

San Jacinto College District Board Workshop May 6, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Community College District met for a Board Workshop at 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2024, in Room 201 of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

MINUTES

	Board Workshop Attendees:	Board Members: Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson, Erica Davis Rouse, Dan Mims, John Moon, Jr., Keith Sinor Absent: Marie Flickinger, Larry Wilson Chancellor: Brenda Hellyer Other: Sandra Ramirez, Teri Zamora, Mandi Reiland
	Agenda Item:	Discussion/Information
I.	Call the Meeting to Order	Vice Chair Moon, Jr. called the workshop to order at 5:00 p.m.
II.	Roll Call of Board Members	Vice Chair Moon, Jr. conducted a roll call of the Board members: Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson Erica Davis Rouse, Assistant Secretary Marie Flickinger, Chair (absent) Dan Mims John Moon, Jr., Vice Chair Keith Sinor, Secretary Larry Wilson (absent)
III.	III. Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes: Legal Matters, Real Estate Matters,	Vice Chair Moon, Jr. adjourned to closed session at 5:02 p.m. The Board members listed above as attending, Chancellor Brenda Hellyer, and Teri Zamora were present for the closed session. Others present for portions of the closed session are noted below. a. Legal Matters - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law. It was determined after the time of posting that a consultation with an attorney was not needed.

	Personnel Matters, and Security Matters	<p>b. Real Estate Matters - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.</p> <p>c. Personnel Matters - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee. Sandra Ramirez attended this portion of the closed session.</p> <p>d. Security Matters - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or a security audit. Mandi Reiland attended this portion of the closed session.</p>
IV.	Reconvene in Open Meeting	Vice Chair Moon, Jr. reconvened to open meeting at 6:08 p.m.
V.	Review Governor's Executive Order GA44 and San Jacinto College Actions	<p>Dr. Brenda Hellyer explained a Governor's Order (No. GA-44) relating to addressing acts of antisemitism in institutions of higher education came out March 27, 2024. GA-44 directs all Texas higher education institutions to implement the following steps within 90 days of the executive order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and update free speech policies to address the sharp rise in antisemitic speech and acts on university campuses and establish appropriate punishments, including expulsion from the institution. 2. Ensure that these policies are being enforced on campuses and that groups such as the Palestine Solidarity Committee and Students for Justice in Palestine are disciplined for violating these policies. 3. Include the definition of antisemitism, adopted by the State of Texas in Section 448.001 of the Texas Government Code, in university free speech policies to guide university personnel and students on what constitutes antisemitic speech. <p>As a result of this order, the College has updated its procedure on expressive activities with the assistance of the College's attorney, Lisa Brown. The Board received a copy of the proposed edits to the procedure with tracked changes, and Brenda highlighted the changes that were made. Board approval is not required for a procedure, but she wanted to make members aware of what steps are</p>

		<p>being taken to comply with this new order. The changes will go out to the College for comment for two weeks then will be put into place after the comment period ends. Then, the changes will be submitted to the Governor’s Office.</p>
VI.	Review 2024-2025 Annual Priorities	<p>Brenda stated that the 2024-2025 Annual Priorities will be an action item during this evening’s Board meeting. The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) recommend six annual priorities this year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain Our Commitment to a Culture of Access, Belonging, and Excellence 2. Expand Transfer and Career/Workforce Pathways 3. Expand Outreach Efforts Through College-Going Opportunities 4. Establish a San Jac Online Campus 5. Advance a Culture of Organization Engagement and Resiliency 6. Evaluate and Optimize Performance Outcomes <p>Erica Davis Rouse asked if it is easy or complicated to aggregate which dollars are allocated to our improvement and outcome with the new funding model from the State.</p> <p>Teri Zamora explained, at this point, aggregating the whole funding model and identifying specific improvements is complex, since it is still new and radically different from the previous model. However, identifying the new data for each measure is not complicated.</p> <p>The Board was comfortable with the proposed annual priorities.</p>
VII.	Update on Enrollment (Summer)	<p>Teri provided an update on enrollment for the summer session. As of this morning, enrollment was up 9.4 percent in headcount and 10.3 percent in contact hours compared to summer 2023.</p> <p>Brenda added the continuing students also had an increase in enrollment, which is exciting.</p> <p>Erica asked if the College is still taking steps to assist students with debt.</p> <p>Teri explained the College paid off a lot of student’s debt using Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funds. We offer scholarships and emergency funding through the San Jacinto College Foundation to assist</p>

