



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES HANDBOOK

SPRING 2026



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## Welcome Statement

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Dear Trustee:

Welcome to College of the Mainland (COM), and thank you for your dedication to serving on the Board of Trustees (BOT). Your leadership helps shape the future of this college, our students and the communities we proudly serve.

At COM, we believe in the transformative power of education. We see that power every day when students gain the confidence to pursue new goals, when families celebrate a graduate and when local employers hire skilled professionals who began their journey here. As a trustee, you are an important part of those outcomes.

This handbook is here to support you throughout your service. Inside, you will find helpful information about COM's mission, history, governance structure, policies, financial responsibilities and the role of a trustee.

The heart of COM is our people. Our faculty, staff and students bring an unmatched sense of purpose, care and high expectations to everything they do. Many of our employees live right here in the community and are deeply committed to student success. That same spirit is reflected in the work of our Board.

From recent high school graduates to adults pursuing career changes or lifelong learning, COM serves students at every stage of life. With your support, we remain focused on student achievement, strong community partnerships and building a future that reflects the needs and hopes of those we serve.

Looking ahead, we are focused on student achievement, modern campus spaces, strong community partnerships and a clear path forward through our strategic plan. These priorities guide our decisions and keep us grounded in our purpose.

Thank you for being part of this mission. I'm honored to work beside you as we continue creating pathways to opportunity and a stronger future for all.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer**  
President, College of the Mainland





## College of the Mainland

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### MISSION

College of the Mainland is a learning-centered, comprehensive community college dedicated to student success and the intellectual and economic enrichment of the diverse communities we serve.

### VISION

College of the Mainland will be a valued and vital community partner by enriching our community and preparing our students to thrive in a diverse, dynamic and global environment.

### VALUES

- Student Success and Academic Excellence
- Continuous Improvement and Accountability
- Mutual Respect and Civility
- Innovation and Adaptability
- Campus and Community Collaboration

### OUR HISTORY

#### Inception

College of the Mainland (COM) was a beckoning vision in the minds of community leaders as far back as the early 1960s. The first concrete step came in October 1966 when the College of the Mainland Junior College District was formed, serving 237 square miles in Galveston County. In December of that year, voters approved the College's first bond, and by September 1967, the first class of 414 students had enrolled. Students initially attended classes in temporary facilities until February 1970, when the College opened its new campus at Texas City on the corner of Emmett F Lowry Expressway and Amburn Road. The site included an Administration Building, Learning Resources Center (LRC), Math-Science Building, Technical-Vocational Building (TVB) and a Central Utilities Building. A second bond approved in 1970 funded additional facilities, including the Fine Arts Building, Gymnasium, Student Center, expanded Technical-Vocational space and enlarged Math-Science space, completed by 1972.

### **Expansion**

The campus continued to grow in the following decades to meet the region’s workforce and educational needs. In 1985, the TVB was expanded to include computer labs, classrooms, offices and a Child Development Lab. The Public Service Careers Building was completed in 1999 to house law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire protection programs. To serve its northern service area, COM opened the Learning Center–North County in League City in 2003 and established the Gulf Coast Safety Institute in 2007. In 2016, the College’s growing 50 Plus Program opened a location at Gulfway Plaza in La Marque and later expanded to Mainland City Centre at 10000 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway in Texas City. This facility now houses the Culinary Arts Program with its state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, as well as the Cosmetology, Barbering and Esthetics/ Human Services programs, providing expanded opportunities for students in the area. The original Learning Center–North County closed in 2020 when COM opened its new, expanded League City Facility to better serve the growing northern portion of its service area.

### **Modern Campus Growth**

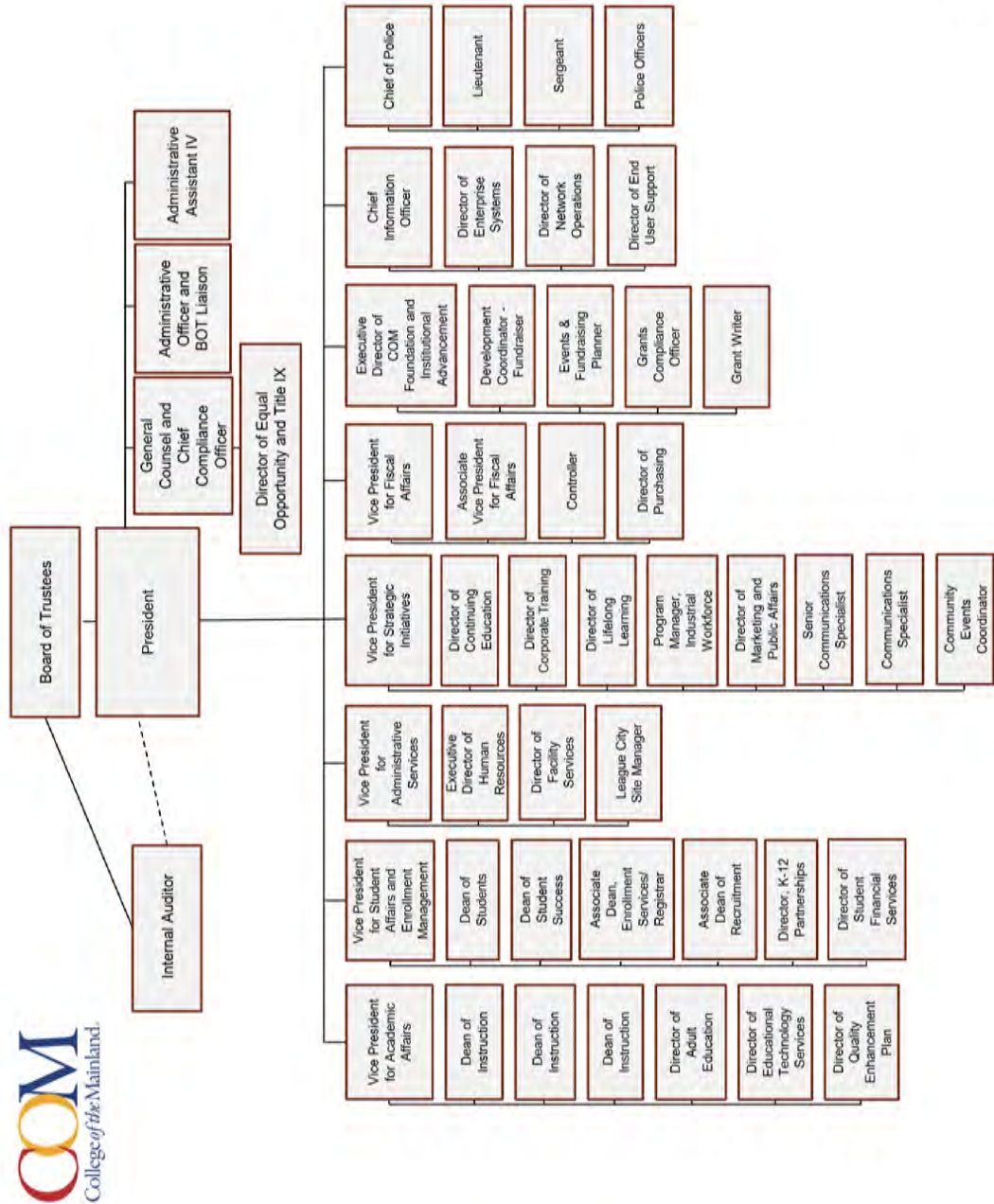
In 2018, voters approved a \$162.5 million bond as part of the COMPASS 2025 Master Plan, marking a new era of campus transformation. This bond funded

several major facilities. The STEM Building and new Administration Building opened in 2021, followed by the Industrial Careers Building (ICB) in 2022. The STEM Building houses programs such as nursing, dental hygiene and other health programs. The ICB is home to programs including Process Technology, HVAC and Instrumentation. The new administration building also opened in 2021, bringing together enrollment and student support services under one roof. That same year, COM launched its first bachelor’s degree program, offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to meet growing workforce demand.

Building on this momentum, voters passed a \$250 million bond in 2023 to launch the second phase of the COMPASS 2025 Master Plan. This next wave of development includes the new Library & Learning Center (LLC), a state-of-the-art Public Safety Careers Building and a Corporate Training Center, which will be located across Monticello Drive from the main campus. The aging Technical-Vocational Building was demolished in Fall 2023 to make way for the upcoming LLC, which will serve as a modern academic hub for students and the community. Once the LLC is completed, the existing LRC will be torn down to create additional green space for the campus. These projects are designed to support College of the Mainland’s rapidly growing student population and further expand opportunities for the community.

Organization Chart

Please scan the QR code below or visit the following link to view the current Organization Chart:  
<https://www.com.edu/human-resources/organizational-charts.html>



5/6/2020



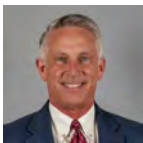
## BOARD OF TRUSTEES DIRECTORY



**Melissa Skipworth**  
Board Chair  
Position 5: Term ends 2029  
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**Wilma Clark Green**  
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**Kyle Dickson**  
Vice Chair  
Position 3: Term ends 2027  
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**Patti Hanssard**  
Position 2: Term ends 2027  
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**Dr. Kimberly Dodson**  
Secretary  
Position 4: Term ends 2031  
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**Dr. William McGarvey**  
At Large  
Position 6: Term ends 2031  
[bmcgarvey@com.edu](mailto:bmcgarvey@com.edu)



**Donald G. Gartman**  
At Large  
Position 7: Term ends 2029  
[d.gartman@com.edu](mailto:d.gartman@com.edu)



## Role of the Board of Trustees

### POWERS, DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to legal requirements, the Board shall have the powers, duties, and responsibilities enumerated below but shall be in no way limited to those listed. The Board shall:

#### Policy

1. Act as the sole policy-making body of the College District.

#### Suggestions and Recommendations

2. Receive, consider, and act upon the suggestions and recommendations of its executive staff in matters pertaining to the function and operations of the College District.

#### Locations and Construction of Facilities

3. Select and locate sites for College District facilities, finance construction and plan for necessary expansion to meet identified needs.

#### President of the College District

4. Select and evaluate the College President.

#### Faculty and Employee Election

5. Elect a faculty and other employees of the College District necessary to its operation and fix the compensation and manner of payment to the College President, faculty and employees. It shall enter into contracts of employment, subject to the restrictions imposed by law.

#### Student Fees, Charges and Rentals

6. Fix fees for matriculation, laboratories, library, gymnasium and tuition on the recommendation of the College President.

#### Taxation, Bond and Borrowing

7. Levy taxes, issue bonds, borrow funds and, in appropriate cases, pledge the assets of the College District as security for its debts, subject to restrictions imposed by the applicable statutes of the State of Texas and the general law, as it deems necessary or expedient for the operation of the College District.

#### Assessment of Property and Collection of Taxes

8. Cause the taxable property located in the College

District to be levied, assessed, collected, and taxed in the manner prescribed by law.

#### **Official Depository**

9. Select and maintain an official depository bank, as required by law.

#### **Budget**

10. Approve or adopt an itemized budget on or before September 1st of each year.

#### **Curriculum**

11. Upon the recommendation of the College President, formulate and approve the curriculum of the College District, in cooperation with the Coordinating Board.

#### **Expansion of Physical and Educational Facilities**

12. Plan for the necessary expansion to meet the physical and instructional needs of the College District, and secure the necessary funds and financing needs for such expansion.

#### **Title to Property**

13. Receive and hold title to the property of the College District for the use and benefit of the College District.

#### **Contracts and Suits**

14. Contract and be contracted with and sue and be sued (without waiving any immunity or defense accorded it by the law).

#### **Gifts for Use of College District**

15. Receive gifts, grants, donations, and devices made for the use of the College District.

#### **Disbursements of College District Funds**

16. Receive, approve, process, and pay all just claims against College District funds.

#### **Management and Control of College District Property**

17. Control and maintain all property belonging to the College District through the College District administration and have the power to sell, convey, or otherwise dispose of the same subject to the requirements of law.

#### **Vacancies in Office**

18. Fill vacancies that may occur on its Board or among its staff, faculty, or employees as the case may

be, in the manner prescribed by law and the adopted policies of the Board.

#### **Elections**

19. Conduct all elections for new Board members or revenue measures and canvass and certify the results of elections in the manner prescribed by law. Election of Board members for the College District shall continue to be held in odd-numbered years, as provided by this policy.

#### **Disciplinary and Grievance Matters**

20. Review and hear any Level Three complaint forwarded to the Board by the College President, acting upon the appeal in accordance with policy GB(LOCAL).

#### **Employment of Professional Consultants**

21. Employ professional consultants including but not limited to the fields of insurance, taxation, engineering, architecture, accounting, medicine, law, or other areas as it deems necessary or proper for the conduct of the affairs of the College District.

#### **Athletics and Physical Training**

22. Formulate, authorize, or install, with the advice and recommendation of the College President, such programs of athletics, physical training, or related activities as it deems to be in the best interests of the College District.

#### **Student Activities**

23. Formulate policies with respect to student activities, recreation, or social organizations on the recommendation of the College President.

#### **Cooperation with the Texas Commission of Higher Education**

24. Cooperate with and abide by the rules and regulations of the Coordinating Board and any and all other state agencies vested with the appropriate authority in the areas of authority.

#### **Audit of College District Accounts**

25. Cause an annual audit of its accounts to be made and distributed as required by law.

#### **Governmental Practices or Aid Programs**

26. Contract or participate with the federal, state, or any municipal governmental organization in matters

pertaining to financial or other aid to its educational program or to the installation or operation of any education program or training.

BAAA(LOCAL)-X

UPDATE 50

DATE ISSUED: 12/3/2025

## **BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **General**

The Board shall perform its official duties when practical as a Committee of the Whole.

### **Special Committees**

Special Committees consisting of Board members may be created by the Chair of the Board, or may be elected by the Board. Such committees shall perform their assigned duties and functions in accordance with the instructions, if any, given them by the Board or the Board Chair. Unless specified as standing committees created with the affirmation of a majority vote of the Board, when such special committees have performed the duties and functions assigned them by the Board or the Board Chair, have made their recommendations, reports or have taken such action permitted and authorized by their instructions, they shall be automatically discharged. No special committee can exist for longer than one year unless reestablished. Such committees shall function in a fact-finding or advisory capacity.

### **Open Meetings Act**

A Special Committee that includes less than a quorum of board members is not subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) so long as it serves a purely advisory function, with no power to supervise or control public business. However, should the Special Committee actually function as something more than a merely advisory body with the result that it in fact supervises or controls public business or policy, it must comply with the OMA to avoid depriving the public of access to the board's actual decision-making process.

