

Follow-Up to March 17, 2020 Emergency Meeting

Exercise of Grant of Authority by District President

Background:

On March 17, 2020, the Board of Trustees held an emergency board meeting pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.045. Upon motion and vote, the Board granted authority to the District President to implement measures as needed for the health, safety, and well-being of Collin College students and employees, secure the College's academic integrity, and support the on-going operations and workforce of the College, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant of authority was provided to the District President through June 30, 2020.

Authority Granted

The specific emergency authority granted to the District President encompassed the following actions:

- Examine and ensure continuity of pay for all College employees for regularly scheduled work hours at the normal rate of pay, when it is determined that employees should not be present on campus and when neither telecommuting or working on campus are viable options;
- Authorize the modification of class schedules, academic calendars, events such as graduations, pinnings, and other gatherings, and related matters as needed to ensure the integrity and continuity of academic and workforce education programs;
- Authorize the purchase of licenses, as required, for online vendors such as Zoom, Proctor-U, Canvas, and other resources necessary to take the bulk of instruction online;
- Authorize the implementation of other academic and administrative measures clearly related to continuing operations of the College and ensure that the College may expend necessary funds in connection with the implementation of those measures;
- Modify the bond order approved at the February 25, 2020, regularly scheduled Board Meeting to include flexibility to consider and execute a "taxable" option in addition to the existing "tax-exempt" option when selling bonds if required to maximize value to the college;
- Add \$50M to the bond reimbursement resolution in the event the college chooses to postpone the transaction based on market conditions; and

- To issue certain refunds of fees or other expenses, as deemed appropriate in response to emergency declarations within Collin County and the College's service area.

Question: How has the District President exercised the grant of emergency authority?

Answer:

The District President has exercised the grant of emergency authority through the development or implementation of the following actions:

Area	Date(s)	Action
Academic	March 18, 2020	Transfer of a significant majority of courses to online/distance learning format. Submitted and received approval verification from SACSCOC on March 23, 2020
Academic	March 19, 2020	Revised 2019-2020 Academic Calendar, with appropriate notification to SACSCOC
Academic	March 18, 2020 and on-going	Directed the creation of comprehensive plan to ensure that all students complete Spring 2020 courses
Academic	April 2, 2020	Extension of course withdrawal date (to April 17)
Academic	April 2, 2020	Postpone spring graduation ceremony until August 21, 2020
Academic	April 2, 2020	Resisted external influences to change grading system. Collin College continues to use the normal grading system for all classes.
Academic	April 2, 2020	Directed process for moving Maymester and early Summer semester courses to an online format
Academic	April 8, 2020	Requested a plan for completion of CTE/workforce courses/programs in accordance with TACC guidance
Academic	April 10, 2020 and on-going	Collaborated to petition Congress to reauthorize and provide increased funding for the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) Advanced

		Technological Education (ATE) program in order to position the college to respond to the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic on the economy and workforce
Financial	April 7, 2020	Bond sale of \$350 million cash at 2.657% for a debt of \$302.7 million over 20 years, with a premium of \$49.4 million
Financial	March 18, 2020 and on-going	Directed tracking of emergency expenditures and coordination for seeking stimulus funding under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund of the federal CARES Act. Estimated total funding for the College is anticipated to be \$10.7 million.
Financial	April 17, 2020	Grant submission for Collin College for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund validated and retrieved by Grants.gov for Emergency Grant Assistance for Collin College students in the amount of \$5,395,456.00. Process developed to be administered through Financial Aid, Student and Enrollments Services, and the Business Office. Funding pending.
Personnel	March 18, 2020	Continuity of pay for all faculty, staff, and student employees
Personnel	March 18, 2020	Granted supervisors authority to allow telecommuting/work-from-home, as appropriate
Personnel	March 18, 2020	Suspension of staff travel and conference attendance
Personnel	March 24-26, 2020	Provided designation letters to essential staff to allow them to work on campuses or work sites
Personnel	March 27, 2020 and on-going	Allowed supervisors to adopt modified work schedules for essential facilities, police, and other staff to work on-site, while observing social distancing

Personnel	April 2, 2020	Extended campus closure through May 4, 2020, with continuity of pay
Personnel	March 23, 2020 and on-going	Continued search committees and hiring of essential administrators, staff, and faculty for new campuses, while delaying other college-wide hiring
Operations / Administrative	March 18, 2020 and on-going	Collaborated with AECOM and construction managers to continue essential infrastructure construction work during COVID-19 pandemic crisis on Phase 1 and 2 projects (currently on schedule), student housing remediation (to be completed by mid-July), and Phase 3 and 4 projects
Operations / Administrative	March 18, 2020	Declared libraries, math, and computer labs to remain temporarily operational.
Operations / Administrative	March 19, 2020	Declared campuses closed effective March 19 at 3:00 p.m. through March 22, 2020; extended closure of the campuses through April 6, 2020 based on the Governor's executive order.
Operations / Administrative	March 19, 2020 and on-going	Allowed students the option to remain in campus housing
Operations / Administrative	March 19, 2020 and on-going	Continued meals for students who remained in campus housing
Operations / Administrative	March 23, 2020 and on-going	Donation of PPE supplies to hospital clinical partners
Operations / Administrative	March 23, 2020 and on-going	Loaning ventilator equipment to hospital clinical partners under agreements
Operations / Administrative	April 2, 2020 and on-going	Implementation of mitigation plan to address COVID-19 reported cases
Operations / Administrative	April 2, 2020	Extended work from home and campus closure through May 4 th , 2020

Technology	March 18, 2020 and on-going	Invested in new online resources, including procurement of VPNs, and T-Mobile hotspots (some of which were delivered to our dual credit high schools)
Technology	March 20, 2020 and on-going	Set up hotline for students who needed help with technology needs and Internet access
Technology	March 27, 2020 and on-going	Established “Wi-Fi Drive-Ins” at Frisco and McKinney campuses
Technology	March 30, 2020 and on-going	Implementation of test proctoring system through Honorlock and other software

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