



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular monthly meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, September 25, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Adolfo C. and Maria de Jesus De La Garza Building Room 101, at the Fort McIntosh Campus, West End Washington Street, Laredo, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rangel called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Esteban Rangel, President
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Erica Benavides Garcia
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Adriana Alexander
Lizzy Newsome (*arrived at 6:07 p.m.*)
Karina "Kari" Elizondo (*arrived at 6:42 p.m. and did not return after executive session*)

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Ruben Villarreal
Jessica Treviño
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian
(*Ms. Ramos moved to excuse Ms. Liendo' absence. Ms. Alexander and Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed*)

3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

4. RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS – MR. RUBEN VILLARREAL

4.A. INTRODUCTION OF PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL ACTIONS

The new hires/personnel actions for the month were introduced – Maria C. Benavides, Academic Advisor; Celeste N. Elizondo, Staff Assistant-Student Health Services and Wellness; Jesus E. Martinez, Instructional Assistant -Transportation Technology (South); Juan T. Morales III, Diesel Engine Mechanics Technical Instructor (South); Joshwa A. Plascencia Rea, General Technician; Marcos A. Ramirez, Patrol Officer; Alonso Salinas Arriaga, General Technician; Angelica A. Cabral, Intervention Specialist; Miguel E. Flores, Assistant Director of Continuing Education; Elizabeth M. Garcia, Technology Support Specialist; Alejandro Hinojosa, Institutional Data & Archival Solutions Analyst; Juliana Kelley, Associate Professor of Biology/Natural Sciences Department Chairperson; Jonathan P. Prado, Wildlife Education Coordinator; Rosario G. Ramirez, Instructional Assistant-Computer Sciences and Technology; Agustin Gamez, Television Production Specialist; Nelly A. Moreno, Senior Payroll Specialist; and Oscar Castillo, Instructional Assistant-Homeland Security & Emergency Management Studies.

Mr. Rangel acknowledged the presence of Ms. Newsome.

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

**5.A. PROGRAM/POLICY
COMMITTEE MEETING
REPORT – MS. JACKIE
LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos summarized the Program/Policy committee meeting held on September 22nd.

**5.C. FINANCE & AUDIT
COMMITTEE MEETING
REPORT – MS.
ERNESTINA “TITA” CANTU
VELA**

Ms. Vela summarized the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on September 23rd.

**5.B. BUILDING
COMMITTEE MEETING
REPORT – MS. CINDY
LIENDO**

Ms. Alexander summarized the Building Committee meeting held on September 23rd.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

**6.A. STUDENT SUCCESS
REPORT – DR. DAVID V.
ARREAZOLA/MS. JESSICA
TREVIÑO**

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, presented the Student Success & Enrollment Update (December graduation date, Fall enrollments, Spring enrollments, and year to year enrollments).

**6.B. 2025 COMMUNITY
COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
OF TEXAS TRUSTEES
(CCATT) ANNUAL
CONFERENCE REPORT –
MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL/MS.
ERNESTINA “TITA” CANTU
VELA/MS. JACKIE LEVEN-
RAMOS/MS. CINDY
LIENDO/MS. ERICA
BENAVIDES GARCIA/MS.
ADRIANA ALEXANDER**

Ms. Leven-Ramos and Ms. Vela provided an overview of the CCATT conference and the sessions they attended.

**6.C. FOREIGN TRADE
ZONE DESIGNATION
REQUESTS – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, informed the Board that letters of concurrence were issued for foreign trade zone designations for:

- CARGODEC, INC., located at 2222 Jefferson Street, Laredo, Texas 78040
- Cargoquin, Inc., located at 11921 Hayter Rd., Laredo, Texas 78045
- Carter Express, Inc., located at 13520 Mercury Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045
- Fernando Solis & Associates, LLC, located at 20788 US Highway 83 N, Laredo, Texas 78045
- PG Distribution, LLC, located at 233 Lampazos Loop, Laredo, Texas 78045
- Transmaritime, Inc., located at 14213 Transportation Ave., Laredo, Texas 78045

**6.D. MARKETING PLAN
UPDATE – DR. DIANA
ORTIZ/MS. JOANA
SANTILLANA**

Deferred.

