



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, April 21, 2025 - 6:00 PM

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Temple College was held Monday, April 21, 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, Chairman; Larry Wilkerson, Vice Chair; Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins; 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 Guzmán-Treviño, Provost-Academic Affairs and Student Services; DeDe Griffith; Vice President of Workforce Development; Dr. Robbin Ray, Associate Vice President and Chief of Operations, East Williamson County Centers; Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Associate Vice President-Finance

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Sara Baker; Shannon Bralley; Emma Canul; Cadence Sen, Student; Jillian Sen, Guest; Johnny Sen, Guest; Tracey Cooper; Chad Cryer; Reid Echols; Eric Eckert; Cynthia Finnegan, Guest; Patrick Finnegan; Philip Friedman; Jeff Fritz; Kim George; Felix Greco; Caleb Hogue; Laura Hutchins; Dr. Chris Krejci; Steve Lemmons; Jason Locklin; Isaac Masoner; John McClain; Dana Riegel; Christine Simon; John Stevens; Brian Supak; Dr. John White

1. Call to Order

Lydia Santibañez-Farrell, Chairman, called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins offered the Invocation.
Dr. Mark Durham recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4-A

3. Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Board

A. Chairman Santibañez-Farrell asked if there were any citizens wishing to speak before the Board. There were no citizens to address the Board.

4. Consideration of Approval of Consent Agenda

Chairman Santibañez-Farrell asked if there were any items that the members wanted to remove from the Consent Agenda. She stated that if there were no objections, these items would be considered. After pausing for any objections, she stated that since there were no objections, these items were ready for consideration.

On a motion by Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins, seconded by Larry Wilkerson, and without negative vote, the Board approved Items A., B., C., E., F., G., H., I., J., and K. on the Consent Agenda as presented. Items D. and F. will be considered for approval after the Financial Report is given.

A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 17, 2025

B. Consideration of the Appointment of Full-Time Professional Staff

The following individual was recommended by the appropriate departmental and divisional supervisors, and by the President for appointment as a member of the Full-Time Professional Staff.

C. Consideration of the Appointment of Adjunct Faculty

The following individuals were recommended by the appropriate departmental and divisional supervisors, and by the Provost-Academic Affairs and Student Services for appointment as members of the Adjunct Faculty.

D. Consideration of Approval of the Monthly Investment Report-Public Funds Investment Disclosure Report-December 2024

Dr. Hope Koch questioned "Do we have deposits in banks that exceed the FDIC insurance? What happens if the bank fails? Why do we have more than \$1 million in accounts that we are not earning interest on?"

This item was held for approval until the item was discussed in Item 8.C. Financial Report.

E. Consideration of Approval of Budget Revision Schedule for 2nd Quarter 2024-2025

F. Consideration of Approval of Budget Summary Report February 2025-Current Fiscal Year vs. Prior Fiscal Year

Dr. Hope Koch asked "Why are we off from our budget with revenue and expenses?"

This item was held for approval until the item was discussed in Item 8.C. Financial Report.

G. Consideration of Approval of Amendments to FY 2025 Budget for Perkins Basic Grant

H. Consideration of Approval of Perkins Basic Reallocation Revenues and Expenditures

Item 4-A

- I. Consideration of Approval of Perkins Basic grant Program Mid-Year Allocations for Community and Technical Colleges
- J. Consideration of Approval of the 2025-2026 College Catalog
- K. Consideration of Approval of Spring 2025 2nd 8-Week Classes Part-Time Overload Salaries

On a motion by Larry Wilkerson, seconded by Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins, and without negative vote, the Board approved Items D. and F. as presented without further discussion following clarification in Item 8.C. Financial Report.

- 5. Consideration of Approval of Disbursements for March 2025
On a motion by Dr. Jack Myers, seconded by Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins, and without negative vote, the Board approved the Disbursements as presented.