## STATEMENT OF ETHICS

1. As a member of the Board, I shall strive to improve community college education, and to that end I shall adhere to all state and federal laws, College District policies, and the ethical standards set out in this policy.
2. I shall attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible and devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a Board member, so that I may render effective and creditable service.
3. I shall bring about desired changes through legal and ethical procedures, upholding and enforcing all applicable statutes, regulations, and court decisions pertaining to community colleges.
4. I shall establish and adhere to policies and practices prohibiting unlawful discrimination, including harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law.
5. I shall work with my fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation and encourage the free expression of opinion in spite of differences that arise during vigorous debates of points of issue.
6. I shall base my personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation; vote my honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; and abide by and uphold the final majority decisions of the Board I shall remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and to conduct my relationships with the College District staff, the local citizenry, and all media of the community on the basis of this fact.
7. I shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a Board member to benefit myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the College District.
8. I shall recognize that it is as important for the Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the College District as it is to plan for the business of College District operations.
9. I shall delegate the administrative matters of the College District to the College President and support the employment of qualified College District staff.
10. I shall welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the College District media by communicating with respect to policy on current College District operations and proposed future developments.
11. I shall speak with one voice as a Board member once a Board decision or policy is made.
12. I shall support state and national organizations in their efforts to benefit Texas community colleges, such as the Community College Association of Texas Trustees, the Texas Association of School Boards, and the Association of Community College Trustees.
13. I shall work step by step toward ideal conditions for the most effective College District Board service to my community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and the perpetuation of our representative democracy.
14. It is the responsibility of the Board as a whole to ensure that its individual members and the Board as a whole are not subject to undue pressure from political, religious, or other external bodies. In addition, the Board shall ensure that the administration is also protected from undue pressure from external organizations and bodies.

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UPDATE 41

DATE ISSUED: 5/25/2021

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If a local public official, such as a member of a college district board of trustees, has a substantial interest in a business entity or in real property, the official shall file, before a vote or decision on any matter involving the business entity or the real property, an affidavit stating the nature and extent of the interest and shall abstain from further participation in the matter if:

1. In the case of a substantial interest in a business entity, the action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the business entity that is distinguishable from the effect on the public; or
2. In the case of a substantial interest in real property, it is reasonably foreseeable that an action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the value of the property, distinguishable from its effect on the public.

The affidavit must be filed with the official record keeper of the governmental entity.

### Definitions

**“Substantial Interest”** A person has a substantial interest in a business entity if:

1. The person owns:
  - a. Ten percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity, or
  - b. Either ten percent or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or
2. Funds received by the person from the business entity exceed ten percent of the person’s gross income for the previous year.

A person has a substantial interest in real property if the interest is an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more.

A local public official is considered to have a substantial interest if a person related to the official in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Government Code

Chapter 573, has a substantial interest as defined above.

**“Local public official”** means a member of the governing body or another officer, whether elected, appointed, paid, or unpaid, of any district (including a school district), central appraisal district, or other local governmental entity, including a college district, who exercises responsibilities beyond those that are advisory in nature.

**“Business entity”** means a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, or any other entity recognized by law. A public entity, such as a city, school district, or state institution of higher education, whose purpose is not to produce financial benefits for private persons is not a business entity.

### Majority Conflict

If a local public official is required to file and does file an affidavit, the official is not required to abstain from further participation in the matter requiring the affidavit if a majority of the members of the governmental entity of which the official is a member is composed of persons who are likewise required to file and do file affidavits of similar interests on the same official action.

### Separate Vote on the Budget

The governing body of a governmental entity shall take a separate vote on any budget item specifically dedicated to a contract with a business entity in which a member of the governing body has a substantial interest. The affected member may not participate in that separate vote. The member may vote on a final budget if the member has complied with Local Government Code Chapter 171, described herein, and the matter in which the member is concerned has been resolved.

### Violations

A local public official commits an offense if the official knowingly:

1. Violates Local Government Code 171.004, above;

2. Acts as surety for a business entity that has work, business, or a contract with the governmental entity; or
3. Acts as surety on any official bond required of an officer of the governmental entity.

#### Voidable Actions

The finding by a court of a violation under Chapter 171 does not render an action of the governmental body voidable unless the measure that was the subject of an action involving a conflict of interest would not have passed the governing body without the vote of the person who violated the chapter.

#### Substantial Interest Declaration and Abstention Under Education Code 51.923

An institution of higher education, including a college district, is not prohibited from entering into a contract or other transaction with a business entity in which a member of the governing board of the institution of higher education has an interest if the interest is not a substantial interest or, if the interest is a substantial interest, the board member discloses that interest in a meeting held in compliance with Government Code Chapter 551 and refrains from voting on the contract or transaction requiring board approval. Any such contract or transaction requiring board approval must be approved by an affirmative majority of the board members voting on the contract or transaction.

A nonprofit corporation is not disqualified from entering into a contract or other transaction with an institution of higher education even though one or more members of the governing board of the institution of higher education also serves as a member, director, officer, or employee of the non-profit corporation.

A violation of this section does not render an action of the governing board voidable unless the contract or transaction that was the subject of the action would not have been approved by the governing board without the vote of the member who violated this section.

#### Definitions

**“Substantial Interest”** For purposes of this section, a member of a governing board has a substantial interest in a business entity if:

1. The member owns one percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or owns either one percent or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity;
2. Funds received by the member from the business entity exceed one percent of the member’s gross income for the previous year;
3. The member is an officer of the business entity or a member of the governing board of the business entity; or
4. An individual related to the member in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Government Code Chapter 573 has an interest in the business entity as described by item 1, 2, or 3.

**“Business entity”** means any entity recognized by law through which business is conducted, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, limited liability company, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, or trust.

#### Conflicts Disclosure Statement

A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if the vendor enters into a contract with the local governmental entity or the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor; and the person:

1. Has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that a contract between the local governmental

entity and vendor has been executed or the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

2. Has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor; or
3. Has a family relationship with the local government officer.

A local government officer is not required to file a conflicts disclosure statement in relation to a gift accepted by the officer or a family member of the officer if the gift is:

1. A political contribution as defined by Election Code Title 15; or
2. Food accepted as a guest.

A local government officer is not required to file a conflicts disclosure statement if the local governmental entity or vendor described is an administrative agency created under Government Code 791.013.

A local government officer shall file the conflicts disclosure statement with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the officer becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of the statement.

The Texas Ethics Commission shall adopt the conflicts disclosure statement for local government officers for use under this section.

### Violations

A local government officer commits an offense if the officer is required to file a conflicts disclosure statement under Local Government Code 176.003 and knowingly fails to file the required conflicts disclosure statement with the appropriate records

administrator not later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the officer becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of the statement. It is an exception to the application of the penalty that the local government officer filed the required conflicts disclosure statement not later than the seventh business day after the date the officer received notice from the local governmental entity of the alleged violation.

### Definitions

“Local government officer” means a member of the governing body of a local governmental entity, including a college district; a director, superintendent, administrator, president, or other person designated as the executive officer of the local governmental entity; or an agent of a local governmental entity who exercises discretion in the planning, recommending, selecting, or contracting of a vendor.

“Agent” means a third party who undertakes to transact some business or manage some affair for another person by the authority or on account of the other person. The term includes an employee.

“Family member” means a person related to another person within the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as described by Government Code Chapter 573, Subchapter B.

“Family relationship” means a relationship between a person and another person within the third degree by consanguinity or the second degree by affinity, as those terms are defined by Government Code Chapter 573, Subchapter B.

“Vendor” means a person who enters or seeks to enter into a contract with a local governmental entity. The term includes an agent of a vendor. The term includes an officer or employee of a state agency when that individual is acting in a private capacity to enter into a contract. The term does not include a state agency except for Texas Correctional Industries

“Records administrator” means the director, county clerk, municipal secretary, superintendent, or other person responsible for maintaining the records of the local governmental entity or another person designated by the local governmental entity to

maintain statements and questionnaires filed under Local Government Code Chapter 176 and perform related functions.

**“Gift”** means a benefit offered by a person, including food, lodging, transportation, and entertainment accepted as a guest. The term does not include a benefit offered on account of kinship or a personal, professional, or business relationship independent of the official status of the recipient.

**“Investment income”** means dividends, capital gains, or interest income generated from:

1. A personal or business:
2. Checking or savings account;
3. Share draft or share account; or
4. Other similar account;
5. A personal or business investment; or
6. A personal or business loan.

#### Internet Posting Required

A local governmental entity that maintains an Internet website shall provide access to the statements and questionnaires required to be filed under Chapter 176 on that website.

#### Affidavit Disclosing Interest in Property

A public servant who has a legal or equitable interest in property that is to be acquired with public funds shall file an affidavit within ten days before the date on which the property is to be acquired by purchase or condemnation. The affidavit must:

1. State the name of the public servant;
2. State the public servant’s office, public title, or job designation;
3. Fully describe the property;
4. Fully describe the nature, type, and amount of interest in the property, including the

percentage of ownership interest;

5. State the date when the person acquired an interest in the property;
6. Include a verification as follows: “I swear that the information in this affidavit is personally known by me to be correct and contains the information required by Section 553.002, Government Code;” and
7. Contain an acknowledgment of the same type required for recording a deed in the deed records of the county.

The affidavit must be filed with the county clerk of the county in which the public servant resides and the county clerk of each county in which the property is located.

#### Violations

A person commits an offense if the person violates Government Code 553.002, above and the person has actual notice of the acquisition or intended acquisition of the legal or equitable interest in the property. A person who violates Section 553.002 by not filing the affidavit required by that section is presumed to have the intent to commit an offense.

“Public servant” means a person who is elected, appointed, employed, or designated, even if not yet qualified for or having assumed the duties of office, as:

1. A candidate for nomination or election to public office; or
2. An officer of government.

*Gov’t Code 553.001(2)*

Please see Appendix C for a copy of the Local Government Officer Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Statement or visit <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/data/forms/conflict/CIS.pdf>. See also BBFA(LEGAL) & exhibit.

### Annual Evaluation of the College President

Consistent with the Bylaws, the Board shall evaluate the President annually. The President is the chief executive officer of the College, recommends the organizational plan for the College and has a fiduciary duty to the College. Evaluation of the President shall include assessment of his effectiveness based upon the duties enumerated in the Bylaws. *Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the College of the Mainland, Article G: section 2.*

### Annual Self-Assessment of the Board

The Board shall evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of Board operations for the benefit of the College. The Board shall evaluate its own performance and shall establish its goals on a yearly basis. The self-assessment of the Board shall consist of:

- a. Review of the Board Bylaws.
- b. An assessment of Board expenditures and savings for the year.
- c. An estimation of Board budgetary needs for the following year.
- d. An evaluation of Board accomplishments in setting policy, uniting the community in and out of the College, managing debt, and improving the College.
- e. An assessment of Board Governance and Operations.
- f. An assessment of the Board Office functions (Board office staff shall be evaluated by the President). *Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the College of the Mainland, Article I: sections 1,5.*

## HIGHER ED ACCREDITATION

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. The Commission's mission is the enhancement of education quality throughout the region and the improvement of the effectiveness of institutions by ensuring that they meet standards established by the higher education community that address the needs of society and students.

Accreditation by SACSCOC signifies that the institution (1) has a mission appropriate to higher education, (2) has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission, and (3) maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that indicate whether it is successful in achieving its stated objectives.

### The Process of Accreditation

The process for initial and continued accreditation involves a collective analysis and judgment by the institution's internal constituencies, an informed review by peers external to the institution, and a reasoned decision by the elected members of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. Accredited institutions periodically conduct internal reviews involving their administrative officers, staffs, faculties, students, trustees, and others appropriate to the process. The internal review allows an institution to consider its effectiveness in achieving its stated mission, its compliance with *The Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*, its efforts in enhancing the quality of student learning and the quality of programs and services offered to its constituencies, and its successes in accomplishing its mission. At the culmination of the internal review, peer evaluators representing the Board apply their professional judgment through a preliminary assessment of the institution; elected SACSCOC Board members make the final determination of an institution's compliance with the accreditation requirements.

### The Role and Responsibilities of the Governing Board in SACSCOC Accreditation

The institution's governing board holds in trust the

fundamental autonomy and ultimate well-being of the institution. As the corporate body, the board ensures both the presence of viable leadership and strong financial resources to fulfill the institutional mission. Integral to strong governance is the absence of undue influence from external sources. Standards for accreditation for the governing board are:

The institution has a governing board of at least five members that:

- a. is the legal body with specific authority over the institution.
- b. exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution.
- c. ensures that both the presiding officer of the board and a majority of other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, personal, or familial financial interest in the institution.
- d. is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or institutions separate from it.

- e. is not presided over by the chief executive officer of the institution.

The governing board:

- a. ensures the regular review of the institution's mission.
- b. ensures a clear and appropriate distinction between the policy-making function of the board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy.
- c. selects and regularly evaluates the institution's chief executive officer.

#### **The Board's Responsibility to the College Mission**

One of the most important functions of the Board of Trustees is ensuring a consistent focus on the College's central mission and philosophy. The Board will periodically review and approve the College's mission statement in the course of reviewing the College's strategic plan. *COM Policy AD(Legal), AD(Local)*



## Financial

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### **FISCAL YEAR OPERATING BUDGET**

The current OPERATING BUDGET is available online at:  
<https://www.com.edu/fiscal-affairs/>

### **ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT**

The current Annual Investment Report is available online at:  
<https://www.com.edu/fiscal-affairs/investment-disclosures.html>

### **ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE REPORT**

The current Annual Financial and Compliance Report is available online at:  
<https://www.com.edu/fiscal-affairs/>

**COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND**  
**2025-26 BUDGET**  
**FINANCIAL POLICIES**

**Adopting Financial Policies**

The Board of Trustees for the College of the Mainland sets financial policies. Policy states: “the board shall adopt such rules, regulations, and bylaws it deems advisable not inconsistent with Education Code 130.082. Education Code 130.082(d).”

**Long Term Financial Planning**

The College administration has a long term financial planning process in place. The basis of this planning process begins with the College administration’s strategic plan and facilities master plan. From these plans, the administration of the College determines the operational and capital needs of the College in both the near- and long-term time horizon. The College then determines its capacity to fund the various projects and accesses reserves, one-time revenues, or accesses the bond market.

**Multi-Year Capital Planning**

The administration of the College places a high emphasis on the importance of infrastructure, technology, and major equipment demands. The College uses its strategic plan, facilities master plan, and the operating budget process to determine capital needs. Identified projects with security and safety are placed in the highest priority. The remaining projects are prioritized on a cost-benefit basis and funded accordingly.

**Establishing Tuition and Fees**

Policy FD states, “the governing board of a junior college district may set and collect with respect to a public junior college in the district any amount of tuition, rentals, rates, charges, or fees the board considers necessary for the efficient operation of the college.” The College of the Mainland’s administration places an emphasis on keeping tuition and fees affordable for students and yet sufficient enough to fund quality education.

**Debt Management**

It is the policy of the College to establish and maintain well defined debt management guidelines for issuing new debt as well as managing outstanding debt to sustain a strong debt management program providing the lowest available borrowing costs and greatest management flexibility. The College plans to only use the following debt instruments:

1. General obligation bonds (voted)
2. Maintenance tax notes (non-voted)
3. Revenue bonds (non-voted)
4. Lease revenue bonds (non-voted, subject to annual appropriations)

The College will not use alternative methods of financial management products such as interest rate swaps, derivatives, etc., in connection with the outstanding debt and bonds issued under the College’s Debt Management Procedures.

### **Appropriate Level of Unrestricted Fund Balance in the General Fund**

The College of the Mainland strives to “maintain a prudent level of financial resources to protect against reducing service levels or raising taxes and fees because of temporary revenue shortfalls or unpredicted one-time expenditures.” The College’s administration, for financial management purposes, does not consider all financial liabilities in calculating its unrestricted fund balance. For example, the College’s net pension liability is not a legal obligation, and the Texas Retirement System (SCRS) does not have recourse to collect the College’s net pension liability. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB 68) requires the College to book this liability. The College administration uses cash reserves less liabilities to access the College’s financial health and ability to meet short-term financial obligations. College of the Mainland annual budgets seeks to maintain, throughout each fiscal year, unrestricted and unallocated cash reserves of at least 16.7% of budgeted total annual expenses plus total accounts payable.

