

MINUTES

Blinn College District Bryan Campus Advisory Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, October 1, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Committee Members present were Chair Kenny Lawson, Secretary Jason Cornelius, Ms. Ginger Carrabine, Mr. John Bush and Mr. Ron Schmidt.

Committee Members absent were Mr. Jason Jennings, Ms. Marca Ewers-Shurtleff, Larry Hodges and Dr. Tim Harkrider.

Also present at the meeting was Ms. Sarah Goolsby, Chief of Staff, College Station ISD, on behalf of Dr. Tim Harkrider.

Representing Blinn College present at the meeting were Dr. Mary Hensley, Mr. Leighton Schubert, Ms. Leigha Schubert, Dr. Clen Burton, Dr. Jimmy Byrd, Dr. Becky McBride, Dr. Marcelo Bussiki, Mr. Jay Anderson, Mr. Richard Bray, Dr. Bennie Graves, Mr. Chris Marrs, Mr. Myron Dippel, Ms. Tiffany Jenkins, Mr. Mark Feldhake, Mr. Robert Stanberry, Ms. Sissi Wellman, Ms. Andrea Lero, and Ms. Melissa Alvarez.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kenny Lawson at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Lawson welcomed and introduced Mr. John Bush, Senior Vice President, Extraco Bank, as a new member of the Advisory Committee.

Approval of Minutes. After a proper motion from Mr. John Bush, seconded by Mr. Ron Schmidt, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the April 3, 2024, Advisory Committee meeting.

Facilities Update by Mr. Mark Feldhake, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Facilities, Planning, and Construction. Mr. Mark Feldhake discussed project updates that have been completed on the Bryan Campus which include interior updates in buildings C and H, lighting on the campus parking lot, and the relocation of the Veterinary Technician program to the Veterinary Medical Sciences Building (VMS) on the Texas A&M campus.

Mr. Feldhake also discussed the 2025 fiscal year current projects. These include mechanical upgrades in buildings A & G, upgrades in buildings F & H, new roofs, and paving the new entrance at Nash Street which will include a new Blinn monument and additional parking for the new Administration Building as well as for the new intramural space.

The Tejas Center space was also discussed. It is leased property and will be vacated once those offices are transferred to the new Administration Building. The future Waller campus was mentioned. The Board of Trustees has approved the purchase of one hundred acres of property near Highway 290 and Benford Road in the town of Waller.

Enrollment Update by Dr. Becky McBride, Vice Chancellor for Student Services. The Bryan campus continues to show a decrease in student enrollment. As of September 10, 2024, the total enrollment was 5,106. Dr. McBride also mentioned that Texas A&M University has increased their freshmen class enrollment compared to the previous year, bringing the Fall 2024 semester to its highest enrollment of freshmen to date. As part of the enrollment initiative, 7,300 mailers and emails were sent out to high school juniors and seniors with a response of 4,200. Blinn has increased the number of visits to high schools. Academic advising continues to be open and available year-round.

Paralegal Program Update by Mr. Robert Stanberry, Department Head Criminal Justice, Legal Assistant Program. Mr. Robert Stanberry provided an overview of the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Program. Combined, there are over 30 years of legal experience among the instructors, which include lawyers and former judges. They have knowledge of all major areas of the law for a firm foundation and teach in their area of expertise. Day and night classes are available and flexible. Classes are provided both online and in traditional face-to-face formats. Each year the Tenth Court of Appeals comes to campus to hold court and the students from the program are involved in that event. This allows students to interact and network with lawyers in the community and get first-hand experience. Students are prepared to enter the workforce once courses are completed within the program.

Announcements by Dr. Jimmy Byrd, Executive Dean of the Bryan Campus. Dr. Byrd will review the calendar and inform the Advisory Committee of the next meeting once the date has been confirmed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. by Mr. Kenny Lawson.