

San Jacinto College District Board Workshop

March 3, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Community College District met for a Board Workshop at 4:45 p.m., Monday, March 3, 2025, 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., Salvador Serrano Jr., Keith Sinor Absent: Larry Wilson Chancellor: Brenda Hellyer Other: Christian Bionat, Carin Hutchins, Micki Morris (attorney – via conference call), Mandi Reiland, Jessica Tello, Laurel Willimson, Joanna Zimmermann
	Agenda Item:	Discussion/Information
I.	Call the Meeting to Order	Chair Mims called the workshop to order at 4:47 p.m.
II.	Roll Call of Board Members	Chair Mims conducted a roll call of the Board members: Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson Erica Davis Rouse, Assistant Secretary Dan Mims, Chair John Moon, Jr., Vice Chair Salvado Serrano Jr. Keith Sinor, Secretary Larry Wilson (absent)
III.	Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, 551.074, and 551.072 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes: Legal Matters, Personnel Matters, and Real Estate Matters	Chair Mims adjourned to closed session at 4:49 p.m. The Board members listed above as attending, Brenda Hellyer, Christian Bionat, Carin Hutchins, and Mandi Reiland were present for the closed session. Others present as noted below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Conference call with attorney Micki Morris. b. Personnel Matters - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment,

		<p>duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee.</p> <p>It was determined after the time of posting that there were no personnel items to review.</p> <p>c. Real Estate Matters - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.</p> <p>It was determined after the time of posting that a consultation with an attorney was not needed.</p>
IV.	Reconvene in Open Meeting	Chair Mims reconvened to open meeting at 5:45 p.m.
V.	Review Legislative Update and Advocacy Efforts	<p>Christian Bionat provided a legislative update and overview of advocacy efforts. He explained that local government developments include the College's \$66,270.00 contract with the City of Houston's Public Works to provide commercial driver's licensing training was on the Houston City Council agenda for consideration. During the approval process, a city councilmember tagged our agenda item expressing concerns over why this contract is not with Houston Community College. San Jacinto College leadership notified Councilmember Flickinger of the tag and San Jacinto College's External Relations working with Continuing and Professional Development, provided Councilmember Flickinger discussion points on the relationship and benefit of working together. On Wednesday, February 26, the agenda item and the College's contract with the City of Houston Public Works passed.</p> <p>Christian added that federal and state legislative developments that impact San Jacinto College include major legislative and policy shifts at both levels, with significant implications for higher education, workforce development, and institutional funding. In Washington, the passage of a federal budget resolution outlines substantial tax cuts while introducing spending reductions that could impact student aid and grant programs. Meanwhile, in Texas, the 89th Legislature continues to move forward on key budget bills and workforce education policies, with several proposals that could directly affect San Jacinto College's programs and funding models.</p> <p>From a federal standpoint, last Tuesday, the House passed a House resolution for the budget framework. The resolution includes \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts alongside \$2</p>

		<p>trillion in spending reductions, placing particular pressure on education, workforce training, and student financial aid programs.</p> <p>Additionally, the House Education and Workforce Committee has been tasked with identifying \$330 billion in reductions, which could significantly impact funding for Pell Grants, institutional grants, and other student aid initiatives. If enacted, this budget resolution would alter funding structures for higher education institutions nationwide and could require colleges like San Jacinto College to find alternative revenue sources to offset potential reductions.</p> <p>Christian explained there is a potential government shutdown on March 14, 2025, as Congress remains gridlocked over spending negotiations. If no agreement is reached, federal agencies could face temporary closures, which may disrupt financial aid processing, research grants, and workforce training program funding. San Jac should prepare for possible delays in federal funding disbursements and ensure students and staff are informed of any financial aid impacts. The group briefly discussed the possibility of a government shut down and the potential effects on San Jacinto College.</p> <p>At the state level, the 89th Texas Legislature continues to focus on higher education funding and workforce training initiatives. The primary budget bills, House Bill (HB) 1 and Senate Bill (SB) 1, establish the Texas state budget for the 2026-2027 biennium, including appropriations for community colleges, workforce education, and financial aid programs. These bills will determine the level of funding available for San Jacinto College's programs, particularly as the state moves further into performance-based funding models.</p> <p>Christian explained that among the policy-focused bills under consideration, HB 2321, filed by Representative Caroline Harris Davila, and SB 1191, filed by Senator Brandon Creighton, propose a standardized high school GPA calculation system to ensure fairness in college admissions and financial aid eligibility. This bill could impact San Jacinto College's dual-credit students, particularly in how their coursework is recognized in transfer applications and scholarship determinations.</p>
--	--	--