### **Comprehensive Risk Management Program**

College of the Mainland has developed a comprehensive risk management program that identifies, reduces, or minimizes risk to its property, interests, students, and employees. The College has secured the services of a risk management consultant. The risk management consultant assists the College with identifying and evaluating risk exposures and identifying the most cost efficient and effective way to insure for possible damages. The College works to provide a well-rounded combination of preventative and control measures.

### **Grants Policy**

College of the Mainland has a current Grants Compliance Manual in place. The Grants Compliance Manual is comprised of verbiage from the OMB Uniform Guidance. The College ensures compliance with a grantor’s terms and stipulations by meeting all conditions for the funding, as well as any legal requirements.



## Board Information

### TRAINING INFORMATION FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS BOT TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS

#### Mandatory Training

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Annual Higher Education Leadership Conference - Austin  
<https://www.highered.texas.gov/about/governing-board-member-training/>

THECB Intensive Short Course for Governing Board Members (mandatory for appointed members before voting)  
<https://www.highered.texas.gov/about/governing-board-member-training/>

#### Open Meetings Training

<https://www.highered.texas.gov/about/additional-training-requirements-sources-of-information-for-members-of-governing-boards/>

#### Investment Training; State Agency Board Members and Officers

<https://cpm.hps.unt.edu/investment-training-video>

#### Public Information Act Training

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/pia-and-oma-training-resources/public-information-act-training>

#### Cybersecurity Awareness Training

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtdQd5nN1d0>

#### Additional Online Training

Accreditation and Community College Trustees (2018)

[https://acct.org/sites/default/files/documents/2024-04/ACCT\\_Accreditation\\_in\\_Community\\_Colleges\\_2018.pdf](https://acct.org/sites/default/files/documents/2024-04/ACCT_Accreditation_in_Community_Colleges_2018.pdf)

## Board Policies

The Local Policy Manual contains legally referenced and local policies governing the operation of the College of the Mainland. College of the Mainland developed this manual with the assistance of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), which provides ongoing updating services so that the manual may remain a current and reliable document.

This manual adheres to certain structural conventions. The most visible of these conventions is the presence of separate (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) policies at many policy codes. This separation, described in greater detail below, serves to help all users—whether members of the public or members of the Board—distinguish between the requirements of an extensive body of law and the policy determinations of the local Board.

The Local Policy Manual is organized according to the TASB codification system. There are seven sections, each devoted to a separate area of College District governance:

- A — Basic District Foundations
- B — Local Governance
- C — Business and Support Services
- D — Personnel
- E — Instruction
- F — Students
- G — Community and Governmental Relations

COM's Policies can be found online at <https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/497>

## Regulations

College of the Mainland has chosen to supplement its manual with pages defining administrative procedures to assist in implementation of policy. These are identified by the designation (REGULATION). Administrative regulations should remain under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer and should not be formally adopted by the Board.

COM's Regulations can be found online at <http://www.com.edu/regulations>

## RECENT BOARD MEETING AGENDAS AND PACKET

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, COM Board of Trustees holds regular monthly meetings. Information on recent Board Meeting Agendas including Board Packets can be found online at: <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2271>

## COM 2025 PLAN TO ADVANCE STUDENT SUCCESS

Having just celebrated 50+ great years of service to its region, the College of the Mainland (COM) remains relatively young compared to many college and university campuses across Texas. But since its inception in 1966 and the rolling out of an initial master plan, the main campus' infrastructure and most original facilities have remained mostly unchanged. The college has conducted four significant building projects in 40+ years. Accordingly, the college began an intensive master planning process in the summer of 2015 that included the following assignments: Demographics Study, Utilization Study, Facilities Assessment, Faculty Surveys, and comprehensive Campus Master Planning. View the complete 2025 Plan to Advance Student Success online at: <http://www.compass2025.com/>

## THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND

College of the Mainland creates value from multiple perspectives. The college benefits local businesses by increasing consumer spending in the region and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers into the workforce. It enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. It benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts across the state and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. Finally, it benefits society as a whole in Texas by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.

## STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PLANS

The strategic plan consists of five strategic priorities. The mission, vision, and values of the College drive the strategic goals. The strategic goals, approved by the Board of Trustees for the period of 2024-2027, are listed below and can also be found online at: <https://www.com.edu/strategic-plan/index.html>

### Goal 1: Student Success

Empower our students to clarify their educational paths, ensure their learning and meet their end goals.

*Strategies:*

- Enhance Early Engagement: Connect with prospective students early in their decision-making process, providing resources and guidance for career exploration and informed educational choices.
- Simplify Enrollment Pathways: Ensure clear pathways for full- and part-time enrollment in all programs, including prior learning assessment and transfer options.
- Optimize Communications: Improve communications and outreach to prospective students, providing timely and personalized support throughout the application and enrollment process.
- Strengthen Onboarding: Support new students with student-centered onboarding processes.
- Propel Academic Success: Improve student achievement, completion rates and post-graduation outcomes, including employment and continuing education.
- Foster Lasting Connections: Reinforce student ties to COM after graduation or transfer.

### Goal 2: Employee Success

Create an environment that retains and attracts administrators, faculty and staff that are committed to serving students.

*Strategies:*

- Invest in Employee Growth: Foster a culture of continuous learning and development by providing comprehensive professional

development opportunities for all faculty and staff. These opportunities will support skill enhancement, career advancement and the acquisition of new knowledge and competencies relevant to the institution's strategic goals.

- **Develop High-Impact Leaders:** Implement a Leadership Academy designed to equip current and emerging leaders with the skills and competencies necessary for effective project and team leadership, resulting in improved organizational performance.
- **Formalize Employee Recognition:** Develop and implement a structured employee recognition program that provides consistent and meaningful appreciation for employee contributions, fostering a positive and motivating work environment

**Goal 3: Campus & Amenities Infrastructure**

Develop and maintain a modern, sustainable and technologically advanced campus environment that supports the success, well-being and safety of students, employees and the broader community.

*Strategies:*

Bond-Funded Projects

- **Complete Bond-Funded Projects:** Effectively manage and oversee all phases (design, construction and occupancy) of the 2023 Bond-funded facilities construction and improvement projects, ensuring on-time and on-budget completion. This includes:
  - Construction of new Library & Learning Center, Public Safety Careers, Corporate Training Center, Campus Services Building and new outdoor COMMONS Project. Renovations will include Welding and Workforce Education Buildings, parking lots throughout campus, and improvements to Lake Eckert.
  - Implement a robust project management process to track progress, manage risks and ensure quality control.
  - Prioritize sustainable building practices and incorporate environmentally friendly

features in all new construction and renovations.

- **Establish Quality Assurance Program:** Develop and implement a comprehensive quality assurance and customer satisfaction program for campus amenities and infrastructure. This program will:
  - Establish clear standards for the maintenance and upkeep of facilities, grounds and technology.
  - Implement regular inspections and assessments to identify and address maintenance needs proactively.
  - Create a system for collecting and responding to feedback from students, employees and community members regarding campus amenities.
  - Regularly review and update standards and procedures to ensure continuous improvement.
- **Upgrade Technology Infrastructure:** Invest in technology upgrades and enhancements to support student learning, employee productivity and operational efficiency. This includes:
  - Upgrading network infrastructure to provide reliable high-speed internet access across campus.
  - Implementing modern classroom technology to enhance teaching and learning.
  - Exploring and adopting emerging technologies that can enhance campus experience and support institutional goals.

**Goal 4: Campus Safety & Wellness**

Ensuring safety, security and wellness initiatives for the COM community and its property to enable the pursuit of academic and professional goals.

*Strategies:*

Enhance Physical Security

- Infrastructure Improvements:
  - Invest in security technology upgrades: Install and maintain security cameras, access control systems and emergency notification systems across all campus buildings and grounds.
  - Improve lighting: Ensure adequate lighting in all areas, particularly parking lots, walkways and building entrances.
  - Secure building access: Implement a system for controlling access to buildings, including key card access, security personnel and visitor management protocols.
- Emergency Preparedness:
  - Collaborate with neighboring industries to monitor and mitigate environmental risks.
  - Develop and regularly practice comprehensive emergency response plans for various scenarios (e.g., fire, active shooter, natural disaster).
  - Conduct regular safety drills and training for students, faculty and staff to ensure preparedness in emergencies.
  - Establish clear communication channels and protocols for disseminating information during emergencies.
- Safety Audits & Assessments:
  - Build an environmental monitoring program with regular assessments and reporting.
  - Conduct regular safety audits and risk assessments to identify potential hazards and vulnerabilities.
  - Implement corrective actions to address identified risks and improve safety measures.
- Provide training on topics such as crime prevention, personal safety, bystander intervention and sexual assault prevention.
- Promote awareness of available resources and support services, including counseling, mental health services and victim advocacy.
- Reporting & Response:
  - Establish protocols for responding to environmental incidents, including air quality monitoring and hazardous material assessments.
  - Integrate technology to enhance tracking and reporting of safety-related incidents.
  - Establish clear and accessible reporting mechanisms for safety concerns and incidents.
  - Ensure prompt and effective response to all reported incidents, including investigation and appropriate disciplinary action.
  - Foster a culture where individuals feel comfortable reporting safety concerns without fear of retaliation.
- Community Partnerships:
  - Collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to enhance campus security and information sharing.
  - Engage with community organizations to provide resources and support to students and employees.
  - Strengthen partnerships with emergency management agencies and environmental experts for coordinated response efforts.

Promote a Culture of Safety

- Awareness & Education:
  - Develop and implement ongoing safety awareness campaigns and educational programs for students, faculty and staff.

Support Wellness & Mental Health

- Mental Health Services:
  - Provide accessible and affordable mental health services to students and employees, including counseling, support groups and crisis intervention.
  - Promote mental health awareness and reduce stigma through education and outreach programs.

- **Wellness Programs:**
  - Offer wellness programs and initiatives that promote physical and emotional well-being, such as stress management workshops, fitness classes and healthy lifestyle education.
  - Create a supportive campus environment that encourages healthy habits and work-life balance.
- **Threat Assessment & Intervention:**
  - Establish a threat assessment team to identify and respond to individuals who may pose a risk to themselves or others.
  - Provide intervention and support services to individuals in need, including referrals to mental health professionals and community resources.

**Goal 5: Community Engagement**

Establish and maintain connections with our community and industry.

*Strategies:*

**Community Outreach & Engagement**

- **Community Events:** Host community events on campus, such as festivals, concerts, lectures and workshops.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Encourage students, faculty, and staff to volunteer their time and expertise to support local organizations and causes.
- **Advisory Boards:** Maintain active community advisory boards to provide input on college programs and initiatives.
- **Communication and Marketing:** Utilize various communication channels (website, social media, newsletters) to keep the community informed about college events, programs and resources.

**Addressing Community Needs**

- **Execute community needs assessments** to identify key challenges and opportunities.
- **Partnerships for Economic Development:** Collaborate with local businesses and government agencies to support economic development initiatives and workforce development strategies.

- **Community Health and Wellness:** Offer health and wellness programs and services to the community, such as health screenings, fitness classes and mental health counseling.
- **Cultural and Civic Engagement:** Promote cultural awareness and civic engagement through events, programs and partnerships with community organizations.

**Corporate & Continuing Education Market Research**

- **Identify Corporate Training and Continuing Education Needs:** Conduct thorough research to identify the specific training needs of local businesses and industries. Analyze workforce trends, skills gaps and emerging technologies to determine in-demand training topics.
- **Competitive Analysis:** Research existing corporate training providers in the area to understand the competitive landscape, pricing strategies and program offerings.

**Corporate & Continuing Education Program Design & Development**

- **Grow opportunities for on-demand and workforce-essential learning** such as micro-credentials.
- **Curriculum Development:** Develop high-quality, relevant curriculum that aligns with industry needs and incorporates adult learning principles. Deliver various formats, such as in-person workshops, online courses, hybrid models and on-site training at company locations.
- **Instructor Expertise:** Recruit experienced instructors with industry expertise and strong teaching skills. Provide training and support to ensure they are knowledgeable about adult learning methodologies and effective instructional practices.
- **Flexibility and Customization:** Offer flexible scheduling options and tailor programs to meet the specific needs of individual companies. Be prepared to customize curriculum, delivery methods and training schedules to accommodate different requirements.

#### Corporate & Continuing Education Marketing & Outreach

- **Build Relationships:** Establish strong relationships with local businesses, industry associations, and economic development organizations. Attend industry events, network with key decision-makers and participate in community initiatives.
- **Targeted Marketing:** Develop targeted marketing materials and campaigns that highlight the benefits of your training programs for businesses and employees. Utilize various channels, such as email marketing, social media, website promotion and print advertising.
- **Showcase Success Stories:** Highlight successful partnerships and testimonials from satisfied clients to build credibility and demonstrate the value of your training programs.
- **Open Houses and Information Sessions:** Host regular open houses and information sessions to increase awareness of continuing education and corporate training offerings, providing opportunities for prospective students and businesses to learn about programs, meet instructors and explore learning pathways.

#### Corporate & Continuing Education Operational Efficiency

- **Streamlined Processes:** Develop efficient processes for enrollment, registration, payment, and record-keeping. Utilize technology to automate tasks and improve communication with clients and participants.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Develop competitive pricing strategies that are attractive to businesses while ensuring program sustainability. Explore funding opportunities and partnerships to reduce costs and expand access to training.
- **Quality Assurance:** Implement a system for evaluating program effectiveness and gathering feedback from participants and businesses. Continuously improve programs based on data and feedback to ensure high quality and relevance.

#### Build Long-Term Partnerships

- **Client Relationship Management:** Develop strong client relationships through ongoing communication, responsiveness to needs and personalized service.
- **Advisory Boards:** Establish an advisory board with representatives from local businesses and industries to provide guidance on program development and ensure alignment with workforce needs.
- **Continuing Education Units (CEUs):** Offer CEUs or other professional credentials to enhance the value of training programs and support employee career advancement.

Each year the College leadership meets in January to establish the Annual Plan, which consists of priorities for the following academic year. The leadership consists of the BOT, the President, the President's Cabinet, upper-level administrators, and campus constituency leaders, who collectively bring to the discussion knowledge of essential aspects of the College's operations. The leadership identifies an annual priority for each of the College's strategic goals, and these annual priorities guide decision-making dedicated to the realization of each goal. Those annual priorities are entered into Strategic Planning Online as the College's Annual Plan, where measurable outcomes are identified and documented.

Thus, the three-year strategic plan consists of the three annual plans developed to implement specific strategies in support of each of the strategic goals.

<https://www.com.edu/strategic-plan/index.html>

## **HELPFUL RESOURCES**

### **Open Meetings Act Handbook**

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/open-government-resources-governmental-bodies>

### **Public Information Act Handbook**

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/open-government-resources-governmental-bodies>

### **Association of Community College Trustees**

<https://www.acct.org/>

### **Community College Association of Texas Trustees**

<https://tacc.org/ccatt>

### **TASB General Resources (including Community College Board Member's Guide to Policy Management)**

<https://www.tasb.org/Services/Community-College-Services/Resources.aspx>

### **SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement**

<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2024/01/2024PrinciplesOfAccreditation.pdf>



## APPENDIX A: Foundational & Legal Documents

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### Board Bylaws

#### PREAMBLE

The Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of College of the Mainland College District (“COM” or “College” or “District”) formulates and enacts the following Bylaws, rules, and regulations to aid it in the conduct and performance of its official functions.

