

**MEETING OF THE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

May 7, 2025

Minutes

The External Relations Committee of Houston Community College met on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at the HCC Administration Building, 3100 Main, Second Floor Auditorium, Houston, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cynthia Lenton-Gary, Committee Chair
Sean Cheben, Committee Member
Laolu Davies, Committee Member
Dave Wilson

CHANCELLOR'S COUNCIL

Margaret Ford Fisher, Chancellor
Rima Adil, Interim Vice Chancellor, Student Services
Andrea BurrIDGE, Vice Chancellor for Strategy, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
Jerome Drain, President, Online College
Michael Edwards, Office of the Ombudsman
Betty Fortune, Interim President, Northeast College
Frances Villagran-Glover, President, Southeast College
Lutricia Harrison, President, Coleman College
Sherry Hawn, Senior Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration and Chief Finance and Building Operations
Edmond "Butch" Herod, President, Central College
Zachary Hodges, President, Northwest College
Warren Hurd, Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services
James Jackson, Interim Chief Information Officer, Information Technology
Bob McCracken, Vice Chancellor, Administration and Operations
Nicole Montgomery, Interim General Counsel
Rodney Nathan, Vice Chancellor for Talent Engagement and Chief Human Resource Officer
Norma Perez, Senior Vice Chancellor for Instructional Services and Chief Academic Officer
Miguel Ramos, Interim Vice Chancellor, Instructional Services
Karen Schmidt, Executive Director, HCC Foundation
James Walker, Interim Chief Facilities Officer
Michael Webster, President, Southwest College
Morgan Yette, Staff Senate President
Remmele Young, Vice Chancellor of External and Governmental Relations, Transfer and Alumni Relations

OTHERS PRESENT

Melissa Mihalick, Board Counsel, Thompson and Horton, LLP

CALLED TO ORDER

Dr. Cynthia Lenton-Gary, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. and declared the Board convened to consider matters of Houston Community College as listed on the duly posted Meeting Notice.

(The following Trustees were present: Cheben, Davies, Lenton-Gary, and Wilson)

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens signed up to speak before the Committee.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

REPORT ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Dr. Ford Fisher noted that the report provides an update regarding the legislative activities. She apprised that Dr. Remmele Young, Vice Chancellor of External and Governmental Relations, Transfer and Alumni Relations would provide the overview.

Dr. Young reported on the following:

- Community Colleges Appropriations 2026-2027 Biennium
- Community College Supplemental Appropriation
- HCC Regional Response Emergency Training Center 2026-2027 Biennium
- Workforce Program Growth Initiative HCC Rider Requests
- Texas Grants Program Conference Committee on SB1 (Article III-Higher Education)
- Texas Transfer Grants Program Conference Committee on SB1 (Article III-Higher Education)
- Texas Education Opportunity Grant Conference Committee on SB1 (Article III-Higher Education)
- Senate Budget Conferees
- House Budget Conferees
- Key Bill Tracking
- HCC Legislative Timeline

Trustee Cheben referenced HB 210 concerning the Credentials of Value (COV) and homestead exemptions and inquired about the potential impact on next year's budget. Dr. Young noted that discussions have taken place regarding the implications for HCC and apprised that two of the bills under discussion appear to be advancing.

Trustee Davies inquired about the deadline for the second hearing of the bill. Dr. Young noted that the exact timing of the second hearing is not yet available but confirmed that any bill can be reviewed.

Trustee Davies also requested a report on HB 3923/SB 1041. Dr. Young noted that an update can be provided.

Houston Community College
External Relations Committee – May 7, 2025 – Page 3

Trustee Davies further referenced the Workforce Program and the stricken funding amount, inquiring whether the Senate version is reflected in the amendment. Dr. Young responded that the intent is to follow the House version, as the Senate version does not include the funding in question.

Trustee Wilson inquired about HB 5303/SB 2529 related to tax rates. Dr. Young apprised that the vote on this matter would be by plurality. He noted that the bills under consideration in the House and Senate do not yet reference one another. He apprised that the governing board referenced in the legislation would be HCC's Board. Dr. Young noted that he would provide an analysis of HB 5303/SB 2529.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Wright, Director, Board Services

Minutes Approved: June 18, 2025