MEETING OF THE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE

September 2, 2026

Minutes

The External Relations Committee of Houston City College met on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at the HCC Administration Building, 3100 Main, Second Floor Auditorium, Houston, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT
David Wilson, Committee Chair
Laolu Davies, Committee Member
Eva Loredo, Committee Member (via Conference Video)
Sean Cheben
Cynthia Lenton-Gary
Renee Patterson
Monica Richart
Adriana Tamez
Pretta VanDible Stallworth

CHANCELLOR'S COUNCIL
Margaret Ford Fisher, Chancellor
Rima Adil, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Communications and Marketing
Lisa Alcorta, 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, President, Northeast College
Frances Villagran-Glover, President, Southeast College
Lutricia Harrison, President, Coleman College
Edmond "Butch" Herod, President, Central College
Warren Hurd, Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services
Barry Sullivan, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology
Bob McCracken, Vice Chancellor, Administration and Operations
Elizabeth McGee, Chief Artificial Intelligence Transformation Officer
Nicole Montgomery, General Counsel
Rodney Nathan, Vice Chancellor for Talent Engagement/Chief Human Resource Officer
Norma Perez, Senior Vice Chancellor for Instructional Services/Chief Academic Officer
Karen Schmidt, Executive Director, HCC Foundation
Nathan Smith, Faculty Senate President
Michael Webster, President, Southwest College
Morgan Yette, Staff Senate President
Remmele Young, Vice Chancellor of External and Governmental Relations, Transfer and Alumni Relations

OTHER PRESENT
Melissa Mihalick, Board Counsel, Thompson and Horton, LLP

CALLED TO ORDER
Trustee Dave Wilson, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.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, Loredo, Patterson, Richart, Tamez, VanDible Stallworth, and Wilson)

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS
No citizens signed up to speak before the Committee.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

BUILDING A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE
Dr. Ford Fisher noted that the item provides a review of the proposed Legislative Agenda for HCC regarding the upcoming Legislative Session. She advised that Remmele Young, Vice Chancellor of External and Governmental Relations, Transfer and Alumni Relations, would provide the overview.

Dr. Young noted that the policy agenda will be presented to the Board for approval in October 2026 and provided an overview of the following:

- Executive Summary
- Relevant Key Dates
- Policy Priority Tiers
- Informed Insight Partners

(Trustee Richart left the meeting at 11:52 a.m.)

- Proposed Policy Priorities - Tier 1
  - Adopt Robust biennial appropriations
  - Support full funding in the supplemental appropriations bill
  - Support structural improvements to the formula
  - Seek appropriation that supports HB 20 (89R)
  - Support Continuation and coordination of state workforce education grant programs
  - Maintain the authority of locally elected community college governing boards to determine tuition and revenue policies
  - Make statutory name change from “Houston Community College System District” to “Houston City College District
  - Support expanding the current cap of five community college baccalaureate degrees

- Proposed Policy Priorities – TIER 2
  - Strengthen alignment among Career College and Military Readiness credentials of value, dual credit, CTE, and community college funding
  - Support more detailed and timely wage and occupation data

- Proposed Policy Priorities – TIER 3
  - Allow community colleges to serve as licensure exam sites.

Trustee Cheben inquired why the clinical opportunities for nursing students were not included. Dr. Young noted that the omission was an oversight and that the item could be added.

Trustee Cheben inquired whether state funding for Continuing Education courses was included in the discussion. He noted that it did not need to be included as a separate item.

Dr. VanDible Stallworth noted that ACCT will host a public policy meeting and requested that HCC participate. She noted that there are several items on the ACCT agenda that are not included in the College's agenda and further noted that AACC and ACCT develop public policy agendas. Dr. Young noted that he would connect with their public policy team.

(Trustee Patterson left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.)

Trustee Davies noted that the students served by the College have different needs and that the College should weigh in on matters affecting those students. He further noted that the College should approach External Relations from the perspective of the size and scope of the institution.

Trustee Davies inquired about opportunities for Trustees to provide input regarding the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) items to review the proposed projects. Dr. Ford Fisher noted that Trustees had been provided with an opportunity to submit feedback; however, there was a quick turnaround. She added that changes could still be made to the proposed items.

Trustee Davies inquired whether any feedback was received from Trustees regarding items to be included in the LAR submitted to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). Dr. Ford Fisher noted that she was not aware of any feedback having been received.

Trustee Davies inquired when the notice requesting Trustee feedback was distributed. Dr. Ford Fisher noted that the memorandum was sent on August 12.

Trustee Davies expressed concerns regarding the healthcare program. He referenced an article regarding a company establishing a location in the area and noted that consideration could have been given to a facility on the west side. Dr. Ford Fisher noted that Trustee Davies' inquiry regarding a west-side facility had been considered. She further noted that the Regional Industry Training Center included in the LAR would benefit programs throughout the region and that Trustee Davies' concerns and feedback had been considered.

Trustee Davies noted that he did not have a clear understanding of the proposed Regional Industry Training Center. He stated that when proposals are developed by the administration, there should be a collaborative process that allows the Board to be informed and provide input regarding proposed projects. He further noted that two days' notice was insufficient for Trustees to adequately review the information and provide feedback.

Dr. VanDible Stallworth concurred with Trustee Davies regarding the need for additional review time. She noted that when LAR items are developed, consideration should be given to broader needs throughout the College's service area. She referenced HISD's plans to develop a workforce training center in District 9 and noted the importance of reviewing planned developments by other entities throughout the College's service area and region. She further noted that such information should be considered when developing the College's appropriation requests.

Trustee Davies noted that he would like clarification regarding the process for moving forward. Dr. Ford Fisher clarified that there was no intent to exclude Trustee input. She noted that attention had been focused on other projects and that some of the information had been received late in the process.

Dr. Tamez noted that the primary concern was the timing and the limited two-day period provided for Trustees to submit feedback. Dr. Ford Fisher noted that, going forward, information regarding these matters could be provided to the Trustees through the Weekly Administrative Briefing (WAB).

ADJOURNMENT
With no further business coming before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Wright, Executive Director, Board Services

Minutes Approved as Submitted: October 28, 2026