The Board of COM shall govern the College through the administration (“Staff”), in accordance with state law, avoiding actions and situations detrimental to the College, and promoting educational opportunity for the benefit of the entire community.

The Bylaws of the Board are written by the Board for the purposes of internal management of the Board and all Board activities. Any policy, procedure, or regulation in these Bylaws found in conflict with a state or federal law, rule or regulation shall be null and void to the extent of the conflict. Amendments to the Bylaws can be made only by a majority vote of the total membership of the Board.

## ARTICLE A: DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES

### 1. Definitions

“District” -- Unless otherwise specified, the term “District” as used in these Bylaws shall be construed to mean College of the Mainland College District.

“Board” -- Unless otherwise specified, the term “Board” as used in these Bylaws shall be construed to mean the Board of Trustees of College of the Mainland College District.

“College” -- Unless otherwise specified, the term “College” as used in these Bylaws shall be construed to mean the educational facility or facilities owned, operated and maintained by the College of the Mainland College District and, where meaning dictates, said term shall be used interchangeably with the term “District.”

### 2. Statutory Reference

All references made to statutes, whether specific or otherwise, are to the statutes of the State of Texas.

## ARTICLE B: ETHICS

### 1. Purpose

As Trustees for COM, Board members serve as fiduciaries pursuant but not limited to state and federal trust law, and therefore, must act solely and exclusively for the benefit of the College. High ethical standards are critical to fulfilling these responsibilities. The laws and statutes enacted by the Legislature to govern the conduct of public officials are considered by the Board to be the minimum standards. These legal provisions governing ethical and professional standards of conduct and disclosure are provided in the following Texas statutes and should be consulted for specific information should the need arise:

- a. Education Code;
- b. Penal Code — Chapters 36 (Bribery), 37 (Perjury) and 39 (Abuse of Office);
- c. Government Code — Chapters 551 (Open Meetings), 552 (Public Information), 553 (Public Disclosure), 554 (Reporting); and 571-573 (Ethics, Conflicts of Interest and Nepotism);
- d. Texas Labor Code Chapter 21 (Equal Employment); and
- e. Local Government Code — Chapters 171 (Conflicts of Interest) and 176 (Conflicts Disclosure Statements).

### 2. Distribution Policy

Copies of the Board Bylaws will be distributed to each Trustee and posted on the College website.

### 3. Applicability

The Board chooses to establish a higher standard of conduct and ethical behavior to govern the Trustees and Senior Staff (as defined below) than Texas law requires, and hereby adopts the following Statement of Ethics, which is also listed in Policy BBF (Local) of the Board’s Governance Policy.

- a. Senior Staff is defined as:
  - i. any member of the President’s Cabinet;
  - ii. College employees classified as Class I through Class III on the College Staff Pay Structure;
  - iii. All procurement and purchasing personnel;

- iv. Any College employee who participates in an evaluation or selection committee for any College solicitation for goods and services; and
  - v. Any College employee who participates in the evaluation of goods and services provided by a vendor or contractor.
- b. Statement of Ethics
- i. As a member of the Board, I shall strive to improve community college education, and to that end I shall adhere to all state and federal laws, College District policies and the ethical standards set out in this policy.
  - ii. I shall attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible and devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a Board member, so that I may render effective and creditable service.
  - iii. I shall bring about desired changes through legal and ethical procedures, upholding and enforcing all applicable statutes, regulations, and court decisions pertaining to community colleges.
  - iv. I shall establish and adhere to policies and practices prohibiting unlawful discrimination, including harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law.
  - v. I shall work with my fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation and encourage the free expression of opinion in spite of differences that arise during vigorous debates of points of issue.
  - vi. I shall base my personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation; vote my honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; and abide by and uphold the final majority decisions of the Board
  - vii. I shall remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and to conduct my relationships with the College District staff, the local citizenry, and all media of the community on the basis of this fact.
  - viii. I shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a Board member to benefit myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the College District.
  - ix. I shall recognize that it is as important for the Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the College District as it is to plan for the business of College District operations.
  - x. I shall delegate the administrative matters of the College District to the College President and support the employment of qualified College District staff.
  - xi. I shall welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the College District media by communicating with respect to policy on current College District operations and proposed future developments.
  - xii. I shall speak with one voice as a Board member once a Board decision or policy is made.
  - xiii. I shall support state and national organizations in their efforts to benefit Texas community colleges,

such as the Community College Association of Texas Trustees, the Texas Association of School Boards and the Association of Community College Trustees.

- xiv. I shall work step by step toward ideal conditions for the most effective College District Board service to my community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and the perpetuation of our representative democracy.
- xv. It is the responsibility of the Board as a whole to ensure that its individual members and the Board as a whole are not subject to undue pressure from political, religious, or other external bodies. In addition, the Board shall ensure that the administration is also protected from undue pressure from external organizations and bodies.

See also College of the Mainland Policy BBF (Local)

#### **4. Prohibited Benefits**

For the protection of the integrity of the College, Trustees shall not:

- a. Accept or solicit any gift, favor, or service that might tend to influence him/her in the performance of official duties or that might be offered with the intent to influence his/her official conduct.
- b. Accept employment or engage in a business that would require the release or use of information obtained in the performance of official duties.
- c. Trustees will comply with the COM Governance policies and Texas law requiring the filing of a Conflicts Disclosure Statement or a conflict of interest affidavit under the appropriate circumstances, and no later than August 31 of each academic year, will sign a Conflict of Interest Certification and submit it to the Board Clerk.

#### **5. Prohibited Communications/Political Contributions**

- a. Except as provided below, political contributions and communications between a potential vendor, subcontractor, service provider, bidder, broker, offeror, lobbyist, or consultant and any Board member, Senior Staff, or any member of a selection or evaluation committee, regarding a particular invitation for bid (“IFB”), request for proposal (“RFP”), request for qualification (“RFQ”), employment application, or other solicitation are prohibited.
- b. The communications prohibition shall not apply to the following:
  - i. Official communications between a potential vendor or subcontractor and appropriate staff or administration at a duly noticed pre-bid or pre-proposal conference.
  - ii. Communications with Senior Staff whose official job duties may require communication regarding the specific bid, request for proposal, request for qualifications, employment application, or solicitation under consideration, including pre-bid or pre-proposal communications.
  - iii. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any person or entity from publicly addressing the Board during any duly-noticed public meeting, in accordance with applicable Board policies, regarding action on the contract.
- c. The communications/political contributions prohibition period shall begin on the date that the IFB, RFQ, RFP, or other solicitation is issued, published, or posted. The communications/political contribution prohibition shall terminate on the date the contract is executed by the President or his or her designee or when a determination is made that the contract will not be awarded. The Director of Purchasing will email notification of the beginning and ending of the prohibited communications period to each Board member and Senior Staff Member.

- d. The Director of Purchasing shall include in the solicitation documents a statement disclosing the requirements of this policy. The statement shall be conspicuously written in a separate section of the solicitation.

#### **6. Political Activities**

A member of the Board, as well as the Board as a whole, shall not expend or authorize the expenditure of any statutorily restricted funds for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, or the passage or defeat of any legislative measure. However, it is permissible for the Board to use or authorize the use of funds to provide information and education regarding certain matters.

#### **7. Misuse of Official Information**

A member of the Board shall not use the office of Trustee to obtain or use official information in any unlawful way.

#### **8. Mechanisms for Enforcement**

The mechanisms for enforcement of the Statement of Ethics are:

- a. Board members must report an alleged violation of this Statement of Ethics to Board Counsel.
- b. Any person may allege noncompliance with this Statement of Ethics to the Board Chair (or the Vice Chair if the Chair is the target of the allegation) or to the President if it involves a member of the Staff.
- c. The Board shall be advised when any allegation of a violation of this Statement of Ethics is made.
- d. The Chair, Vice Chair or President, as appropriate, will undertake a process to resolve the complaint.
- e. If either the complainant, the Board member complained about, or a majority of the Board requests, the Chair or President, as appropriate, will name an independent third party to investigate the complaint and report to the Board.
- f. If the Board finds a violation of this Statement of Ethics, it can reprimand or censure a Board member, the only sanctions available under Texas law.
- g. If the President finds a violation of this Statement of Ethics by a member of Senior Staff, the President shall take appropriate action under the COM human resources policies.
- h. After an evidentiary hearing, a majority vote of the total membership of the Board may disqualify a vendor or subcontractor from participation in any solicitation or contract for up to one (1) year for violating this Statement of Ethics.

## **ARTICLE C: POWERS OF THE BOARD**

### **1. Authority**

Board members are fiduciaries and shall discharge their duties for the exclusive interest of the College. The Board as a body has final authority to establish the policies that govern the College within the limits imposed by Texas law. Individual Board members shall have no authority over the College, its property, or its employees, however, each Board member does have the right to seek information from the College without specific Board authorization, following prescribed procedures and proper purpose. A Board member may act on behalf of the Board only with the official authorization of a majority of the total membership of the Board. Without such express authorization, no Board member may commit the Board on any issue. Specific powers of the Board include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Govern and oversee the management of the College.

- b. Delegate to the President the responsibility for all administrative functions.
- c. Adopt and periodically review policies for the College and such rules, regulations and bylaws as the Board deems advisable.
- d. Establish goals consistent with the College's role and mission.
- e. Levy and collect taxes and issue bonds, time warrants and certificates of indebtedness.
- f. Provide for assessing and collecting of taxes.
- g. Adopt a budget and file a copy of the annual operating budget and subsequent amendments with the appropriate state agency.
- h. Have the accounts audited in accordance with the approved financial reporting system.
- i. Submit the required annual report to the Governor, Comptroller, State Treasurer, State Auditor and Legislative Budget Board.
- j. Accept on behalf of the College bequests and donations or other monies.
- k. Establish an endowment fund outside the state treasury in a depository selected by the Board.
- l. Pledge funds from tuition, grants, donations and income for the payment of issued revenue bonds.
- m. Select a depository for College funds.
- n. Order elections as required by law.
- o. Exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire property.
- p. Appoint the president, evaluate the president and assist the president in the achievement of performance goals.
- q. Appoint or employ agents, employees and officials as deemed necessary or advisable to carry out any power, duty, or function of the Board; and, upon the President's recommendation, employ faculty and other employees of the College.
- r. Proceed by and through resolutions or orders adopted or passed by the Board.
- s. Be authorized to fix and collect rentals, rates, charges, or fees from students and others for the occupancy, use, or availability of all or any of its property, buildings, structures, activities, operations, or facilities in such amounts and in such manner as may be determined by the Board.
- t. Acquire and hold real and personal property and hold title to all property of the College.
- u. Control and maintain all property belonging to the College District through the College District administration and have the power to sell, convey, or otherwise dispose of the same subject to the requirements of law.
- v. Execute, perform and make payments under contracts, which may include leases, leases with option(s) to purchase, or installment purchase, with any person for the use, acquisition, or purchase of any personal property, or the financing thereof.
- w. Employ, retain, contract with, or compensate a licensed real estate broker or salesperson for assistance in

- the acquisition or sale of real property.
- x. Form a non-member, non-stock, non-profit public facility corporation(s) for the purpose of issuing bonds.
  - y. Oversee the investment of College funds and retain a financial advisor if necessary.
  - z. Receive, approve, process and pay all just claims against College District funds.
  - aa. Select and locate sites for College District facilities, finance construction and plan for necessary expansion to meet identified needs.
  - bb. Employ professional consultants including but not limited to the fields of insurance, taxation, engineering, architecture, accounting, medicine, law, or other areas as it deems necessary or proper for the conduct of the affairs of the College District.
  - cc. Contract with vendors, except to the extent it has delegated these powers to the President.
  - dd. Require regular reports from the College Foundation.
  - ee. Ensure that its formal position on matters of importance to the College is made clear to the Coordinating Board when such matters are under consideration by the Coordinating Board.
  - ff. Set admission standards.
  - gg. Upon the recommendation of the President, formulate and approve the curriculum of the College District, in cooperation with the Coordinating Board.
  - hh. Formulate, authorize, or install, with the advice of the President, such student activities, athletic programs, recreational, or social organizations as it deems to be in the best interests of the College.
  - ii. Contract or participate with the federal, state, or any municipal governmental organization in matters pertaining to financial or other aid to its educational program or to the installation or operation of any education program or training.
  - jj. Review and hear any complaint or grievance forwarded to the Board in accordance with College policy.
  - kk. Sue and be sued.

## **2. Delegation of Authority in an Emergency**

In a crisis situation, the Board temporarily delegates authority to the President to make critical decisions affecting the College and to protect the welfare and safety of students and employees. The President is authorized to sign and implement contracts and agreements in an emergency situation or crisis. The College President shall inform the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting of any emergency contracts which costs exceed the President's then approved delegated purchasing authority.

In the event of a catastrophe, emergency, or natural disaster affecting the College, contracting for the replacement, construction, or repair of College equipment or facilities is authorized if the emergency replacement, construction, or repair is necessary for the health and safety of College students and staff. Tex. Educ. Code 44.0312.

## **3. Policy Direction**

The Board shall formulate, amend, update, adopt and publish official policies for the College. All policies of the College are subject to relevant laws, rules, regulations and executive orders of the federal government and the government of the State of Texas. Any policy, procedure, or regulation found in conflict with a state or federal law, rule, or regulation shall be void to the extent of the conflict. Noncompliance with College policies by employees may be considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

#### 4. Board Leadership

The Board shall provide the College with strong leadership for meeting the increasing need for higher education throughout the communities it serves. In this capacity, the Board shall:

- a. Create and maintain a spirit of cooperation with the President.
- b. Preserve the institutional independence of the College and defend its right to manage its own affairs through its chosen administrators and employees.
- c. Enhance the public image of the College.
- d. Nurture the institution so that it achieves its full potential.
- e. Establish goals for the College consistent with its role and mission.
- f. Take clear positions before the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Texas Legislature on all matters regarding the College.
- g. Share its philosophy with the students, employees, and general public through regular participation at graduation and other ceremonies.
- h. Promote unity within the College at every opportunity, creating a community atmosphere.
- i. Promote pride and dignity amongst employees of the College by recognizing outstanding achievement.
- j. Protect the assets of the College to ensure financial stability.
- k. Always act solely and exclusively for the benefit of the College.
- l. Always act as a positive advocate for the College and if desired, for community college systems generally through service with ACCT or other community college trustee organizations.

#### ARTICLE D: ELECTIONS

The Board shall consist of seven members. Positions 1-5 shall be elected from Single- Member Districts, and Positions 6-7 shall be At-Large. All members shall serve without salary. The Board shall call an election of a Trustee or appoint a successor Trustee when a vacancy exists on the Board. Upon election, Trustees shall be presented with an official Certificate of Election and an appropriate emblem of office during a Board ceremony. College monies shall not be spent on individual campaigns. Trustees are elected to serve terms of six years, and can be removed from office only as allowed by law. The election of Board members shall be on the second Saturday in May according to the following schedule:

**Districts I, IV and VI** - 1989 and every 6 years thereafter

**Districts III and II** - 1991 and every 6 years thereafter

**Districts V and VII** - 1993 and every 6 years thereafter

See also Tex. Educ. Code §130.088, College of the Mainland Policies BBB (Legal), (Local) and (<https://www.com.edu/bot/docs/com-district-map-2022.pdf>).

