

## FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, April 4, 2023
<b>Location</b>	Zoom
<b>Time</b>	3:20 PM

### Attendees

Role	Name
<b>Chair</b>	Elizabeth Rexford
<b>Minute Taker</b>	Peter Anderson
<b>Attendees</b>	Peter Anderson, Liz Rexford, Jeff Tix, , Tom-Kody Krpec, , Alexandra Price, Haobo Yang, Arturo Valejo, Kay Gardner, Justin Guidry, Hector Weir, Irma Hart and Russel Brauer.
<b>Absent</b>	Marci Espinosa (in training), Gary Bonewald(in class) Latasha Herndon(in class) Muna Sager, Tracey Simmons-Willis, Karl Johnson, Patricia Krenek

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:25 PM Quorum present.

### Information Items

	Description
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>A. The March FC minutes were approved.</p> <p>B. The March Board of Trustee notes were approved. Rexford alerted FC members present to certain bills currently before the legislature that are “troubling” to academic freedom or to current service districts.</p> <p>C. The March Extended Cabinet had been rescheduled to March 23 to accommodate spring break. President McCrohan wished to reschedule it to March 30<sup>th</sup> and called Rexford to see if this would be possible. Rexford responded that all FC officers would be unable to attend as both CIR and Strategic Planning Committees had been postponed to March 30 to accomodate the original Extended Cabinet date. Rexford suggested the President contact Support Staff Council to see if they had any items. With officers from both groups unable to attended and several VP’s at the two concurrent committee meetings, Extended Cabinet for March was cancelled.</p> <p>D. The FC IT Working Group reported that the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) met. The FC members expressed the concerns of FC about dropped emails, phone issues etc. The consensus of the TAC members was that such issues should be handled with IT tickets and not brought to the meeting. As several issues from FC are still not resolved to the satisfaction of the the FC, the FC approved a motion to continue to collect information about IT issues to bring to Mr. Townsley (via tickets or IT Working Group meeting) if these issues are not resolved by the end of August, the FC will ask Mr. Townsley to attend a meeting to discuss the unresloved issues.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Old Business- None</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Extended Cabinet Items</b>

	A. Update on Richmond renovations B. Anticipated discussion of flexible summer work hours. C. Anticipated update on legislation currently before Texas Legislature.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Other Items</b> A. Anderson and Rexford reminded FC members that FC is supposed to host the spring fun event for all staff, faculty and their families. They suggested the event be held off campus at a local park near Sugar Land with a “games oriented theme” with competitions of various natures. The event is tentatively schedule for Friday April 28 <sup>th</sup> .

#### Action Items

	Description	Responsible Party	Due Date/Status
<b>1.</b>	Submission of March Minutes for Board Packet	Rexford and Anderson	4/5/23
<b>2</b>	Submission of Extended Cabinet Items	FC Officers	4/10/23
<b>3</b>	Planning for spring full event to be hosted by FC	Anderson and Rexford	On-going
<b>4.</b>	Submission of IT issues to IT Working Group	FC members	On-going
<b>5.</b>	Distribution of April minutes for approval before summer	Anderson and Rexford	May 14

#### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 3:52

Attachments:

1. Board Notes for March meeting

Approved at FC

Signed by Chair:

*Elizabeth A. Rexford April 21, 2023*

## Board of Trustee Meeting Notes

### March 28, 2023 Meeting

1. Quorum established, minutes of previous meeting approved.
2. No citizen comments.
3. Special Items:
  - Reports from Board Committees
    - Mr. Pope reported that the leaders of the Strategic Visioning Committee and the Plant Committee met jointly because of the interconnectedness of the tasks. The plans for the Richmond campus are being revised and updated. President McCrohan is organizing meetings with ‘key stake holders’ and the initial results have been encouraging. These committees will focus on each campus.
    - The Board Evaluation Committee is reviewing by-lases and the college atty. has been retained to help with the process. The by-laws will be approve on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Board meeting.
4. Presentations:
  - Richmond Campus EMS Open House – Mr. Bonewald provided a review of the open house and brought a mannequin to show the members how realistic the equipment is. There was a discussion of providing a virtual reality simulation room, similar to the one in Richmond, in Wharton. A board member did ask how many students are in the program. Mr. Bonewald answered that between 20-30, but add that nursing and other students could also use the room as it can also be prograded with other simulations.
  - WCJC Foundation Upcoming Events Report- Mr. Jeter reported that on May 13 the college will participate in a Polo Match that will be used for fund raising. The Foundation is looking for volunteers to work the event.

