

MINUTES

Blinn College District Bryan Campus Advisory Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Committee Members present were John Nichols, Vice Chair Larry Hodges, Secretary Jason Cornelius, Ginger Carrabine, Tedi Ellison, Ron Schmidt, Marca Ewers-Shurtleff, and Tim Harkrider.

Committee Member absent were Jason Jennings and Kenny Lawson.

Representing Blinn College present at the meeting were Dr. Mary Hensley, Leighton Schubert, Dr. Clen Burton, Dr. Jimmy Byrd, Dr. Becky McBride, Dr. Marcelo Bussiki, Jay Anderson, John Chancellor, Richard Bray, Dr. Bennie Graves, Chris Marrs, Myron Dippel, Mark Feldhake, Melanie Johnson, Samantha Johnson, and Melissa Alvarez.

The meeting was called to order by John Nichols at 12:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes after a proper motion from Mr. Larry Hodges, seconded by Ms. Tedi Ellison, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes from the April 25, 2023, meeting.

Legislative Update by Leighton Schubert, Executive Vice Chancellor. House Bill 1114 was approved by the Legislature. The Blinn service area now includes the portion of Waller ISD that is in Harris County. Starting this semester, Waller High School has 203 students enrolled in the dual credit program. The former junior high school in Waller will become the temporary location for Blinn classes. Beginning October 23rd, the site will be open to the community. There is a five-year plan set in place with the goal to build a campus in this new portion of the service area.

House Bill 8 changes how community colleges will be funded by the state. Currently funds are from tuition, property tax, and state funding. Blinn receives roughly twenty-five percent of its total annual operating budget from state appropriation. The new funding model will be outcome based and focus on three areas: 1) High school students that complete 15 hours of dual credit courses, 2) Students who complete 15 hours and transfer to a public university in Texas or complete a structured co-enrollment program, and 3) Awarding of credentials of value. Under the new formula, Blinn will receive an additional \$7.4 million in state funding this year. This equates to a 29% increase in state funding. Historically, Blinn has done well in outcomes-based funding, and we are confident that will continue under this new funding formula.

Enrollment Update by Dr. Becky McBride, Vice Chancellor for Student Services. The preliminary enrollment report for fall 2023 shows Blinn's overall enrollment is 18,169 as of

September 15, 2023. The Bryan Campus is down 7.89% in enrollment compared to last year and the College continues to work to support enrollment at the Bryan Campus.

Facilities Update by Mark Feldhake, Executive Director Facilities, Planning, Construction.

Approval was received from the City of Bryan to begin construction on the new Bryan Campus Administration Building. The contractor will be Vaughn Construction and the architect will be Kirksey Architecture. With the new building, Student Services will relocate from the Tejas Center to the Bryan Campus. The building will also house campus administration, business services, and will have a large meeting room open for community use. The project will also add a new entrance to campus at the Nash Street intersection. The tentative date to occupy the new facility will be February 2025.

Strategic Plan Update by Leighton Schubert, Executive Vice Chancellor. Mr. Schubert introduced Dr. Steve Johnson, Strategic Planning Consultant.

Dr. Johnson went over the Mission/Vision Statement and asked for community involvement to update both. All Blinn faculty, staff, leaders, and others in the community have been sent a survey from Blinn Institutional Research and Effectiveness to collect valuable insight and help adapt our strategic plan. The members of the Advisory Committee engaged in a robust discussion about the Mission and Vision Statement and offered their thoughts and comments on both of those items.

Disability Services Update by Samantha Johnson, Director, M.Ed., LPC-S.

The office provides short-term, brief therapy to currently enrolled Blinn students. Services are provided at no cost to the student (included in tuition and fees) with a licensed professional therapist. Some of the benefits received from counseling are confidentiality, positive support, and student success. If long-term care is needed, the office works to connect students with local agencies who can provide those services.

Announcements by Jimmy Byrd, Executive Dean of the Bryan Campus. The next meeting date mentioned was March 20, 2024. Dr. Byrd will review the calendars and let the Advisory Committee know of the next meeting date once that is finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m. by Larry Hodges.