## **ARTICLE E: OFFICERS OF THE BOARD**

### **1. Election of Officers**

Officers of the Board shall be elected by a majority of the total membership of the Board for two-year terms at the first regular meeting of the Board following the canvassing and seating of members of the Board in odd-numbered years, or at any time thereafter in order to fill a vacancy. The Board shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary who shall serve in such capacities until the next Board election.

### **2. Vacancies on the Board**

Any vacancy occurring on the Board through death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by a special election ordered by the Board or by appointment by resolution or order of the Board. If the vacancy occurs on a board whose members are elected, the person appointed to fill the unexpired term shall serve until the next regular election of members to the board, at which time the position shall be filled by election for a term appropriately shortened to conform with what regularly would have been the length of the term for that position. Tex. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 27; Education Code 130.082(d).

### **3. Removal from Office**

Board members may be removed from office for:

- a. “Incompetency,” which means:
  - i. Gross ignorance of official duties;
  - ii. Gross carelessness in the discharge of those duties; or
  - iii. Unfitness or inability to promptly and properly discharge official duties because of a serious physical or mental defect that did not exist at the time of election.
- b. “Official misconduct” means intentional, unlawful behavior relating to official duties by a Trustee entrusted with the administration of justice or the execution of the law. The term includes an intentional or corrupt failure, refusal, or neglect of a Trustee to perform a duty imposed on the Trustee by law or conviction of an offense relating to violation of purchase procedures.
- c. Intoxication on or off duty caused by drinking an alcoholic beverage, but not if caused by drinking an alcoholic beverage on the direction and prescription of a licensed physician.
- d. Conviction of a Trustee by a jury for any felony or for misdemeanor official misconduct.
- e. Nonattendance of Board meetings if the member is absent from more than half of the regularly scheduled Board meetings that the member is eligible to attend during a calendar year, not counting an absence for which the member is excused by a majority vote of the Board.
- f. Actions for removal of Board members must be brought before the judge of the district court holding jurisdiction, except that any court convicting a Trustee of a felony or official misconduct shall order immediate removal.

### **4. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the Chair of the Board**

- a. Preside over meetings of the Board pursuant to Robert’s Rules of Order.
- b. Appoint all committee members, committee chairs and designated alternates.
- c. Keep records of all Board transactions, in coordination with the Board Clerk.

- d. Serve as ex-officio voting member of all Board committees.
- e. Call special meetings of the Board.
- f. Perform duties and functions prescribed by the Board.
- g. Call and provide proper notice for a meeting of the Board to adopt a budget for the succeeding fiscal year.
- h. Sign all legal documents, including contracts, warrants, vouchers and reports, as required by state or federal law, or a current edition of Board Policy.
- i. Decide all questions of order in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as modified by Board Policy and/or laws. However, said rules may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the board's total membership.
- j. Promote Board unity and share all information with other Board members in a timely fashion.

Should a vacancy be declared in the Board Chair position, the Board shall elect a permanent replacement to fill the remainder of the term.

#### **5. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the Vice-Chair of the Board**

- a. Act in the capacity and perform the duties of the Chair of the Board in the event of the absence, death, resignation, disability, or disqualification and continue to serve in an interim capacity only.
- b. Become Chair only upon being elected to the position.
- c. Perform other duties as prescribed by the Board.
- d. Sign or attest to all legal documents in the absence of the Secretary, as required by state or federal law or Board Policy.
- e. Promote board unity and share all information with other board members in a timely fashion.

#### **6. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary of the Board**

- a. Attest to all contracts, deeds, conveyances, or other instruments required to be signed by the President.
- b. When the occasion demands, certify in the manner prescribed by law to the official acts of the Board.
- c. Assume the duties of the Chair of the Board in the absence of the Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board and on such occasions cause an Acting Secretary to be elected by the Board. The Acting Secretary shall assume the Secretary's duties for the meeting or meetings from which the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent.
- d. Promote Board unity and share all information with other Board members in a timely fashion.

## **ARTICLE F: COMMITTEES**

### **1. General**

The Board shall perform its official duties when practical as a Committee of the Whole.

### **2. Special Committees**

Special Committees consisting of Board members may be created by the Chair of the Board, or may be elected by the Board. Such committees shall perform their assigned duties and functions in accordance with the

instructions, if any, given them by the Board or the Board Chair. Unless specified as standing committees created with the affirmation of a majority vote of the Board, when such special committees have performed the duties and functions assigned them by the Board or the Board Chair, have made their recommendations, reports or have taken such action permitted and authorized by their instructions, they shall be automatically discharged. No special committee can exist for longer than one year unless reestablished. Such committees shall function in a fact-finding or advisory capacity.

### **3. Open Meetings Act**

A Special Committee that includes less than a quorum of board members is not subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) so long as it serves a purely advisory function, with no power to supervise or control public business. However, should the Special Committee actually function as something more than a merely advisory body with the result that it in fact supervises or controls public business or policy, it must comply with the OMA to avoid depriving the public of access to the board's actual decision-making process.

## **ARTICLE G: PERSONNEL APPOINTED BY AND REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE BOARD**

### **1. Appointments**

All appointments by the Board shall be made in accordance with Board policy and state law.

### **2. President**

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the College and as such, shall recommend the organizational plan for the College as well as candidates for administrative and faculty positions within the College. The Board shall evaluate the President on an annual basis. The President has a fiduciary duty to the College, including, but not limited to, the duty to:

- a. Develop a qualified administrative organization and providing the College with academic and fund-raising leadership.
- b. Prepare the annual budget and submit it to the Board for approval.
- c. Establish administrative relationships among members of the College community.
- d. Prepare and approve the curriculum.
- e. Appoint campus committees, as needed.
- f. Prepare the agenda for Board meetings in coordination with the Board Chair and make regular reports to the Board regarding the status of the College.
- g. Promote College political effectiveness at the state and local levels.
- h. Supervise the development and implementation of a system to evaluate faculty and staff.
- i. Assist the Board in policy development, its yearly self-assessment and meeting its own training requirements.
- j. Forge a relationship of mutual respect with each Trustee.
- k. Enforce fiduciary and academic accountability of the College to the general public.
- l. Promote College unity at all levels, emphasizing equality, diversity and respect for all individuals.

- m. Interpret the College to the community.
- n. Provide the Trustees with important information in a timely manner before all others and having background information and research compiled on issues of particular importance to the Board, with sufficient time for study by Trustees before a vote.
- o. Serve as the official spokesperson for the College.
- p. Maintain open channels of communication throughout the College.
- q. Handle employee disciplinary issues, including termination when appropriate.
- r. In the event of a catastrophe, emergency, or natural disaster affecting the College, contract for the replacement, construction, or repair of College equipment, or facilities if emergency replacement, construction, or repair is necessary for the health and safety of College students and staff.
- s. Enhance the image and well-being of the College.

### 3. External Auditor and Internal Auditor

- a. External Auditor. The External Auditor shall be an independent and objective party to provide advice to the Board. The External Auditor shall be appointed by the Board, upon the recommendation of the President, and shall report directly to the Board, with access to the President. The Board will periodically evaluate the performance of the External Auditor and may dismiss or assign a new External Auditor at any time with or without cause. All engagement letters with the External Auditor shall be signed by the Board Chair.

The selected External Auditor may not serve simultaneously as the Internal Auditor.

The Board shall outline its expectations regarding the annual financial statement audit and performance audit, if requested, and as may be directed by the Board. The Board also may arrange for self-requested audits to perform specific audit services. The External Auditor shall evaluate all financial operations of the College and prepare reports to the Board. The duties of the External Auditor will be assigned by the Board, and may include the following:

- i. Audit activities necessary to assure that College resources are being properly managed and accounted for, that the College has effective and adequate internal controls, and that internal operating controls are reliable.
- ii. Assure that the College is complying with approved policies and statutory requirements.
- iii. Perform all duties in accordance with the Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics, and the Texas Internal Auditing Act. See Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 2102.
- iv. Meet regularly with the Board to review audits performed, audits in progress and future audits, as requested by the Board.

The External Auditor is prohibited from providing non-audit services to COM.

- b. Internal Auditor. The Internal Auditor shall provide advice to the President, shall report administratively to the President, and shall report functionally to the Board. The Internal Auditor shall be selected by the Board from candidates approved and provided by the President. The Board and the President shall agree

on the necessary job qualifications to be included in the position posting. The President shall recommend three (3) names to the Board as the finalists. The Internal Auditor shall be evaluated by the President after consultation with the Finance and Audit Committee and may only be dismissed by the President after obtaining approval of the Board. Duties of the Internal Auditor include:

- i. Assure that the College is complying with approved policies and statutory requirements.
- ii. Develop an annual audit plan for the College to present to the President and the Audit Committee for Board approval.
- iii. Coordinate audit efforts with those of the External Auditor, as appropriate.
- iv. Perform all duties in accordance with the Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics and the Texas Internal Auditing Act. See Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 2102.
- v. Meet regularly with the Board and the Audit Committee to review audits performed, audits in progress and future audits.
- vi. Conduct independent, protective and constructive audits so as to review effectiveness of controls, financial records and operations.
- vii. Analyze data obtained for evidence of deficiencies in controls, duplication of effort, or lack of compliance with College policies and procedures.
- viii. Prepare reports and make recommendations on findings to the President and the Board.
- ix. Provide audit education and Internal Control training.
- x. Offer advisory services, Control Self-Assessment (CSA) services and workshops.
- xi. Any other duties or responsibilities included in the Texas Internal Auditing Act, Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 2102, or other applicable standards, guidelines, or regulations.

#### **4. Board Counsel**

The Board Counsel shall provide legal advice to the Board. The Board Counsel shall be appointed by the Board, shall report directly to the Board (with access to the President), and may be dismissed or reassigned by the Board without cause. The Board Counsel shall represent the College in all assigned legal matters. Duties of the Board Counsel include:

- a. Provide advice and counsel to the Board.
- b. Maintain the Board Bylaws and certain Board policies and procedures, and recommend amendments, as needed.
- c. Handle assigned legal matters for or on behalf of the College, such as preparation of legal opinions as requested by the Board or the President.
- d. Render legal services in connection with assigned legal matters.
- e. Perform any other legal services as may be required by the Board or requested by the President.

Upon recommendation of the President, or on its own motion, the Board may employ other outside counsel to address legal matters in special situations. The outside counsel shall report directly to the Board, with access to the President.

## 5. Financial Advisor

The Financial Advisor may be appointed by the Board, upon recommendation of the President, shall report directly to the Board, with access to the President, and may be dismissed or reassigned by the Board without cause. The Financial Advisor shall offer guidance to the Board in all financial matters. Duties of the Financial Advisor include:

- a. Evaluating College indebtedness.
- b. Recommending asset allocation.
- c. Evaluating investment strategies.
- d. Evaluating acquisition strategies.
- e. Evaluating long and short term financial planning.

The Board shall select the Financial Advisor for a designated period, not to exceed five (5) years, and shall rotate Financial Advisors every five (5) years.

## ARTICLE H: MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

### 1. Open Meetings

The Board shall hold regular meetings for purposes of handling College business. All meetings shall be held in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Citizens are welcome to attend meetings of the Board. Trustees shall adhere to the Board Code of Conduct and promote Board Leadership at all times.

### 2. Definitions

- a. “Meeting” means a deliberation among a quorum of a governmental body, including a college district board of trustees, or between a quorum of a governmental body and another person, during which public business or public policy over which the governmental body has supervision or control is discussed or considered, or during which the governmental body takes formal action, or except as otherwise provided by this provision, a gathering:
  1. That is conducted by the governmental body or for which the governmental body is responsible;
  2. At which a quorum of members of the governmental body is present;
  3. That has been called by the governmental body; and
  4. At which the members receive information from, give information to ask questions of, or receive questions from any third person, including an employee of the governmental body, about the public business or public policy over which the governmental body has supervision or control.Gov’t Code 551.001(3)– (4).
- b. “Deliberation” means a verbal or written exchange between a quorum of Board members, or between a quorum of the Board and another person, concerning any issue within the jurisdiction of the Board.

No deliberation that affects public business is allowed to take place in any setting other than a duly posted meeting of a quorum of Board members.

### **3. Time and Location**

Unless otherwise provided, the regular meeting of the Board shall be held on the fourth Monday of each month at the Administration Boardroom, Room 129 or other buildings of the College at a time set by the Board. Such meetings may be recessed from day to day until the completion of business. The time for special and emergency meetings of the Board shall be as stipulated in the notice for the meeting.

### **4. Notice**

Written notice of all meetings shall be posted at the central administration building and the website by the Board Clerk. Furthermore, notice shall be furnished for posting to the Galveston County Clerk and to the media upon request. Notice of all meetings shall provide for the possibility of a closed or executive session during an open meeting, as provided by law.

### **5. Voting**

Each Trustee's vote, or failure to vote, shall be recorded by name. No proxy votes shall be allowed. Other than situations in which a two-thirds vote is required, a majority vote of the total membership of the Board will be required in order for the Board to act.

### **6. Order of Business**

The Board Chair and the President shall decide the order of business for meetings.

### **7. Agenda**

At the direction of the Board Chair, the President shall prepare and present an agenda at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the regular Board meeting. An item shall be added to the agenda by written request of any other Board member submitted to the President or Board Chair at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting.

### **8. Rules of Order**

Robert's Rules of Order (most current edition) shall constitute the rules of procedure applicable to all meetings of the Board, when not in conflict with any provisions of law or these Bylaws. The Board may suspend the rules, as needed, by a two-thirds vote of the composition of the full Board.

### **9. Minutes and Recordings**

The Board shall prepare and keep minutes and/or make a recording of each open meeting. The minutes and recordings are public records and shall be available for public inspection and copying upon request to the Board office. Any person in attendance can make an audio or video recording of any or all of an open meeting, subject to reasonable rules adopted by the Board to maintain order.

### **10. Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board may be called by either the Board Chair at his/her own discretion, or by the independent requests of two (2) Trustees who must call for the meeting in writing submitted to the Board Chair, specifying the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting. Special meetings must be duly posted.

### **11. Emergency Meetings**

Notice of all emergency meetings shall include the date, hour, place and subject of the meeting. Such notice will also express the nature of the emergency or urgent public necessity which requires an emergency meeting. Such notice of an emergency meeting will be posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The presiding officer or member calling such meetings shall initiate notification to all news media which have previously requested such notice. Emergency postings must be approved by Board Counsel.

### **12. Closed Meetings/Executive Session**

Trustees, employees and agents of the College shall not divulge to any person the substance of matters discussed at any closed meeting, except as otherwise required or allowed by law. Closed meetings shall be held as allowed by law to have discussions and deliberations of College matters that cannot be made public. A further objective would be to protect the attorney-client privilege recognized by law.

### 13. Prohibitions

No Board member shall knowingly call or aid in calling or organizing a closed meeting that is not permitted under the Open Meetings Act. No Board member shall knowingly close or aid in closing a regular meeting to the public (except as permitted under the Open Meetings Act). No Board member shall participate in a closed meeting that is not permitted under the Open Meetings Act.

