

MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS LEE COLLEGE DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE January 28, 2025

The Board of Regents Policy Committee of the Lee College District met virtually on January 28, 2025, at 3:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Gina Guillory, Committee Chair; Weston Cotten, Susan Moore-Fontenot

Leslie Gallagher, Chief of Staff and Vice President, Strategic Initiatives; Dr. Douglas Walcerz, Provost and Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs; Annette Ferguson, Vice President, Finance and Administration; David Mohlman, Coordinator of Board

Relations

ABSENT: Dr. Lynda Villanueva, President; Amanda Summers, Executive Director, Human

Resources

Ms. Gallagher said this meeting will cover a policy from Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Update 48, and two other policies.

REVISED POLICY DJ (LOCAL)

DJ Local and Administrative Regulation – Dr. Walcerz reported the policy is being adjusted to modify scheduled time that faculty must maintain to be accessible to students. Proposed changes (a) specify total number of hours (35) and days (4) per week that a faculty member must be present in class, available on campus or available virtually; (b) state options for a combination of in person and virtual availability; (c) define the physical campus for presence in person; and (d) expand guidance to cover teaching overloads.

He cited the accompanying Administrative Regulation, noting ways it spells out expectations in more detail. Faculty has asked for this clarity, Dr. Walcerz said, adding that discussions with Faculty Assembly have taken place in conjunction with this policy update. In answer to a question from Regent Guillory, Dr. Walcerz said there have been some issues in the past with faculty availability. He said it is hoped the extent of these specifics will provide little leeway. Because faculty requested specifics, the clarity should be appreciated, Regent Moore-Fontenot noted.

PRESENTATION OF NEW POLICY EJA (LOCAL)

EJA Local and Related Document – This new policy is to provide transparency about how the college selects days/weeks/months for recognition events, Dr. Walcerz said. He said the policy as proposed is consistent with SB 17, which mandates neither attendance requirements, nor exclusivity. He reviewed criteria in the policy, noting that selection/approval is not based on the topic or content. College legal counsel reviewed the proposed policy for compliance, not only with SB 17, but also with freedom of speech as specified in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Dr. Walcerz said. He continued by reviewing a related document that elaborates on how the college intends to implement the policy.

Questions and answers ensued. Dr. Walcerz clarified that the Executive Director of Campus Engagement & Belonging will select, plan and execute events. The practice is to send proposed events to the Cabinet for review, he said. The policy assigns responsibility for selection, planning and execution to the President or her designee. Within the related document, the list of examples is based on recognition events the college currently conducts, Dr. Walcerz said. He said any event that is proposed during the course of the year can be considered. The Executive Director of Campus Engagement and Belonging worked with the Student Government Association in developing the list of examples, but the criteria for selection/approval were developed by legal counsel, Dr. Walcerz said.

TASB UPDATE 48 – FAA (LOCAL)

FAA Local – Dr. Walcerz reported changes in this policy, which is part of TASB Update 48, are all acceptable, and not substantive in wording.

MATTERS OF CONCERN FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Gallagher said updates anticipated for the committee's next meeting will complete presentation and review of policies from TASB Update 48.

Adjournment	
Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.	
Chairman, Board of Regents	Secretary, Board of Regents