		<p>Additionally, SB 685, introduced by Senator Angela Paxton, would further refine the state’s performance-based funding model for community colleges. Another key initiative, SB 418, authored by Senator Mayes Middleton, seeks to expand the ability of community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in workforce-aligned fields. HB 2893, by Jared Patterson, has similar language, though not identical. This legislation could allow San Jacinto College to introduce additional four-year degree programs in areas providing affordable pathways for students seeking careers in high-demand fields. Finally, SB 404, also introduced by Middleton, would require community colleges to invest exclusively in state-managed investment pools. While intended to streamline financial oversight, SB 404 could limit San Jacinto College’s financial flexibility and require adjustments in investment strategies to maintain fiscal stability.</p> <p>Christian provided an update on San Jacinto College’s budget riders. In addition to the broader state budget bills, two budget riders have been filed to secure targeted funding for San Jacinto College’s workforce training initiatives. These were previously reviewed by the Board.</p> <p>The group discussed the legislative update.</p> <p>Christian left the workshop.</p>
VI.	Update on Enrollment - Spring 2025	<p>Carin Hutchins provided an update on Spring 2025 enrollment. The Board was provided data on headcount and contact hours by year. Currently, enrollment is up in headcount from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 by 2.7 percent, and the contact hours are up by 5 percent. She added that we included a 3 percent increase in the budget for tuition revenue based on the additional contact hours projected.</p>
VII.	Update on Board Election	<p>Brenda Hellyer explained that the group went into more detail at the strategic planning retreat in February so Carin will provide brief updates today.</p> <p>Carin explained that tonight the Board is being asked to approve the contract with Harris County for election services. She stated that candidates drew for place on ballot on February 24. She explained that the preliminary list of voting centers is available. It is continuing to evolve, and we are requesting additional sites be added. Currently, we</p>

		<p>are preparing the notice of election to be published in area public newspapers, which is due by April 16.</p> <p>Members briefly discussed the information provided.</p>
VIII.	Update on Board of Trustees Institute	<p>Brenda Hellyer asked Dan Mims and Salvador Serrano Jr. to provide an update on the recent Board of Trustees Institute they attended.</p> <p>Dan explained that the presentation that he, Salvador, and Brenda presented went very well. They presented on the College's workforce partnerships and the alignment to credentials of value along with how San Jac Online fits into the broader picture. In the presentation, they highlighted data needed and questions Board members should consider.</p> <p>Dan added that a key takeaway for him was the data and discussions on the percentages of non-college-going high school graduates. The work San Jac does in that area is going to continue to be very important. Another key area that is also a national issue is that young males tend to have lower success rates or are non-college-going. The College is addressing this, but this group needs to continue to be a focus.</p> <p>Salvador expanded on the data Dan mentioned on lower success rates for younger males. He agrees the College needs to continue to focus on this student population. He added that community colleges usually have many first-generation students and this is an area that needs high focus to be successful. Any personal touch with these students while they are on campus, or any interaction, helps continue to motivate them to achieve their goals and feel supported.</p> <p>Members discussed some of the successful student services initiatives and resources as well as some areas of improvement to impact these student populations.</p>
IX.	Discuss Strategic Planning	<p>Brenda explained that the feedback from the Board members from the February retreat was taken back to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) to review. The SLT members are drafting strategies and measures for the areas of focus identified by the College community, the Board, and the SLT.</p>

		<p>She asked the Board members to continue to send her any thoughts or feedback they have, and she will provide a more comprehensive plan to the Board in the near future.</p>
X.	Update on Target X and My San Jac Portal: Connecting to our Students	<p>Laurel Williamson, Joanna Zimmermann, and Jessica Tello joined the workshop.</p> <p>Jessica Tello provided an update on Target X and the My San Jac Portal. She provided background on the grant work that started this initiative and explained the progress and objectives accomplished throughout this work. She explained the benefits of using this customer relationship management (CRM) program which improves communications, provides a visual dashboard, allows for early alerts, improves the onboarding experience, and has automatic features that assign and introduce students to their admissions advisor.</p> <p>She added that the competitive application process is being tested on select health sciences programs so that it can be rolled out broadly more efficiently.</p> <p>Jessica provided a comprehensive demo of the program and how it is utilized.</p> <p>The group discussed the program, its use, and thanked Jessica and her team for their incredible work. The Board members are excited to see the implementation continue.</p> <p>Laurel Williamson, Joanna Zimmermann, and Jessica Tello left the workshop.</p>
XI.	Discuss Strategies and Support of Artificial Intelligence	<p>This item was tabled.</p>
XII.	Review of Calendar	<p>Brenda reviewed the calendar and asked the Board members to let Mandi Reiland know if they would like to attend any events.</p>
XIII.	General Discussion of Meeting Items	<p>The Board members did not have any questions about items included in the Board book.</p>
XIV.	Adjournment	<p>Chair Mims adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.</p>