- Update on Community College Funding and State Legislative Actions-President McCrohan (See attached document provided by President McCrohan.
- Budget Development- VP Kocian stated that the FY 24 budget process is about to begin. All college entities will be asked to start with last year's budget and reduce or add funding as needed with appropriate documentation and justification.
- Annexation of Needville ISD- This has been an ongoing discussion, as Needville ISD has made several requests to be removed from the WCJC service area. These requests have been denied at the state level. It was suggested that members of the WCJC administration and Board talk to the key stake holder in Needville. In the meantime the Board will explore several different possibilities for altering how Board members are elected including SMDs, and a combination of SMDs and at-large positions. Board members interested in serving on a task force to look into the issue should contact the Board Chairperson.
- Update on Campus Projects- Mike Feyen provided an update on several projects such as the installation of an elevator in the library, the installation of a statute at the baseball field and the revisions to the Richmond campus Conceptual designs. President McCrohan also stated that the Hutchins building at Wharton will have to be torn down and a cafeteria will need to be added to the Pioneer Student Center. President McCrohan also stated that the college is still working with individuals in Matagorda to open the new trade school. A building has been donated and is currently being renovated.
- Presentation on WCJC Employee Required Training –R. Bahnsen

## 5. Financial Reports

- VP Kocian report that as of Feb. the FY is fifty percent complete. At this time revenues over expenditures are 11 million for the first 6 months.

6. Consent Agenda- All items approved no items removed for discussion.

- Purchase of biology materials for Needville ISD
- Implementation of FortiGate Firewall system
- Renewal of staff and administrative employee contracts
- Nabeel Habib approved as Continuing Education Corporate Coordinator

7. Informational Items

- PPAs approved for L. Buckingham and M. Sager for online master course development.

8. Executive Session- None needed.

## Executive Summary of Watched Bills

88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session  
March 28, 2023

### H.B. 8 (by VanDeaver)

This bill addresses the public junior college state finance program. It makes changes to the current formula funding for community colleges to include state funding focused primarily on rewarding outcomes aligned with regional and state education and workforce needs. These metrics are currently not published. Community colleges should receive these “runs” in the next week or so.

This legislation also provides for the award of scholarships to eligible students enrolled in dual credit that are educationally disadvantaged. These scholarships will be paid through the Foundation School Program. (High Impact; High Probability)

### H.B. 547 (by Cain)

This bill requires that a student’s fee bill or statement must include an itemized list of the tuition and fees charged by course and must list any other fees charged to the student for the semester. (High Impact; High Probability)

### H.B. 845 (by Patterson)

This bill prohibits an institution of higher education from using funds from any source to purchase a membership, provide a sponsorship, or purchase advertising services from a media organization that is tax exempt from federal income tax or is listed as an exempt organization as a 501(c)(3) [Texas Tribune]. (High Impact; High Probability)

### H.B. 1006 (by Tepper)

This bill addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion, and prohibits institutions of higher education from funding any office that supports or endorses it. This legislation allows for a person to bring an action against a college and allows for a prevailing person to be awarded attorney’s fees and court costs to be paid from the budget of the chief executive officer of the institution. (High Impact; High Probability)

### H.B. 1607 (by Harris of Anderson)

This bill prohibits an institution of higher education from requiring or making part of any course concepts which include:

- that one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;
- that an individual, by virtue of the individual’s race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;
- that an individual, by virtue of the individual’s race or sex, bears responsibility, blame or guilt for actions committed by other members of the same race or sex; etc...

Institutions that violate this legislation will be ineligible for state funding. (High Impact; High Probability)

### H.B. 859 (by Slaton)

This bill addresses a student’s residence status and provides that a person who is not authorized under federal statute to be present in the United States may not be considered a resident of this state for purposes of title. It removes the provision that students who have graduated from a public or private high school in this state or have received a G.E.D. can be considered “residents”. (High Impact; Low Probability)

**H.B. 320** (by J. Johnson of Harris)

This bill addresses “homeless” students and establishes a liaison officer to serve these students and also allows them to have priority in the assignment of housing. (Low Impact; Low Probability)

**S.J.R. 81** (by Birdwell, et al.)

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the technical institution infrastructure fund to serve as an endowment of Texas State Technical College System. This endowment is listed as \$750 million on the Senate side and \$1.5 billion on the House side. If passed by the voters, this endowment is designed to fund TSTC into the future with TSTC drawing down less than 7.5% annually out of the funds for buildings and operations. (High Impact; High Probability)

**H.B. 3048** (by Raney)

This bill allows for TSTC to expand and put campuses anywhere in the state it desires without regard to community college service areas and without Legislative approval. If passed, community colleges may not object to TSTC’s presence or duplication of services, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may not approve or disapprove a new degree or certificate program solely on the basis that this new degree or program is or will be offered in a junior college district’s service area. (High Impact; High Probability)