submitting grievances. She noted that the policy committee's minutes addressed this issue and suggested a monitored application or 800 number. She expressed concern that employees may be reluctant to submit identifiable emails, particularly when reporting a potential violation of law. She stated that she had raised similar concerns in 2025 regarding the sexual harassment and fraud policies. Dr. Koch did not approve the Employee Grievance policy because of these concerns.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Dr. Koch asked whether the policy should expressly protect Temple College data by restricting employees from uploading College data to public AI sites without enterprise protections. She also asked how the College would retain AI workflows developed by employees and protect that intellectual property when employees leave. Regarding student use of AI for assignments where it is prohibited, she asked whether the policy should address honor code requirements and potential suspension.

Dr. Koch approved the AI policy after the Provost stated that the issue was addressed in another College policy or practice.

Following the discussion, Mr. Wilkerson asked whether any other items should be removed from the consent agenda. No additional items were identified.

Motion: Mr. John Bailey moved to approve the consent agenda; Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins seconded.

Action: The motion carried. All members voted in favor except Dr. Hope Koch, who opposed the Sexual Harassment and Employee Grievance policies.

Item 4.H. Disbursements over $5,000 for September 2026

Motion: Mr. John Bailey moved to approve disbursements over $5,000 for September 2026; Mr. Harry Adams seconded.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Item 5. Student Faculty and Staff Member Spotlights

Dr. Susan Guzmán-Treviño introduced the spotlight presentations.

A. Student Spotlight

Ms. Priscilla Santana introduced musical theatre student Audrena Ativalu.

B. Alumni and Volunteer Spotlights

Ms. DeDe Griffith recognized Mauricio Leza in the Alumni Spotlight and recognized BEST Robotics Competition volunteers Catlain Melendez, Christopher Melendez, Dr. Sandra Melendez, and Tristan Capley.

C. Community Spotlight

Dr. Ponce recognized University Federal Credit Union representatives Paco Martinez and D.J. Valdez.

Item 6. President's Report

Dr. Ponce presented the President's Report and shared the following updates:

- A tour of the Health Science Building with the Foundation Board.
- A meeting with the Meta CEO and a visit to Fort Hood.
- Service on the planning committee for the Research and Innovation Symposium with Ms. DeDe Griffith.
- Attendance at the Hospice House Gala and the Hutto Chamber luncheon, where Ms. Griffith and several Texas Bio Institute students spoke.
- Information regarding the Centennial Gala.
- An upcoming visit to Temple College by 1,000 third-grade students from Belton ISD.
- The College's receipt of a robotic cat and a robotic dinosaur.

Item 7. Reports

A. Faculty Council Report

Dr. Chris Krejci presented the Faculty Council Report.

B. Academic Affairs and Student Services Report

Dr. Susan Guzmán-Treviño presented the Academic Affairs and Student Services Report.

C. Administrative Services Report

Mr. Glenn Graham presented the Administrative Services Report.

D. Special Development and External Relations Report

Dr. Lorenzo Reyes presented the Special Development and External Relations Report.

E. Workforce Development Report

Ms. DeDe Griffith presented the Workforce Development Report.

Item 8. New Business

A. Purchase of Laptop Computers for Dual Credit Students

Mr. Caleb Hogue presented the proposed purchase of 100 Dell Pro 14 PC14250 laptop computers for dual credit students.

Motion: Dr. Hope Koch moved to approve the purchase; Mr. John Bailey seconded.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Item 9. Miscellaneous

No miscellaneous items were presented.

Item 10. Executive Session to Consider Personnel Legal Matters and Real Estate

No executive session was held.

Item 11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.