**6.E. SENATE BILL 37 NEW
TRAINING
REQUIREMENTS FOR
GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBERS – MS. JACKIE
LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos acknowledged that the Board had a 100% completion of their required trainings for FY2025. FY2026 will have additional required trainings for the Board due to SB37. The Board will be informed when the trainings will be scheduled.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Alexander moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Agenda Item 7.A. – Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting of August 20, 2025

- Agenda Item 7.B. – Approval of Modification to Laredo College Board Policy BGC(LOCAL)- ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION: COUNCILS AND FACULTY SENATES
- Agenda Item 7.C. – Approval to Enter into Performance Contract with Johnson Control Inc.
- Agenda Item 7.D. – August 2025 Preliminary Financial Report
- Agenda Item 7.E. – Approval of Agreement with Toshiba for Document Backfile Scanning Services
- Agenda Item 7.F. – Approval of Classroom Technology Refresh for Lewis Energy Group Academic Center (LEAC) Building
- Agenda Item 7.G. – Approval to Purchase Kazen Student Center Stage Audio/Visual Upgrade
- Agenda Item 7.H. – Approval of Annual Texas Connection Consortium Renewal for Ellucian Banner SaaS
- Agenda Item 7.I. – Approval of Budgeted Cash Matching Funds Required for the Rio South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation. Inc. Grant Application to be Submitted on Behalf of Laredo College by the Grants Department

Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion passed with Ms. Newsome voting against due to Agenda Item 7.B.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

8.A. ADOPT AMENDED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION AND RATIFICATION OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented the amended resolution which needed to be adopted in order to create a faculty council. Ms. Newsome expressed her concerns. Mr. Rusty Meurer, College Attorney, explained SB37.

Ms. Leven-Ramos read the amended resolution.

Resolution Authorizing the Continuation and Ratification of the Faculty Council:

Whereas during the 89th Texas Legislative Session in 2025, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 37, which was subsequently signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott on June 20, 2025.

Whereas Senate Bill 37 relates to the governance of public institutions of higher education, including review of curriculum and certain degree and certificate programs, a faculty council, training for members of the governing board, and the establishment, powers, and duties of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman.

Whereas Senate Bill 37, in Section 51.3522 of the Texas Education Code, authorizes the governing board of an institution of higher education to establish a faculty council and sets forth the policy by which the governing board shall select its members.

Whereas the Board of Trustees of Laredo College adopts the following policies in accordance with Section 51.3522, of the Texas Education Code:

1. The faculty council must adequately represent each academic divisional delegation of the institution, and
 - a. Require the members to be faculty members;
 - b. Limit the number of members to no more than 60, with at least two representatives from each academic divisional delegation, including:
 - i. One member from each divisional delegation appointed by the chief executive officer of the college; and
 - ii. The remaining members elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective divisional delegation.
2. The faculty council is advisory only and may not be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter.
3. The faculty council shall represent the entire faculty of Laredo College and advise the administration regarding matters related to the general welfare of the institution.