- 6. Student, Faculty, and Employee Spotlights

Student Spotlight

Cadence Sen, Texas Academy of Science Award Winner, one of 40+ students and 12 faculty who attended the Texas Academy of Science 128th Annual Meeting, February 28-March 1, 2025. Cadence made a presentation on “Temperature-Induced Stress and the Starvation of Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) in a Central Texas Lake”. The hypothesis of the study was that chronic exposure to warm temperatures leads to poorer physiological condition over the summer. Methods used in the collection of mussel shells from Stillhouse Hollow Lake were discussed. Cadence reported that results of the research suggested that chronic exposure to elevated temperatures lead to reduced feeding efficiency and starvation during the late summer and fall, most likely contributing to the mass mortality events experienced in the fall.

Connor Stear, recipient of the STEM Education Poster 1st Place, made a presentation at the conference on “Development of a Protein Structure Driven CURE Module for Second Semester Organic Chemistry.” Having the opportunity to be exposed to BIO research methods has motivated him to become someone he is meant to be.

Dr. Jason Locklin announced that a Temple College White Bass Study through the Temple College Undergraduate Research Institute. Participants wishing to participate in helping collect data may fish on select dates with local fishing guide Bob Maindelle by emailing Bob at bobholdingthelineguideservice.com.

Outstanding Faculty Spotlight

Congratulations were extended to Heather Chandler as the recipient of the 2025-2026 Faculty Development Leave Grant.

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7. President's Report

Dr. Christina Ponce's report included the following:

- Professors receiving tenure Fall 2025 were congratulated.
- Dr. Lorenzo Reyes has been appointed as Vice President of Resource Development and External Relations.
- Glenn Graham has been appointed as Vice President of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer.
- Temple College received a 2025 ROSE (Recognition of Scaling Excellence) Award from the Texas Success Center in Recognition of Scaling Excellence in Pillar 3: Keeping Students on Their Pathway.
- The Fine Arts Division was commended for its successful JazzFest, March 27-29-2025

8. Reports

A. Faculty Council Report

Dr. Reid Echols is facilitating the Faculty Book Club. Currently the book, *Small Teaching*, by James M. Lang, is being offered in 3 sessions. Dr. Echols stated that this book has had a tangible impact on both his teaching and on the culture of teaching within his department. Common issues managing content-heavy survey courses, navigating student use of AI tools, and balancing faculty workloads with assessment strategies using Lang's principles are contributing to student success. The detailed report was included in the Board materials.

B. Provost-Academic Affairs and Student Services Reports

- * Kudos were received acknowledging teaching excellence for Dr. Honey Golden, Professor, Natural Sciences and outstanding customer service for Christy McPherson, Library Manager, Hutto.
- * March and April 2025 updates on Microsoft Systems and student feedback from after-service surveys were presented by Shannon Bralley, Associate Vice President, Student Services and Enrollment Management. The detailed report was included in the Board materials.

C. Finance Report

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Associate Vice President, Finance, reviewed the financial reports that were included in the Board materials.

9. New Business

A. Consideration of Approval of Faculty Recommended for Tenure Fall 2025

The Board was asked to approve the following faculty who have met all requirements for the granting of tenure for Temple College. The administration recommends that tenure be granted for Fall 2025.

- Chad Cryer, Biology Department, Natural Sciences
- Reid Echols, English and Foreign Languages Department, Liberal Arts
- Patrick Finnegan, Business Management Department, Business and Career Professions
- Philip Friedman, Physical Sciences Department, Natural Sciences
- Sarah Honeycutt, English and Foreign Languages Department, Liberal Arts
- Dr. Christine Simon, Social Sciences I Department, Liberal Arts

On a motion by Dr. Jack Myers, seconded by Dr. Mark Durham, and without negative vote, the Board approved the Faculty Recommended for Tenure Fall 2025 as presented.

