

Blinn College District Schulenburg Campus Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2025
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Liberal Arts Building, Room 120

The Schulenburg Advisory Committee met on April 3, 2025, in Room 120 of the Liberal Arts Building at 100 Ranger Dr., Blinn-Schulenburg Campus, Schulenburg, Texas.

Committee members present were Ms. Kayla Kaspar, Mr. Jon Wunderlich, Mr. Chris Hooper, Mr. Andy McHazlett, and Mr. Chris Sodek.

Committee members absent were Mr. Ron Langhamer and Ms. Kimberly Newton.

Representatives from Blinn College present were Dr. Mary Hensley, Mr. Leighton Schubert, and Dr. Becky Garlick.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Hooper at 11:48 AM.

Approval of Minutes. Mr. Jon Wunderlich made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2024 meeting, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Kayla Kaspar.

Enrollment Report. Dr. Becky McBride, Vice Chancellor of Student Services, was unable to attend the meeting, so Mr. Leighton Schubert, Executive Vice Chancellor, gave the Spring 2025 Enrollment Report. He noted that the Schulenburg Campus was up more than 10% this semester with 52 students. In addition, high school enrollment was 2,631 which is up almost 20% from the previous year. The RELIS Campus also showed positive growth with an increase of 12% with a total of 3,540 students. Other campuses were down in enrollment as compared to last spring; however, Mr. Schubert noted that these were preliminary numbers that had recently been provided to the Board of Trustees, and the final certified Spring 2025 enrollment number was not yet available, but it was anticipated that those numbers would be higher.

Mr. Schubert explained that students are counted in enrollment for a campus where they are taking the majority of their courses. Mr. Sodek asked which category high school students would be counted who were taking courses via Distance Education. Mr. Schubert responded by saying that all high school students count in the high school category regardless of the campus or format that they are taking classes.

In the enrollment report, Dr. McBride included the number of students taking the majority of their classes online in the Schulenburg area for Spring 2024 (93 students) and Spring 2025 (138 students). There was an increase of 45 students for the Spring 2025 semester.

In addition, Mr. Schubert reviewed the number of dual credit students in the Schulenburg area (Columbus, Flatonia, LaGrange, Moulton, Schulenburg, and Weimar ISDs). Enrollment in these

schools increased from 199 students to 234 students from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025, an increase of 35 students.

Legislative Report. Mr. Schubert provided an update of the current state legislative session. Specifically, he discussed House Bill 8 and community college funding. Under the new funding model, last year Blinn College received an increase of \$7.4 million; however, this year funding is estimated to drop by \$4.4 million due to under reporting of certain students, the College's tax rate which is lower than \$.05 that is contained in the state funding formula, and a \$2.3 million decrease in funding for transfer students.

This is a significant decrease in anticipated funding, particularly since approximately 26% of the annual operating budget comes from state appropriations. Mr. Schubert is working with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Senator Lois Kolkhorst's office to clarify THECB rules particularly the rule that states that if a community college student earned at least one college credit hour from a four-year university prior to transfer that they are no longer qualified as a transfer student.

Mr. Schubert also discussed the Governor's tuition freeze on universities, which has now been expanded to include community colleges. He emphasized that this would have a detrimental impact on Blinn because we rely heavily on tuition with 70% of the annual operating budget coming from tuition and fees.

Finally, he encouraged high schools to offer at least 15 hours of dual credit to their students since the state will not fund Blinn until students earn 15 hours of credit while in high school.

Technical & Community Education Classes & Programs. Due to the lengthy discussion of state funding, this report was postponed until the next meeting.

Announcements. There were no announcements.

Mr. Jon Wunderlich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Kayla Kaspar seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.