### 14. Citizen Participation

The Board shall provide opportunities at its meetings for citizens to address the Board, but may impose reasonable restraints on the length and order of presentations, so long as it does not unfairly discriminate among views seeking expression.

### 15. Board Response

Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

### 16. Disruption

It is a criminal offense for a person, with intent to prevent or disrupt a lawful meeting, to substantially obstruct or interfere with the meeting by physical action or verbal utterance. The Board may immediately remove from the meeting any person causing a substantial disruption.

### 17. Social Functions and Related Events

The Board may congregate for social functions, such as meals or festivities, but shall refrain from discussing issues under consideration by the Board for a Board vote. Trustees may gather in a quorum at a social function unrelated to the public business of the College, or at a regional, state or national convention or workshop, or at a candidate forum, appearance, or debate to inform the electorate, if formal action is not taken and any discussion of public business is incidental to the social function, convention, workshop, ceremonial event, press conference, forum, appearance, or debate. Such gatherings are not “meetings” under the law and no public notice is required to attend such gatherings. Govt. Code 551.001(4).

## ARTICLE I: BOARD OPERATIONS

### 1. Evaluation

The Board shall, on a regular basis, evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of Board operations for the benefit of the College. With the assistance of the President’s staff, operations shall be continuously streamlined and modernized for the efficient dispensation of College business. The community image of the College and the Board shall be periodically assessed for possible changes in Board operations.

### 2. Efficiency

For maximum efficiency, the following rules of operation shall be followed:

- a. Board Meetings.
  - i. All Board meetings shall begin promptly.
  - ii. Meetings shall be held during hours appropriate for maximum Board involvement and public participation.
- b. Board Agenda.
  - i. The agenda must be officially posted 72 hours prior to the meeting, in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act. For an emergency meeting, the agenda must be posted 2 hours in advance. Emergency postings must be approved by Board Counsel.

- ii. Supplementary (or explanatory) information should be sent to Trustees well in advance of the general meeting.
  - iii. Trustees shall be provided with all necessary background information on any issue being considered for a vote, no later than five days prior to said vote.
  - iv. Agenda items shall have policy referral numbers for easy reference by Trustees.
  - v. Fiscal impact for agenda items shall be clearly provided for each agenda item.
- c. Consent Agenda. In an effort to streamline the regular agenda to allow Trustees to focus on critical issues, committee recommendations and routine agenda items shall be placed on the consent agenda.

### **3. Public Statements and the Media**

The Board shall be encouraged to speak with one voice, through the Board Chair (or in his or her absence, the Vice-Chair), regarding College matters before the press.

### **4. Training**

The Board recognizes its responsibility to be actively and continuously engaged in developing individual board member's skills and knowledge by keeping them abreast of new developments in fiduciary, governance and ethics laws, norms and best practices. The Board shall, therefore, have an orientation and development process in place. Board members may also attend regional, state, or national conventions, conferences and workshops, and will be reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses for attendance at such as provided in the Board Compensation and Expenses Policy. See Board Policy BBG (Local) and DEE (Local). On an annual basis, Board Counsel will review all policies that address Board operations and will carry out, any necessary training for the Trustees and Staff, as follows:

- a. General Requirement. Each Trustee shall participate in the COM Annual Trustee Orientation program, a training session of at least two hours conducted by Board counsel and other independent professionals, as needed. The program will include ethics training and finance training.
- b. Mandatory Open Government Training. Each Trustee shall, pursuant to Texas law, complete two hours of open government training, one hour each on open meetings and the public information act. This training must be completed within 90 days of being sworn in to serve. The Office of the Attorney General provides free online or video training to satisfy this requirement.
- c. Mandatory Training with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Within the first two years of service, each Trustee shall, pursuant to Texas law, complete a training program established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board pursuant to Section 61.084 of the Texas Education Code. Board members taking office on or after January 1, 2016, must complete this training within the first year of service. The minutes of the last regular meeting of the calendar year must reflect whether each required member completed the training. Training via electronic means is also acceptable.
- d. Mandatory Investment Training. Within six months after taking office or assuming duties, each Trustee shall, pursuant to the Public Funds Investment Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 2256), complete at least one training session relating to the Trustee's investment responsibilities, including training in investment controls, security risks, strategy risks, market risks, diversification of investment portfolio and compliance with Chapter 2256 of the Texas Government Code.
- e. Mandatory Cybersecurity Training. At least once each year, each governing board member who holds either an elective or appointive position must complete a certified cybersecurity training program.

### **5. Self-Assessment of the Board**

The Board shall evaluate its own performance and shall establish its goals on a yearly basis. The self-assessment

of the Board shall consist of:

- a. Review of the Board Bylaws.
- b. An assessment of Board expenditures and savings for the year.
- c. An estimation of Board budgetary needs for the following year.
- d. An evaluation of Board accomplishments in setting policy, uniting the community in and out of the College, managing debt and improving the College.
- e. An assessment of Board Governance and Operations.
- f. An assessment of the Board Office functions (Board office staff shall be evaluated by the President).

#### **6. Requests for Documents**

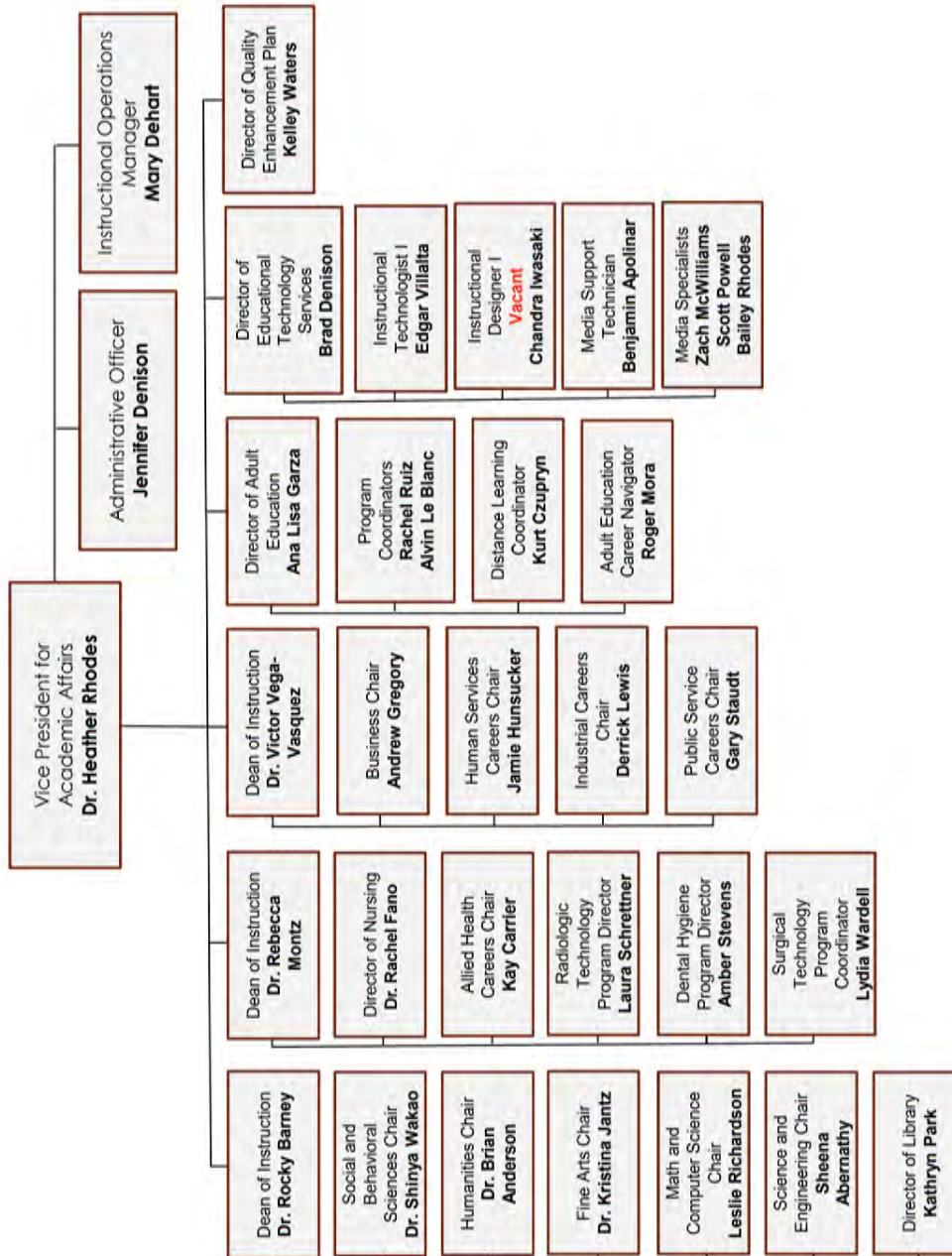
The College is committed to assuring open and public access to all records of the College to the extent permitted by law. The Board Chair will review each request for documents submitted by a Board member, and if the Board Chair determines that the request does not reasonably relate to official Board member issues, he or she will instruct the Board member submitting the request to submit an Open Records request in compliance with the Texas Public Information Act. The Board member must submit their request in accordance with the provisions of the Act and any existing COM Open Records policy. In addition, the Board member shall be solely responsible for any fees and costs associated with the request. The President's office shall notify each Board member of all requests for documents from a Board member and shall make a copy of responsive documents available to all Board members at their request.



## APPENDIX B: Division Organizational Charts

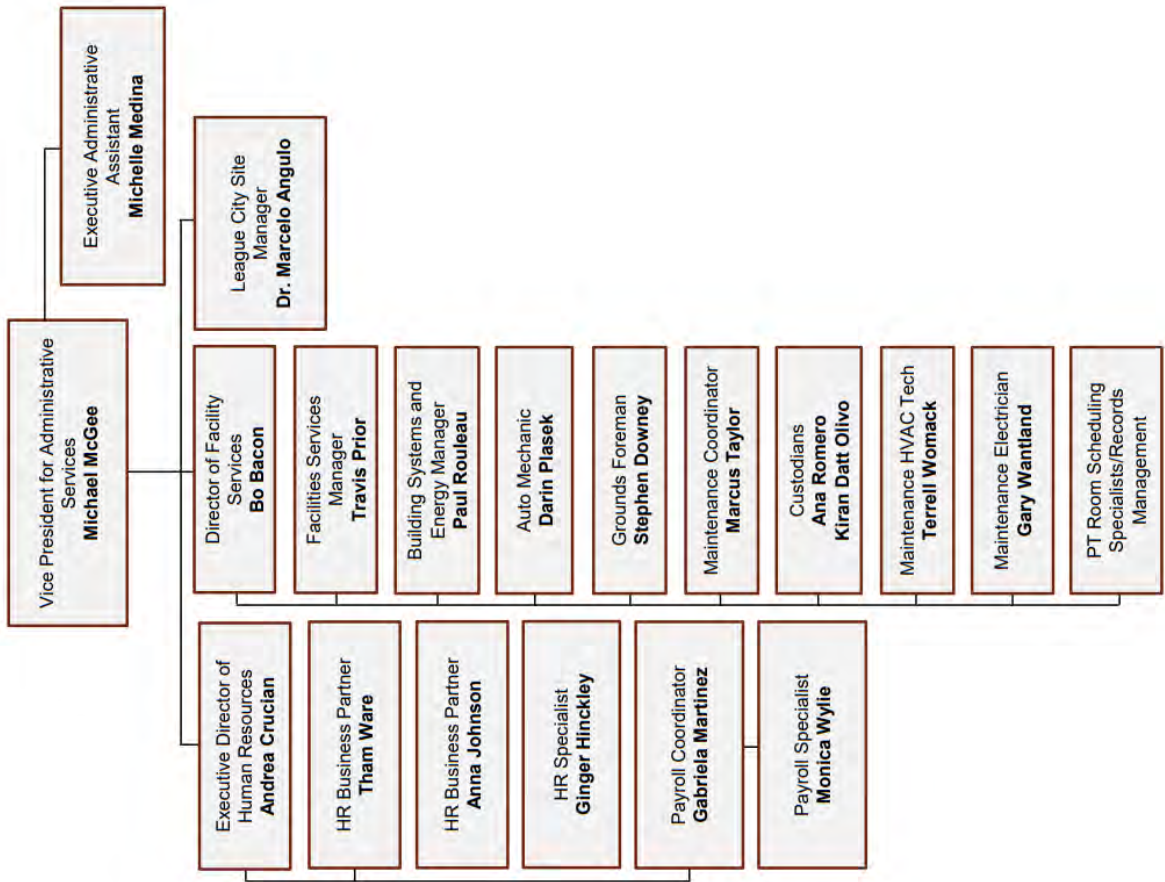
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**ORGANIZATION CHART: VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**



