



**Minutes of Special Called Board Meeting/Budget Workshop
The Board of Trustees
Temple College
August 18, 2025**

A Special Called Board Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Board of Trustees of Temple College was held Monday, August 18, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Louise L. Cox Board Room, Room 916, located in the Marc Nigliazzo Administration Building on the Main Campus.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lydia Santibañez-Farrell, Chair; Larry Wilkerson, Vice-Chair; Harry Adams, Secretary; Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins; Dr. Alejandro "Alex" Arroliga; John Bailey; Dr. Mark Durham; Dr. Hope Koch; Dr. Jack Myers

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Christy Ponce, President; Judy Dohnalik, Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees; Dr. Susan Guzman-Treviño, Provost/Vice President, Academic Affairs and Student Services; Glenn Graham, Vice President, Administrative Services; Dede Griffith, Vice President of Workforce Development; Dr. Lorenzo Reyes, Vice President of Resource Development and External Relations; Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Associate Vice President, Finance Accounting Services and Human Resources; Dr. Robbin Ray, Associate Vice-President and Chief of Operations, East Williamson County Centers

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Eckert; Cynthia Gonzales; Caleb Hogue; Laura Hutchens; Chris Krejci; Monica Lefner; Dr. John White

1. Call to Order

Lydia Santibañez-Farrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Harry Adams offered the invocation.

Dr. Mark Durham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Board

Chair Santibañez-Farrell, asked if there was anyone there tonight wishing to speak before the Board. There were no citizens to address the Board.

4. New Business

A. Receive a presentation on the proposed Temple College Budget for FY 2026

Chair Santibañez-Farrell asked Dr. Gisela Figueroa to present items 4.A. through

4. D. She announced that discussion and action will occur on all new business items following this presentation. The Board was asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the proposed Temple College FY 2025 Budget.

Dr. Hope Koch asked the following questions:

"What methodology are you using to estimate tax revenue (e.g., property values and rates)? Early reports in the media indicate property values may be declining. See the following:

5. Zillow (-2.8%) and Realtor.com (-6.7%) year-over-year metrics.

*See [Bell County, TX Housing Market: 2025 Home Prices & Trends | Zillow](#)
[Bell County, TX 2025 Housing Market | realtor.com®](#)"*

"Faculty Salaries: Are we paying our faculty enough?

- How does the proposed budget impact our faculty salaries compared to peer groups? When the faculty senate went over the salaries of Temple College compared to peer institutions Temple College was near the bottom.*
- What has our faculty turnover been? Can we have a periodic report (e.g., monthly, by semester) on the number of employees and turnover*
- Should we do more to retain our top performers and people in strategic areas like health sciences and semiconductor?"*

"Do we have enough people?

- Have we budgeted for a lawyer to look over our contracts? We are getting into some new territory with our semiconductor training. Semiconductors are a fast-changing area impacted by geopolitical happenings and technological change. Shouldn't we have a lawyer review our contacts to make sure we are protected?"*

"We have gotten a lot of grants. Does our budget include someone in grant compliance to make sure we are complying with the requirements in the grants we receive?"

B. Consider setting a proposed ad valorem tax rate for Tax Year 2025 (FY 2026)

The Board was asked to approve the proposed tax rate of \$0.2017 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Chair Santibañez-Farrell announced that a roll call vote is required following a motion and a second to set the proposed tax rate at \$0.2017 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

On a motion by Harry Adams, seconded by John Bailey, and without negative vote, the proposed ad valorem tax rate of 0.2017 cents per \$100 of assessed value for Tax Year 2025 (FY 2026) was approved as presented.

A Roll Call Vote was taken by Judith Dohnalik, Assistant to the Board, to approve the recommended proposed tax rate for FY 2025. The roll call is as follows:

Yea
Dr. Alejandro Arroliga
Dr. Mark Durham
Dr. Hope Koch
Larry Wilkerson
Lydia Santibañez-Farrell
Harry Adams
Andrejs Avots-Avotins
John Bailey
Dr. Jack Myers

Nay
None

Absent
None

C. Consider calling for a Public Hearing on the 2025 tax rate to be held on August 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at 2600 South First Street, Temple Texas in the Louise L. Cox Board Room. The Board was asked for approval to Call for a Public Hearing on the 2025 tax rate to be held on August 25, 2025 at 6:00 pm at 2600 South First Street, Temple, Texas in the Louise L. Cox Board Room.

On a motion by John Bailey, seconded by Dr. Jack Myers, and without negative vote, a Call for a Public Hearing on the 2025 tax rate to be held on August 25, 2025 at 6:00pm at 2600 South First Street, Temple, Texas in the Louise L. Cox Board Room was approved as presented.

D. Review the submission of the recommended branch maintenance ad valorem tax rate for Tax Year 2025 to support the East Williamson County Higher Education Center-Hutto to the Hutto Board of Trustees.

On a motion by Dr. Jack Myers, seconded by John Bailey, and without negative vote, the submission of the recommended branch maintenance ad valorem tax rate for Tax Year 2025 to support the Eat Williamson County Higher Education Center-Hutto to the Hutto Board of Trustee was approved as presented.

5. Miscellaneous
There were no miscellaneous items for discussion.
6. Executive Session to Consider Personnel, Legal Matters, and Real Estate
Chairman Santibañez-Farrell announced that an Executive Session would not be called as there were no items for discussion.
7. Adjournment
There being no further business, the Meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned on a motion by Dr. Mark Durham, and seconded by Harry Adams at 7:48 p.m.

NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING:

The next Regular Board Meeting of the Temple College Board of Trustees will be held Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:00p.m., in the Louise L. Cox Board Room, located in room 916 in the Marc Nigliazzo Administration Building on the Main Campus.

Minutes recorded, transcribed & submitted by:

Judith Dohnalik

Judith Dohnalik, Assistant to the Board of Trustees

Minutes Approved as Submitted:

Date