
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Minutes of February 7, 2023, Meeting

Members Present: Mr. Jason West, Mr. Sid Medina, Mr. Eddie Peterson, Mr. Jay Waller, Mr. Jason Tyler, Ms. Deborah Boyd

Members Absent: Mr. Carter Wiggins, Mr. Mark McClain, Ms. Janet Spence

Others Present: Dr. Barbara Beebe, Ms. Sheila Hale, Ms. Melanie Schwertner, Ms. Stephanie Ducheneaux, Mr. Britt Canada, Mr. Ralph Ramon, Ms. Shahala Leatherwood

Mr. Waller gave the invocation.

Mr. West called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Motion by Mr. Waller, seconded by Mr. Medina to approve the October 25, 2022, board meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Board Member Terms

Mark McClain and Sid Medina's terms expired at the end of 2022. They have both agreed to stay on as board members.

Election of Officers

Motion by Mr. Waller, seconded by Mr. Peterson to nominate Mr. West as president. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Waller, seconded by Mr. Peterson to nominate Mr. McClain as vice president. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Waller, seconded by Mr. Peterson to nominate Ms. Boyd as secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Board Member Contact Information

Board members were asked to review their information and terms and to let Sheila know if there were any changes.

Foundation Update – Sheila Hale

Scholarships – Sent out a mass email to surrounding school's seniors regarding our scholarships and what is expected. Applications are due April 7, 2023. She revoked 8 scholarships in December. Usually,

the issue is their GPA. If a student falls below 12 hours, they must go talk to Sheila. Sometimes talking to her is the boost they need. She reviews their scholarship contract with them again. She is starting to build relationships with the students. We want students to be successful. The average scholarship is \$500 per semester. There is a points system. If the student receives over 45 points, they receive \$500 per semester. If they are under 45 points, they receive \$250 per semester. The process is detailed and organized. We put up flyers and posters all over the campus. She is not sure about off campus advertising.

We received a generous donation of \$2,000 from Emily Dunnam to benefit the Brennan Medford Memorial Scholarship that will be awarded to Woodard Stiewert in the spring. Woodard will graduate from the WTC Lineworker program in May, and he hopes to gain employment through Big Country Electric in Stanford, Texas. Woodard went to school with Brennan and has a relationship with the family.

The Diamond M Foundation has invested \$400,000 through the San Angelo Area Foundation to benefit Western Texas College students. The Diamond M Foundation Scholarship will be available in the fall of 2023, and \$20,000 will be awarded to students at WTC to support their education. We are beyond thankful for this investment. The McLaughlin family is great to work with. Sheila wrote a beautiful note thanking them. Dr. Beebe will pick the scholarship recipients.

Our student fail rate is small. Most on campus students are athletes and they must graduate to move on and to graduation they must have a certain GPA.

Mr. West handed around thank you notes from Dana Fahnrapp and the Resource Center for the Back to School Bash.

Inspire Program – The WTC Foundation has begun accepting applications for the spring 2023 round of Inspire applications. All applications are due on Friday, April 21, 2023 and will be discussed by the board of directors on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

A final report has been submitted by Dana Fahnrapp, Petroleum Technology Instructor, Mitch Calhoun, Director of Purchasing and Compliance, Melissa Avila, Head Volleyball Coach, and Kayla Hill, Head Softball Coach.

Upcoming TACCF Conference – The annual conference of the Texas Association of Community College Foundations will begin on Wednesday, February 8th and will end on Friday, February 10th. Sheila will travel to Fort Worth, Texas to represent WTC at the event. A schedule of events was provided in your packets, and the conference should be very informative.

General Update – Dr. Beebe

The legislative session has started. TACC represents Texas community colleges. TACC wrote a whole new funding method, and we hope it is good for all schools. We work closely with our politicians, and they support us. Dr. Beebe hopes we come out okay. She has friends on the executive committee, and they said we should be good. There are over 7,000 bills. We should have answers in March. Dr. Beebe is more comfortable than she was six weeks ago. TACC is asking for \$650,000,000 additional money for all community colleges. A couple of years ago, we were one of eleven schools who received \$1 million, and it is still in the bill. It has the possibility to be advantageous.

Our enrollment is up. It has been climbing since the pandemic. Everything is going well.

Bad weather: It is tough to make a call when the state, city, etc. says the weather is going to be bad. We

try and keep students, faculty, and staff safe. Nothing is important enough to lose your life over. Ralph drives around between 4:00 am and 5:00 am to check the roads. The beauty of the pandemic is all our classes are online so students can still do their work and not get behind.

Information and Questions from Board Members

Who is painting the windows? Dr. Beebe asked Hailey Morris to paint various windows across campus where students go. It colors up the campus for the students.

The next three meetings will be held April 25, 2023, July 25, 2023, and October 31, 2023. We only meet four times a year, so please try to make the meetings.

Motion by Mr. West, seconded by Mr. Medina to adjourn the meeting.

Next Foundation Board meeting: April 25, 2023

APPROVED: _____

Ms. Deborah Boyd, Secretary

Mr. Jason West, President

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