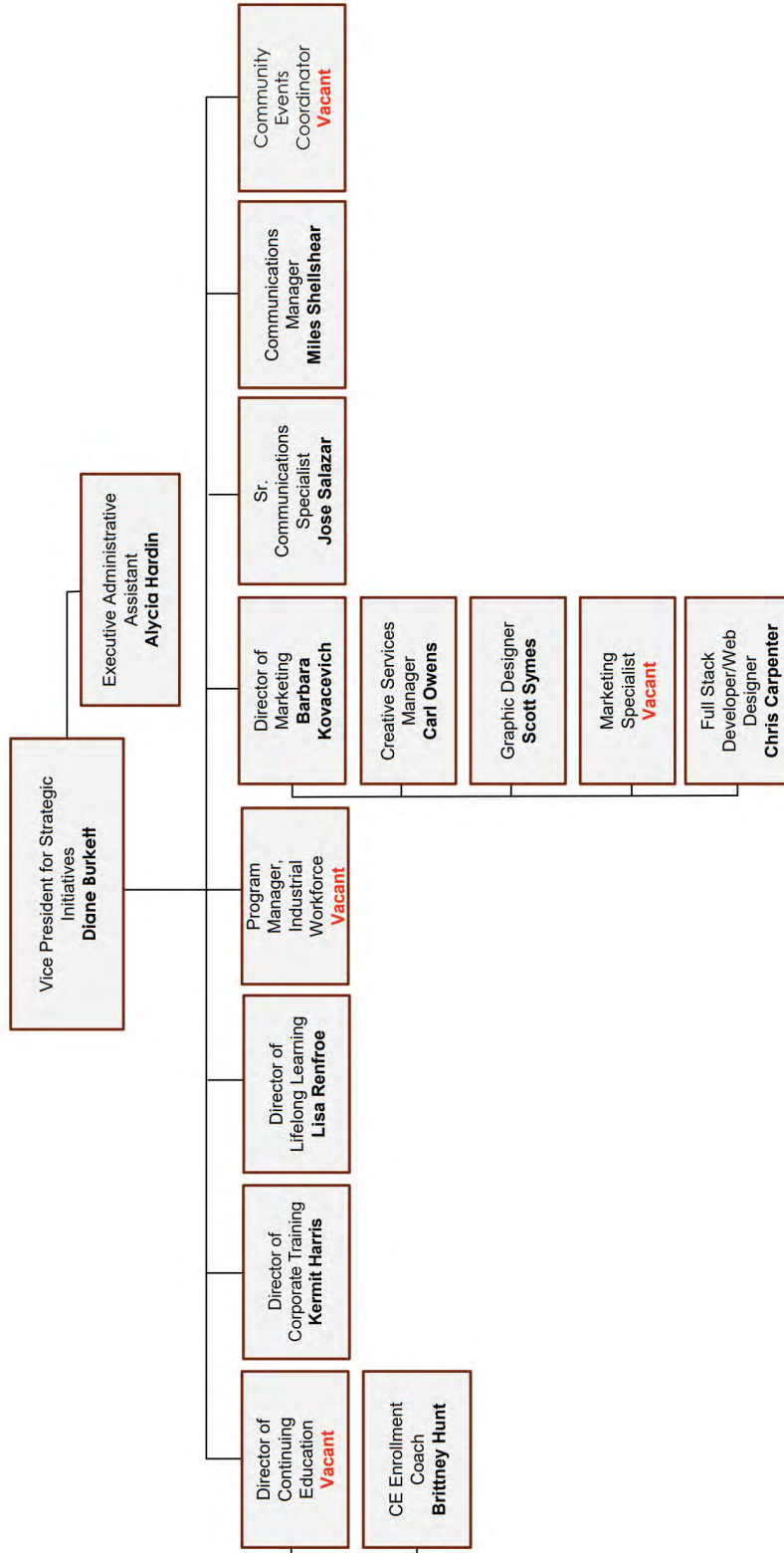
5/6/2026

**ORGANIZATION CHART: VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

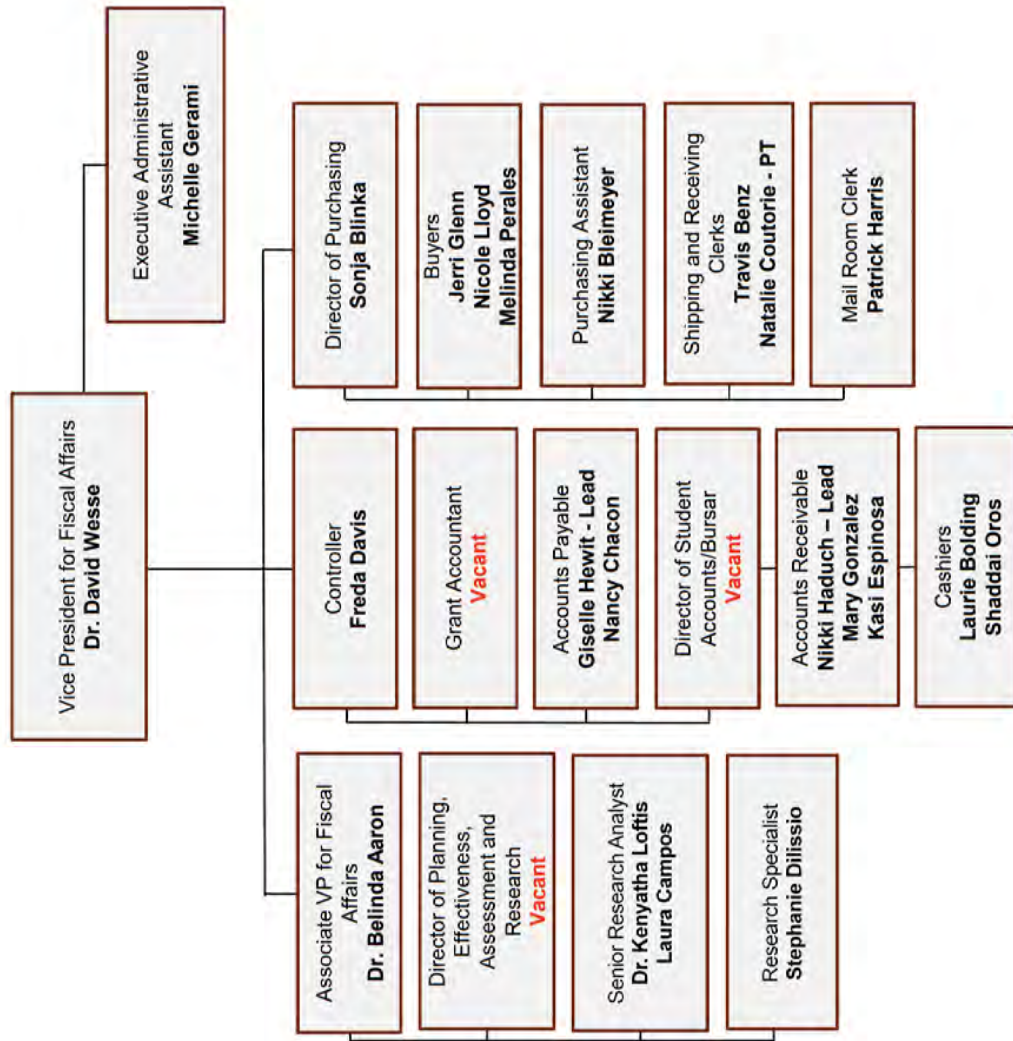




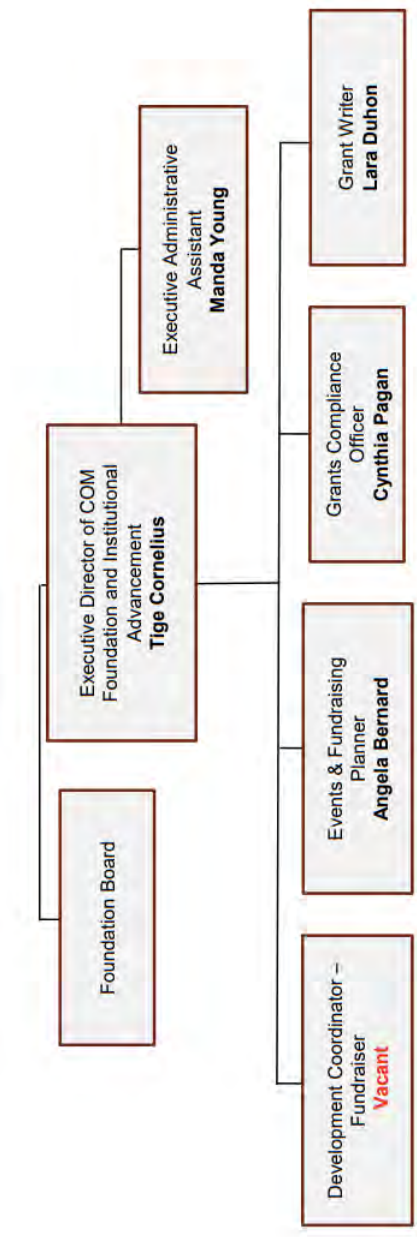
**ORGANIZATION CHART: VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**



**ORGANIZATION CHART: FISCAL AFFAIRS**



**ORGANIZATION CHART: COM FOUNDATION AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**





## APPENDIX C: Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

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# LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

# FORM CIS

(Instructions for completing and filing this form are provided on the next page.)

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

This is the notice to the appropriate local governmental entity that the following local government officer has become aware of facts that require the officer to file this statement in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code.

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of Local Government Officer

2 Office Held

3 Name of vendor described by Sections 176.001(7) and 176.003(a), Local Government Code

4 Description of the nature and extent of each employment or other business relationship and each family relationship with vendor named in item 3.

5 List gifts accepted by the local government officer and any family member, if aggregate value of the gifts accepted from vendor named in item 3 exceeds \$100 during the 12-month period described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B).

Date Gift Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Description of Gift \_\_\_\_\_

Date Gift Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Description of Gift \_\_\_\_\_

Date Gift Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Description of Gift \_\_\_\_\_

(attach additional forms as necessary)

6 **SIGNATURE** I swear under penalty of perjury that the above statement is true and correct. I acknowledge that the disclosure applies to each family member (as defined by Section 176.001(2), Local Government Code) of this local government officer. I also acknowledge that this statement covers the 12-month period described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), Local Government Code.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Local Government Officer

### Please complete either option below:

#### (1) Affidavit

NOTARY STAMP/SEAL

Sworn to and subscribed before me by \_\_\_\_\_ this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature of officer administering oath

Printed name of officer administering oath

Title of officer administering oath

OR

#### (2) Unsworn Declaration

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and my date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_.

My address is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(street) (city) (state) (zip code) (country)

Executed in \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.  
(month) (year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Local Government Officer (Declarant)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Section 176.003 of the Local Government Code requires certain local government officers to file this form. A "local government officer" is defined as a member of the governing body of a local governmental entity; a director, superintendent, administrator, president, or other person designated as the executive officer of a local governmental entity; or an agent of a local governmental entity who exercises discretion in the planning, recommending, selecting, or contracting of a vendor. This form is required to be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the officer becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of this statement.

A local government officer commits an offense if the officer knowingly violates Section 176.003, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

Refer to chapter 176 of the Local Government Code for detailed information regarding the requirement to file this form.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

*The following numbers correspond to the numbered boxes on the other side.*

- 1. Name of Local Government Officer.** Enter the name of the local government officer filing this statement.
- 2. Office Held.** Enter the name of the office held by the local government officer filing this statement.
- 3. Name of vendor described by Sections 176.001(7) and 176.003(a), Local Government Code.** Enter the name of the vendor described by Section 176.001(7), Local Government Code, if the vendor: a) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A), Local Government Code; b) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), Local Government Code; or c) has a family relationship with the local government officer as defined by Section 176.001(2-a), Local Government Code.
- 4. Description of the nature and extent of each employment or other business relationship and each family relationship with vendor named in item 3.** Describe the nature and extent of the employment or other business relationship the vendor has with the local government officer or a family member of the officer as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A), Local Government Code, and each family relationship the vendor has with the local government officer as defined by Section 176.001(2-a), Local Government Code.
- 5. List gifts accepted, if the aggregate value of the gifts accepted from vendor named in item 3 exceeds \$100.** List gifts accepted during the 12-month period (described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), Local Government Code) by the local government officer or family member of the officer from the vendor named in item 3 that in the aggregate exceed \$100 in value.
- 6. Signature.** Signature of local government officer. Complete this section after you finish the rest of this report. You have the option to either: (1) take the completed form to a notary public where you will sign above the first line that says "Signature of Local Government Officer" (an electronic signature is not acceptable) and your signature will be notarized, or (2) sign above both lines that say "Signature of Local Government Officer (Declarant)" (an electronic signature is not acceptable), and fill out the unsworn declaration section.

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**Local Government Code § 176.001(2-a):** "Family relationship" means a relationship between a person and another person within the third degree by consanguinity or the second degree by affinity, as those terms are defined by Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code.

**Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A):**

- (a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

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- (2) the vendor:

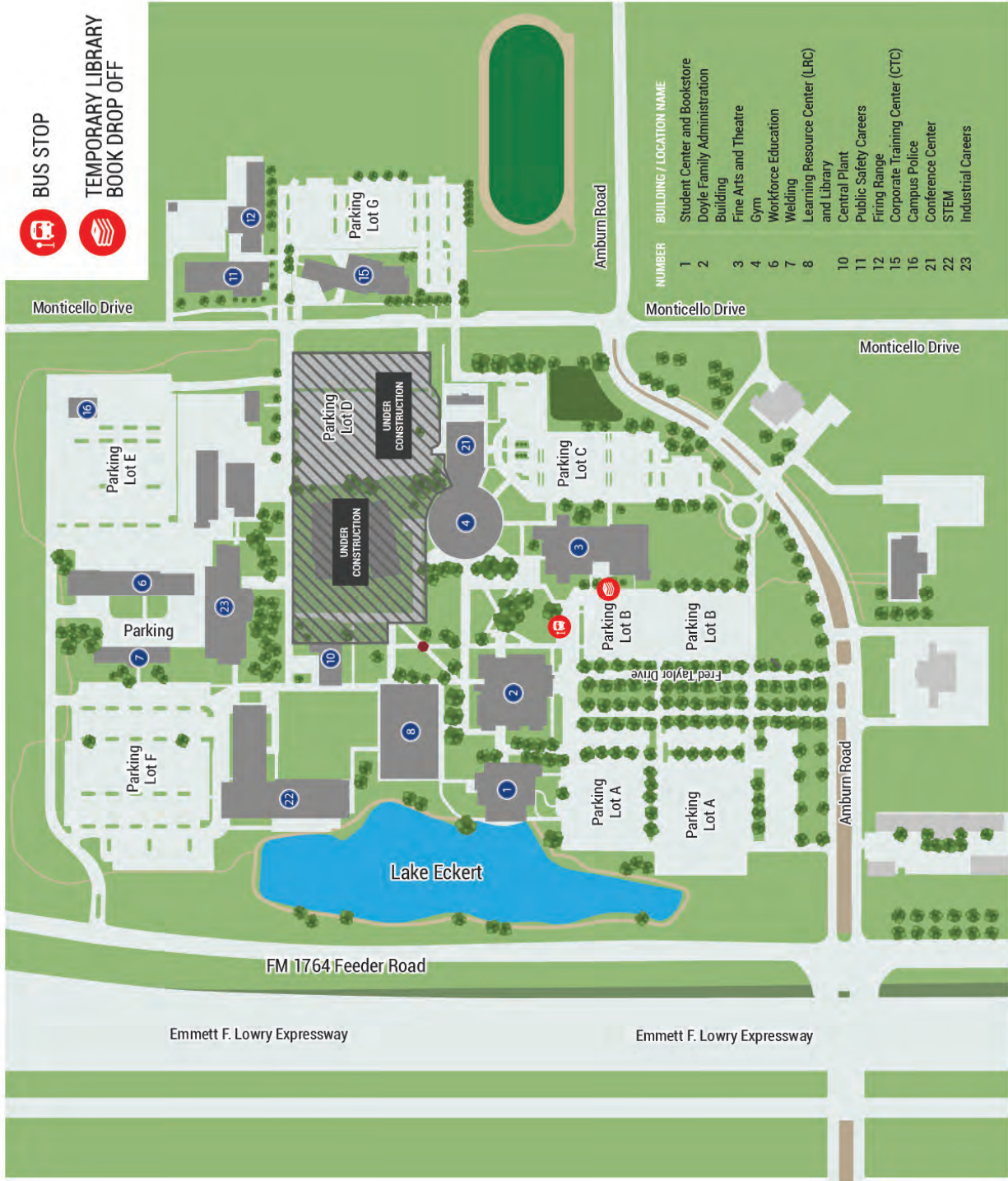
(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that:

- (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
- (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.



