

## MINUTES

### **Blinn College District Bryan Campus Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024  
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Committee Members present** were Chair Kenny Lawson, Vice-Chair Larry Hodges, Secretary Jason Cornelius, Ginger Carrabine, Tedi Ellison, and Ron Schmidt.

**Committee Member absent** were Jason Jennings, Marca Ewers-Shurtleff, and 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. John Chancellor, Mr. Richard Bray, Dr. Bennie Graves, Mr. Chris Marrs, Mr. Myron Dippel, Mr. Mark Feldhake, Ms. Shannon Williford, Dr. Nathan Krueger, Mr. Douglas Pierce, Ms. Tiffany Jenkins, and Ms. Melissa Alvarez.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kenny Lawson at 12:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes** after a proper motion from Ms. Tedi Ellison, seconded by Mr. Larry Hodges, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes from the September 27, 2023, meeting.

**Enrollment Update by Dr. Becky McBride, Vice Chancellor for Student Services.** In the spring of 2023 Blinn had 5,407 students enrolled and as of February 12, 2024, Blinn is down 690 students bringing the total to 4,717. Online enrollment has also seen a decrease from 2,050 students in 2023 to 1,970, a difference of 80 students. Communication is ongoing between Blinn and prospective students.

Blinn continues to communicate to prospective students through ongoing correspondence by texting and email campaigns using Customer Relations Management (CRM) program. Preview days on several of the campuses have been scheduled, which allow prospective students to meet with and speak to several different departments while on campus. Jason Cornelius asked if there were other means to share information with the community other than going to high schools. Blinn has a mobile trailer known as the Mobile Go Center that comes equipped with 17 laptops and internet access. This allows Blinn to contact students who may not have internet access or the ability to get to a nearby campus to apply for college or fill out FAFSA. Blinn recruiters will also help with the application process and answer any questions the prospective student may have while in the Go Center.

**Facilities Update by Mr. Mark Feldhake, Executive Director Facilities, Planning, and Construction.** Mr. Mark Feldhake discussed updates on the Brenham and Waller campuses. The Bryan roofing project on buildings A, C, and D has been completed. The second floor of buildings A and D has also been renovated. The new Bryan Administration building is scheduled to be completed in February of 2025. The Central Administration building currently located at the Tejas Center will relocate to the new building. It will also house campus administration, business services, human resources and will have a large meeting room open for community use. The project will also add parking specifically for staff at the new location and space for an intramural field. A new entrance to campus at the Nash Street intersection has been added.

**Dual Credit / FAST Program Update by Ms. Shannon Williford, Director, Dual Credit Programs, and Mr. Leighton Schubert, Executive Vice Chancellor.** Students can begin taking dual credit classes in the summer after their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Eligible high school students successfully complete college course(s) paired to a high school course required for graduation and receive credit for the course on the college and high school transcripts. Blinn offers both academic and technical dual credit courses. Blinn currently has 56 dual credit agreements districtwide, including Bryan/College Station ISD, private schools, KOR Education School, and online public schools. Dual credit enrollment across the entire college was 2,145 in the fall of 2023 and 2,198 in the spring of 2024.

Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program relates to House Bill 8 which changes how community colleges will be funded by the State. The program allows certain students to enroll in dual credit courses at no cost to the student. If a student qualifies for free or reduced lunch under TEA rules, these students are considered FAST eligible. Colleges have the choice to opt-in to the program. Blinn has chosen to opt-in to the program starting Fall of 2024. Once this begins Blinn cannot charge any tuition or fees for the FAST eligible students. The state will reimburse the College for FAST students at the rate of \$55.00 per SCH. Blinn has begun working with our dual credit partners on the transition to the FAST program.

**Agriculture Program Update by Mr. Doug Pierce, Division Chair, Agriculture, and Dr. Nathan Krueger, Department Head, Agriculture.** The Ag Club is designed to promote professionalism and leadership among agriculture students at Blinn. The club meets bi-monthly, and membership is open to students majoring in an agriculture-related field. The Ag Club focuses on various areas within the agriculture field of study, and allows students to explore their specific interests, including agricultural mechanics, animal science, plant science, wildlife, and agriculture business. Students volunteer around the community, such as at the Brazos Valley Expo Center, to connect and gather experience on a personal level. The Ag Livestock Judging Team also travels and has received several trophies including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, American Royal Livestock Show Kansas City, and San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo.

**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 that date is finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m. by Mr. Kenny Lawson.