- B. Consideration for the Approval of Ratifying a Contract for Electricity from NRG
- The Board was asked to consider ratifying a contract with NRG for electricity. Temple College recently received our Certificate of Occupancy for the new Visual Arts/Workforce building. As a result, we needed to start procuring an electricity contract for the new facility. Purchasing determined using the Comprehensive Energy Consulting and Management Services Contract through the Omnia Partners Cooperative was the best solution. Selecting this cooperative contract allowed us to meet the required competitive bid laws within Texas Education Code 44.031, as the college has an established interlocal agreement with the cooperative.

The college had two companies submit offers at the closing time of the offers. TXU Energy and NRG (Reliant). After reviewing the two offers received, Tradition Energy recommended we choose the five-year offer from NRG based on the market conditions and expected forthcoming issues with demand and supply imbalances in the electricity market. NRG also had more favorable contract terms should the building's anticipated demand load change over time. The electricity markets are volatile, and the college must sign a contract on the day the contract offer is received.

Temple College has several advantages in locking in their electricity rate now, as:

- We no longer have upward market risk for electricity through the year 2030
- Once we know our average consumption for the new building, the contracted rate will assist us in creating a more accurate budget for this service
- By selecting a five-year term, the college will review future market opportunities, should the market decrease during the contract period, for a possible blend-and-extend approach.

Electricity funding will be budgeted in each future fiscal year as needed. Based on the information provided, the Board of Trustees has been asked to ratify a contract from NRG through the Omnia Partners Cooperative. The Board of Trustees is also asked to authorize the Vice President of Administration or designee to approve any change orders up to the amount allowed by Texas Education Code 44.0411.

On a motion by Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins, seconded by Larry Wilkerson, and without negative vote, the Board Approved Ratifying a Contract for Electricity from NRG as presented.

C. Consideration for Approval of the Procurement of a New Gas Service Line from Atmos Energy Corporation Through a Sole Source Contract

The Board was asked to approve the procurement of a new gas service line from Atmos Energy Corporation through a sole-source contract.

The new Health Sciences Center (HSC) expansion construction project is underway, and we must now plan for the utilities. Stantec approached Atmos Energy Corporation to begin fielding offers to connect natural gas services to the new HSC facility. Atmos Energy Corporation is our location's only uninterrupted natural gas services provider. This project requires Atmos Energy Corporation to design and trench 940' of additional pipe to be placed from the nearest existing service location to get the service to the new HSC facility. Atmos Energy Corporation determined it will split 50% of the cost of construction, labor, materials, engineering, permits, and overhead with the college.

The college's portion of the estimated cost for this is \$52,056 (due upon execution of the agreement). That amount could be increased depending on whether additional costs are identified during the project. If any extra costs are identified, they will not exceed 120% of the original estimate or \$62,467.20. In addition, after the project's completion, if the project costs were less than the deposit, then Atmos Energy will refund the difference between the deposit and their actual costs.

Purchases made from Atmos Energy Corporation through a sole-source contract satisfy the required bidding laws in Texas Education Code 44.031, specifically Texas Education Code 44.031 (j) (3). The college district complies with the purchasing laws by purchasing a utility service only available from one source. Atmos Energy Corporation is the college's only option for purchasing uninterrupted natural gas services.

Funding for the new gas service line from Atmos Energy Corporation is available through Fund 62. Based on the information provided, the Board of Trustees is now asked to approve a purchase from Atmos Energy Corporation through a sole source contract not exceeding \$62,467.20. The Board of Trustees is also asked to authorize the Vice President of Administration or designee to approve any change orders up to the amount allowed by the Texas Education Code 44.0411.

On a motion by Dr. Hope Koch, seconded by Dr. Jack Myers, and without negative vote, the Board approved the Procurement of a New Gas Service Line from Atmos Energy Corporation Through a Sole Source Contract as presented.

10. Miscellaneous

Chairman Santibañez-Farrell announced there were no miscellaneous items for discussion.

11. 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.
12. 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 Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins at 7:51 PM.

NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING:

A Regular Meeting of the Temple College Board of Trustees will be held Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.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