4. The faculty council may not issue any statement or publish a report using the institution's official seal, trademark, or resources funded by the institution on any matter not directly related to the faculty council's duties to advise the institution's administration.
5. Service on the faculty council is an additional duty of the faculty member's employment. Members of the faculty council are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their role as members of the faculty council unless the expense is on behalf of and approved by the institution of higher education.
6. A member of the faculty council appointed by the chief executive officer of the college in accordance with Section (1)(b)(i) may serve up to six consecutive one-year terms and then may only be reappointed after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term. A member of the faculty council elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective division serves a two-year term, staggered in a manner that allows approximately one-half of the elected members to be elected each year, and may only be reelected after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term.
7. A faculty member serving on the faculty council may be immediately removed from the council for failing to conduct the member's responsibilities within the council's parameters, failing to attend council meetings, or engaging in other similar misconduct. A member of the faculty council may be removed on the recommendation of the institution's provost (or equivalent of the institution's chief academic officer) and approval by the chief executive officer of the institution.
8. The chief executive officer of Laredo College shall appoint a faculty council president, vice president, and secretary from the members of the faculty council.
9. The presiding officer of the faculty council shall preside over meetings of the faculty council and represent the council in official communications with the institution's administration.
10. The faculty council shall conduct meetings at which a quorum is present in a manner that is open to the public and in accordance with procedures prescribed by the chief executive officer of the college.
11. The faculty council shall broadcast over the Internet live video and audio, as applicable, of each open meeting of the faculty council if more than 50 percent of the members of the council are in attendance.
12. The faculty council shall adopt rules for establishing a quorum.
13. The following shall be made available to the public on the Laredo College Internet website not later than the seventh day before a meeting of the faculty council:
 - a. An agenda for the meeting with sufficient detail to indicate the items that are to be discussed or that will be subject to a vote; and
 - b. Any curriculum proposals reviewed by the council that will be discussed or voted on at the meeting.
14. The names of the members in attendance must be recorded at a meeting in which the faculty council conducts business.
15. These policies may not be construed to limit a faculty member of Laredo College from exercising the faculty member's right to freedom of association protected by the United States Constitution or the Texas Constitution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Laredo College officially ratifies the continuation of the Laredo College faculty council, adopts the policies governing the faculty council, and finds that the faculty council meets the policies adopted by the Board and the requirements of Section 51.3522, of the Texas Education Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of this Board.

Mr. Rangel acknowledged the presence of Ms. Elizondo.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adopt the amended resolution. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed with Ms. Newsome voting against.

8.B. FREEPORT EXEMPTIONS UNDER TEXAS TAX CODE §11.251 AND ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 1-j, OF THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to defer Agenda Item 8.B. – Freeport Exemptions Under Texas Tax Code §11.251 and Article VIII, Section 1-j, of The Texas Constitution and Agenda Item 8.D. – Approve Modification to Laredo College Board Policy BBG(LOCAL)-Board Members: Compensation and Expenses and BBH(LOCAL)-Board Members: Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

8.C. APPROVE MODIFICATION TO LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY BD(LOCAL) AND BD(REGULATION)-BOARD MEETINGS – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Leven-Ramos presented the revisions to BD(LOCAL) and BD(REGULATION)-BOARD MEETINGS. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adopt the revisions presented. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:46 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following item:

- Agenda Item 9.A. – Closed Session Discussion with the College President Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 Regarding the Employment, Reassignment, and Duties of Certain Employees Due to a Reorganization

Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion passed.

The Board reconvened to open session at 7:36 p.m. Mr. Rangel noted that no action was taken during executive session.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

10.A. EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENT, AND DUTIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES DUE TO A REORGANIZATION

Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to accept the employment, reassignment, and duties of certain employees due to a reorganization. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Alexander, Ms. Newsome, and Ms. Elizondo were not present for the vote).

11. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND REPORTS

11.A. CAMPUS POLICE, PERSONNEL, AND TRAVEL REPORTS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Reports were provided to the Board in the meeting materials.

11.B. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez presented the Chief Executive Officer Title IX Report.

12. UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, October 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Laredo College Foundation Art Gala Fundraiser Event

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Laredo College Fall Fest sponsored by Falcon Bank

Saturday, November 1, 2025, 7:30 a.m. – Laredo College 3rd Annual Golf Classic sponsored by Falcon Bank

- 13. NEXT MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting
- 14. ADJOURNMENT** At 7:41 p.m., Ms. Benavides Garcia, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.