## APPENDIX D: Campus Map

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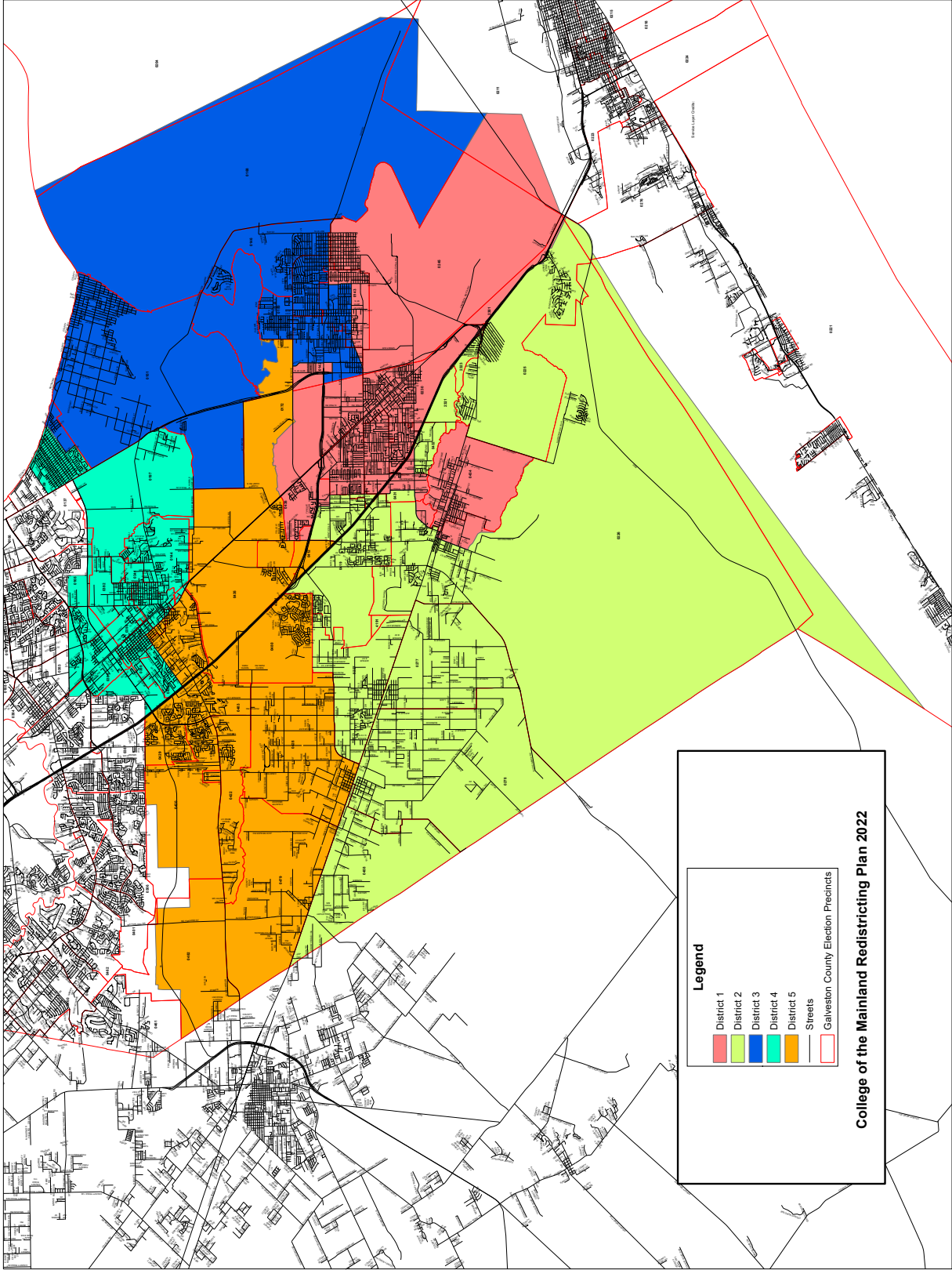


## APPENDIX E: College of the Mainland Redistricting Plan 2022

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**The College Redistricting Map**

<https://www.com.edu/bot/docs/com-district-map-2022.pdf>





## **APPENDIX F:** **Training for Members of Governing Boards**

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## Training Requirements for Governing Board Members of Texas Public Institutions and Systems of Higher Education

Texas statutes require certain training for governing board members of Texas public institutions and systems of higher education. The information summarized in the table below and on subsequent pages is provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to assist new governing board members in complying with these training requirements.

Legal Requirement	Satisfied By	Texas Statute
Before voting on a budgetary or personnel matter, each governing board member who <u>holds an appointive</u> position and whose first year of service on the governing board begins on or after January 1, 2016, must complete the intensive short orientation course that includes best practices and transparency in trusteeship and governance.	The THECB offers a free online Intensive Short Orientation Course. Satisfactory completion of an online assessment test (70%) subsequent to completing the course satisfies this legal requirement.  (See page 3.)	Texas Education Code, Section 61.0841 (Intensive Short Course for Appointed Members of Governing Boards)
During the member's first year of service as a member of a governing board, each governing board member who <u>holds either an elective or appointive position</u> must attend a training program that is focused on the official role and duties of the members of governing boards and that provides training in the areas of budgeting, policy development, and governance.	1) Attendance at the day-long orientation that is offered annually in the fall as part of the THECB's annual Higher Education Leadership Conference satisfies this legal requirement; or 2) Videos from the THECB's orientation for newly appointed regents and elected trustees are available online approximately one month after the Leadership Conference for those who are unable to attend the conference in person. Watching these videos, and completing an online form confirming such viewing, satisfies through electronic means this legal requirement.  (See page 4.)	Texas Education Code, Section 61.084 (Training for Members of Governing Boards)
Not later than the 90th day after the date the member takes the oath of office or otherwise assumes responsibilities as a member of the governmental body, each governing board member who <u>holds either an elective or appointive position</u> must complete a course of training regarding the responsibilities of the governmental body and its members under the Open Meeting Act and the Public Information Act.	The Office of the Attorney General offers free online video training courses that satisfy this legal requirement.  (See page 5.)	Texas Government Code, Section 551.005 (Open Meetings Training)  Texas Government Code, Section 552.012 (Open Records Training)
Within six months after taking office or assuming duties, each governing board member who <u>holds either an elective or appointive position</u> must attend at least one training session relating to the person's investment responsibilities.	The University of North Texas, Center for Public Management offers a free online training video "Texas Public Funds Investment Act Compliance for Higher Education & State Agency Board Members " that satisfies this legal requirement.  (See page 5.)	Texas Government Code, Section 2256 (Public Funds Investment)
At least once each year, each governing board member who <u>holds either an elective or appointive position</u> must complete a certified cybersecurity training program.	The Department of Information Resources offers a free online video training course that satisfies this legal requirement.  (See page 6.)	Texas Government Code, Section 2054.5191 (Cybersecurity Training), as certified under Section 2054.519 [or offered under Section 2054.519(f)]

## TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNING BOARDS

(Texas Education Code, Section 61.0841) (Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Rule §1.9)1

Texas Education Code, Section 61.0841, as enacted by the 84th Texas Legislature, provides that a member of the governing board of an institution of higher education who holds an appointive position and whose first year of service on the governing board begins on or after January 1, 2016, is prohibited from voting on a budgetary or personnel matter related to system administration or institutions of higher education until the member completes the intensive short orientation course described by that section. The course must include:

- (1) best practices relating to excellence, transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the governing structure and organization of general academic teaching institutions and university systems;
- (2) best practices relating to the manner in which governing boards and administrators of general academic teaching institutions and university systems develop and implement major policy decisions, including the need for impartiality and adequate internal review in their processes;
- (3) matters relating to excellence, transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the governance and administration of general academic teaching institutions and university systems; and
- (4) ethics, conflicts of interests, and the proper role of a board member in the governing structure of general academic teaching institutions and university systems.

Satisfied by:

The legislation directed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to develop an intensive short orientation course for members of governing boards of institutions of higher education who hold appointive positions. It has done so.

The THECB offers online a course for newly appointed members of governing boards that satisfies this legal requirement. This short course must be completed the first time it is offered following the date the member takes the oath of office. As noted above, a member whose first year of service on the governing board begins on or after January 1, 2016, is prohibited from voting on a budgetary or personnel matter until the member successfully completes this course. Please see information at ***Intensive Short Course for Appointed members of Governing Boards***: <https://www.highered.texas.gov/about/governing-board-member-training/>. Questions regarding this training requirement should be directed to legal counsel of the institution for which the regent serves as a board member, or to Christina Kelley, Executive Assistant, THECB, at (512) 427-6566 or email [GBOnlineTraining@highered.texas.gov](mailto:GBOnlineTraining@highered.texas.gov). The THECB is responsible for documenting governing board members' completion of the requirements of this law.

1 The rules adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) are part of a larger body of state agency rules that are collected and published by the Office of the Secretary of State as the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). THECB's rules are codified under Title 19, Part 1, of the TAC. Title 19 is Education, and Part 1 is the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The THECB may adopt new rules or amendments to existing rules.

THECB; 05/24

## TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNING BOARDS

*(Texas Education Code, Section 61.084) (Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Rule §1.9)*

The Texas Education Code, Section 61.084 specifies mandatory training requirements for elected and appointed members of the governing boards of institutions of higher education. The statute directed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to develop a training program for elected and appointed members of governing boards of institutions of higher education. It has done so.

Each governing board member must attend, during the member's first year of service as a member of a governing board, a training program described by Section 61.084 of the Texas Education Code. The training program includes a seminar held annually in Austin that is conducted by the staff of the THECB and other invited speakers.

The content of the instruction at the training program is focused on the official role and duties of the members of governing boards and provides training in the areas of budgeting, policy development, and governance. Topics covered by the training program include: auditing procedures and recent audits of institutions of higher education; the enabling legislation that creates institutions of higher education; the role of the governing board at institutions of higher education and the relationship between the governing board and an institution's administration, faculty and staff, and students; the mission statements of institutions of higher education; disciplinary and investigative authority of the governing board; the requirements of the open meetings law, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, and the open records law, Texas Government Code, Chapter 552; the requirements of conflict of interest laws and other laws relating to public officials; any applicable ethics policies adopted by institutions of higher education or the Texas Ethics Commission; and other topics relating to higher education the THECB considers significant to the role of governing board members.

In addition to the content of the instruction at a training program as described above, topics covered by the training program for members of a governing board of a public junior college district must also include information about best practices in campus financial management, financial ratio analysis, and case studies using financial indicators.

Satisfied by:

The THECB presents an orientation seminar for newly appointed regents and elected trustees that satisfies this legal requirement. This orientation must be completed within one year from the date of the appointment. The day-long orientation is offered annually in the fall as part of the THECB's annual Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference. Please see information at ***Governing Board Member Training***: <https://www.highered.texas.gov/about/governing-board-member-training/>. Questions regarding this training requirement should be directed to legal counsel of the institution for which the regent or trustee serves as a board member.

Videos from the THECB's orientation for newly appointed regents and elected trustees are also available as an online course for those unable to attend in person. Please see the information on the THECB's website at ***Online Training for All Regents & Trustees***: <https://www.highered.texas.gov/about/governing-board-member-training/>. If you have questions regarding this online training please contact Christina Kelley, Executive Assistant & Special Assistant to the Board at [GBOntlineTraining@highered.texas.gov](mailto:GBOntlineTraining@highered.texas.gov).

THECB; 05/24

## OPEN MEETINGS TRAINING

*(Texas Government Code, Section 551.005) (Texas Government Code, Section 552.012)*

The Open Meeting Act (Texas Government Code, Section 551.005) and the Public Information Act (Texas Government Code, Section 552.012) specify mandatory open government education requirements for elected and appointed officials who are subject to these laws. Each elected or appointed public official who is subject to these laws must complete a course of training regarding the responsibilities of the governmental body and its members under these laws not later than the 90th day after the date the member takes the oath of office or otherwise assumes responsibilities as a member of the governmental body.

The training must include instruction in the general background of the legal requirements for open meetings; the applicability of that law to governmental bodies; procedures and requirements regarding quorums, notice, and recordkeeping; procedures and requirements for holding an open meeting and for holding a closed meeting; and penalties and other consequences for failure to comply.

Satisfied by:

The Office of the Attorney General offers free online video training courses that satisfy this legal requirement. This course must be completed within 90 days from the date of the appointment. Please see information at

**Open Meetings Act Training:** | *Office of the Attorney General (texasattorneygeneral.gov):*  
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/pia-and-oma-training-resources/open-meetings-act-training> and

**Public Information Act Training** | *Office of the Attorney General (texasattorneygeneral.gov):*  
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/pia-and-oma-training-resources/public-information-act-training>.

Questions regarding this requirement or training options should be directed to legal counsel of the institution for which the regent or trustee serves as a board member, or to the Office of the Attorney General at 800-252- 8011.

## INVESTMENT TRAINING; STATE AGENCY BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

*(Texas Government Code, Section 2256.007)*

The Public Funds Investment Act (Texas Government Code, Section 2256) specifies mandatory investment training requirements for elected and appointed officials who are subject to this law. Each member of the governing board of a state agency and its investment officer must attend at least one training session relating to the person's investment responsibilities within six months after taking office or assuming duties. An investment officer must attend a training session not less than once each state fiscal biennium and may receive training from any independent source approved by the governing body of the state agency.

The training must include education in investment controls, security risks, strategy risks, market risks, diversification of investment portfolio, and compliance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 2256.

Satisfied by:

The University of North Texas, Center for Public Management offers a free online training video “Texas Public Funds Investment Act Compliance for Higher Education & State Agency Board Members” that satisfies this legal requirement. This course must be completed within six months from the date of the appointment. Please see information at **Investment Training Video: <https://pahs.unt.edu/padm/cpm/>**. Questions regarding this requirement or training options should be directed to legal counsel of the institution for which the regent or trustee serves as a board member, or to the University of North Texas, Center for Public Management at (940) 369-7843.

THECB; 05/24

## CYBERSECURITY TRAINING

*(Texas Government Code, Section 2054.5191)*

Texas Government Code (TGC), Section 2054.5191, as enacted by the 86th Texas Legislature, specifies that at least once each year, each elected or appointed officer of a state agency<sup>2</sup> shall complete a cybersecurity training program certified under TGC, Section 2054.519 or offered under TGC, Section 2054.519(f). The governing body of a local government<sup>3</sup> may select the most appropriate cybersecurity training program certified under TGC, Section 2054.519 or offered under TGC, Section 2054.519(f) and must: (1) verify and report to the Department of Information Resources on the completion of the selected program by the local government’s employees; and (2) require periodic audits to ensure compliance.

To be certified, a cybersecurity training program must: (1) focus on forming information security habits and procedures that protect information resources; and (2) teach best practices for detecting, assessing, reporting, and addressing information security threats. A local government that employs a dedicated information resources cybersecurity officer may offer to its employees a cybersecurity training program that satisfies the requirements described.

Satisfied by:

The Department of Information Resources (DIR) offers an online video training course at **Statewide Cybersecurity Awareness Training**, that satisfies this legal requirement. The video is offered free of charge to anyone who needs to meet the training requirements as noted above. Questions regarding this requirement or training options should be directed to legal counsel of the institution for which the regent or trustee serves as a board member, or to DIR at 1-855-ASK-DIR1 (1-855-275- 3471).

<sup>2</sup> Texas Government Code (TGC) Section 2054.003 provides, in part, as follows: “State agency” means a department, commission, board, office, council, authority, or other agency in the executive or judicial branch of state government that is created by the constitution or a statute of this state, including a university system or institution of higher education as defined by Texas Education Code Section 61.003.

<sup>3</sup> Texas Section 2054.003 provides, in part, as follows: “Local government” means a county, municipality, special district, school district, junior college district, or other political subdivision of the state. Management at 940-369-7843.

THECB; 05/24

## **ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNING BOARDS**

### **Office of the Attorney General**

- Public Information Act (PIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training Resources:  
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/pia-and-oma-training-resources>

### **Texas Ethics Commission**

- State Officer Publications and Guides:  
<https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/resources/guides/>

### **Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (Washington, D.C.)**

- Reports & Statements  
<https://agb.org/knowledge-center/resources-by-format/reports-statements/>

### **Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (Washington, D.C.)**

- Programs & Events  
<https://agb.org/events/>