		<p>students who are unable to enroll due to financial barriers and to small outstanding balances. Payment plans can also be set up for students.</p>
<p>VIII.</p>	<p>Update on Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Process</p>	<p>Brenda reviewed a flyer that will be distributed to students with information on how to update their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. Students are receiving messages about incorrect records and missing documents, so we are hoping this QR code will help them be able to easily update their applications.</p> <p>This time last year, we received 17,000 federal financial aid applications. We are currently at 13,900 this year, so the number has decreased by 18 percent compared to last year. At this point, 11 percent of those applications have been rejected due to needing corrections. Two weeks ago, prior to correcting the applications, the number of applications needing corrections was 20 percent. Other institutions are also seeing this same correction rate, so this is a backlog issue.</p> <p>Brenda explained the deadline for Promise students to have their forms submitted was extended from April 25th to July 18th due to this issue. As of this week, we had 2,663 Promise students who have submitted their FAFSA. This time last year, we had over 5,000 FAFSA forms submitted. The College is working to get resources in the high schools to assist the Promise students with this process. Senator Cornyn has also testified on the senate floor about these issues as a national problem and with a context of the problem’s impact on Texas. We are hoping this will be resolved soon.</p> <p>Keith Sinor asked if this issue is because of the implementation of their new system. Brenda responded that is the cause of issue.</p> <p>John Moon, Jr. mentioned he spoke to a couple who are having issues with FAFSA. He will reach out to them to see if he can get more insight that he can pass along to the College.</p> <p>Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson gave a shout out to the College’s Student Services team for having virtual advising</p>

		<p>over the weekend and assisting her with getting her daughter enrolled on a Sunday.</p> <p>Keith asked how long after entering their information on FAFSA does a student know what they qualify for financial assistance.</p> <p>Brenda responded that previously, they would have known within the week.</p> <p>Teri added that with the current system, the timelines are different with all of the various errors that are delaying applications. Once they get all of the errors corrected, it should be a quick turnaround process.</p>
<p>IX.</p>	<p>Update on Fiscal Year 2025 Budget</p>	<p>Teri provided an update on the fiscal year 2025 budget. The budget requests for expenditures were due today, so the data and collection on the expenses are done. Budget revenues are currently in flux with tuition, property taxes, and state appropriations continuing to develop.</p> <p>The College has no plans to increase the tuition rate, but leadership is monitoring what to safely project for enrollment. Fall 2023 had a 5.2 percent increase in contact hours compared to Fall 2022. There was a 5.6 percent increase in Spring 2024 compared to Spring 2023, and at this point, there is a 10.3 percent increase in Summer 2024 compared to Summer 2023.</p> <p>Teri provided an overview of the historical percentage of increase in valuations dating back to 2019. In 2023, we had a 12.37 percent increase. The College received its 2024 preliminary Certified Estimate of Taxable Value from the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) on April 30. The current estimate for the College’s valuation is 0.24 percent above valuations for tax year 2023 with +/- five percent accuracy. Historically, this percentage has increased from the estimate when we receive the final certified values, so we are continuing to monitor.</p> <p>Regarding State appropriations, we are currently awaiting estimates of performance outcomes. We expect a modest increase in state appropriations and have modeled a two percent increase in the five-year plan. We also expect an increase in Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) revenues.</p> <p>Brenda stated a Board budget retreat to go over the prioritized budget items determined by the Strategic</p>

		<p>Leadership Team (SLT) is needed. The SLT will have their budget retreat on June 25. She is proposing to have the Board budget retreat on July 23 in place of the Building and Finance Committee meetings. The budget will then be presented to the Board for consideration of approval at the August 5 meeting.</p> <p>The Board members present agreed with this plan.</p>
X.	Review of Calendar	<p>Brenda reviewed calendar items with the Board and asked them to let Mandi Reiland know if they would like to attend any events.</p>
XI.	<p>General Discussion of Meeting Items</p> <p>a. Additional Purchasing Support Documents</p>	<p>Dan Mims asked about the dual credit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hallsville Independetn School District (ISD) and Huntsville ISD.</p> <p>Brenda explained both of those MOU’s will be for online offerings through the Texas Virtual Academy, which is a Texas online preparatory school. The College was approached about offering online general academic courses with these two ISD’s. Students in this course will be required to participate in FAST. For the Goose Creek ISD MOU, they are largely interested in our Maritime program. She explained the MOU with the Lutheran North Academy is being tabled as we received notice today that this academy will no longer be operating. This does not affect Lutheran South Academy, which also has requested a MOU.</p> <p>Keith asked what kind of resources the College incurs on an online dual credit academy like what is being offered to Hallsville and Huntsville ISDs.</p> <p>Brenda responded it is just the cost of delivering the course online and the registration component. We are planning to add these students into the regular online courses we already offer. We do not see it being a burden but will evaluate it.</p> <p>Erica asked if these courses would receive the same tuition discount.</p> <p>Brenda responded they will receive the same 75 percent waiver out of district. As long as they participate in FAST, we get reimbursed by the State, so that helps to offset costs.</p> <p>Brenda provided the group with a Delegation of Authority Summary. There was one request in April to approve the</p>

		contract for Central Campus Slocomb Auditorium HVAC replacement. It was awarded to HTX Industries, LLC, and has been completed. Another request was in May to approve the purchase of a transformer for building 26 at the Central Campus. It was awarded to Consolidated Electrical Distributors and has been completed.
XII.	Adjournment	Vice Chair Moon, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.