Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes, Nov. 11, 2026

Nov. 11, 2026, 3:15 p.m., Tucker Hall

1. **Call to Order at 3:17 p.m.**
2. **Approval of Minutes**

   Secretary: Kathleen Anderson

   A motion was made by John Elliott to approve the October 14, 2026, minutes. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Pastore.

   Approved.
3. **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

   President: Dr. Channell Cook —

   Thank you for survey responses; 55 responses; still open, so please take the survey.

   Created a place for anonymous comments; comment about faculty being able to access PTO/sick leave. Contacted HR; should have access when switch to new system, Workday.

   Vice President: Mark Solis — no report

   Benefits: Kathleen Pastore — no report

   Professional Development: Francisca Castillo — no report

   Professional Standards and Responsibilities: vacant

   Need volunteer.

   Honors and Recognition: Carl Taylor —

   Professional award nominations; received 7.

   Submitted to President's office with our recommendation.

   Assembly approved $500 last meeting; asked Jessica Haney over at the SRAC how she wanted to divide that up. We allotted $100 to Thanksgiving, $200 to the holiday tree, and then $200 to the graduation vouchers.
4. **Unfinished Business**
   - **Academic Honesty and Proctoring Committee — Dr. Javier Ramirez**

     Academic Honesty and Proctoring Committee will be meeting tomorrow, so we'll anticipate an update at our next Assembly meeting.
5. **New Business**
6. **Comments by the President of Lee College, Jacob Atkin, or other representatives of the administration**

   Outcome of elections in Texas will change some of the expectations for the upcoming legislative session. Abbott's push for 3-year bachelor's degree may no longer be a priority (which would have impacted community colleges).

   We will be requesting $480 million in supplemental funding, and for those of you who may not understand what that means, every biennium, the legislature allocates

a set amount of money for community colleges. Under the performance-based funding model, we have calculations that are completed based on how many credentials our students earned and what we're supposed to be paid based on those specific credentials. Well, as a system, we need $480 million to make us whole.

Part of the reason that we saw our budget cut so significantly is because we're, you know, in this predicament where the legislature hasn't allocated enough money. That's more than I thought it was going to be, and so I'm encouraged by this shift. If that is approved by the legislature, we will actually get a significant payout later this fiscal year to make up for some of the money that was cut from our state appropriations in the summer, and we will wait until that gets finalized before we decide how to allocate those funds, but that could be as much as almost $2 million in funding for the college this year, and then we would expect that increase to exist next year.

We will be able to restore a lot of the cuts that we had to make this year, and we'll have some flexibility to start addressing some of the issues that we had talked about trying to fix in this year's budget, like the adjunct pay and adjusting lecture lab, and so I'm really encouraged about this.

Next week or so; will announce awards of excellence; excited about program; need mechanism for recognizing top performers at the institution.

Elimination of spring convocation; not a lot of time to prepare for classes; instead, around April, we're going to have a State of the College address. During that meeting, we'll discuss the major things that are happening in the college, a summary of how the academic year went as we get ready to transition into summer. That's also when we will announce all of the winners for the Awards of Excellence.

Audience Member: Is there a plan for adjunct pay and lecture/lab even if we don't get the supplemental budget?

Answer: We, as an institution, have two approaches, right? If we try to adjust some of those inequities between lab and lecture without additional funds, then some people get more money, some people get less money. So the plan has always been, as we've had available funding, to try and implement this in stages where possible. If the $480 million is approved, will be a top priority to address these issues.

Audience Member: Faculty have requested training from the Center for Instructional Excellence. Can we offer that during that week?

Answer: In the past, the general expectation was that faculty attend convocation and go to everything. This week in April would be optional attendance, so for those who want it and it's available, they can take the time during that week to take that training, and for those who don't, they have the flexibility to take care of their other issues if they'd like, so I'm completely in support of that.

Audience Member: When does the national search for a provost begin?

Answer: We are going to be addressing that in the board meeting on the 30th, and until I get the board's approval, I'm not going to share exactly what I want to do with that, but come to the meeting on the 30th.

Audience Member: Had a meeting with Omnivision at the Brunson Theater, and they mentioned that they had spoken with you about a partnership between the two, between Omni Studios and Lee College. If that was the case, is there resources for us to use to implement multimedia, project-based learning that is AI resilient? Is the college going to provide resources for faculty-developed assignments that will facilitate this partnership between the two?

Answer: We have not finalized all of the details regarding that partnership. It would be helpful to get a faculty perspective on how we could best utilize a potential partnership with them before we do finalize that agreement.

Audience Member: What is the status of the Lee College fountain?

Answer: The plan is to fix it and maintain it.

Audience Member: I have a question about replacement of full-time faculty positions. I know my position being vacated, the replacement of it has been on hold. Are those positions gonna get carried over to the next fiscal year, or is there any danger of those getting cleared?

Answer: Faculty positions are our most important expense; added where needed; cut where we thought we could due to change in budget; we cut faculty because of the change in budget, not because we didn't think those programs needed that in the long term. Unfilled positions that are needed will carry over; not expecting any positions to be eliminated but depends on needs.

Audience Member: I've had quite a few faculty come and have conversations about IT; now that we have technology like Honorlock, students are asking faculty for assistance, but can't really help; faculty have asked is there a contact person for technical problems that faculty can't solve (i.e., like helpdesk).

Answer: Technically, it should be a helpdesk issue; but sounds like new programs are creating a situation where students can't get help, especially nights and weekends. Haven't discussed with IT, but the helpdesk should be able to assist with any system students are using on a regular basis; needs to be addressed.

Audience Member: We're charging students $33 semester credit hour for book access. Is there any plan to review that? I'm teaching a book that has a retail cost of $42, and students are paying $132 for that. And that same book is used in two different classes, so they're having to pay for it twice.

Answer: We use a modified universal access program; total cost is averaged out by total number of credit hours but we've eliminated classes where there is no course material that's being charged for; most data shows that students pay less using this model; financial aid applies more seamlessly from day one; the dollar amount does need to be evaluated, $32 is a little high; we will evaluate the price. Want to reduce cost by moving very expensive kits to individual charge; trying to modify to get costs lower; can work with publisher to provide books used for multiple courses (perpetual access) for students who use same book for multiple courses; takes a while; per book basis.

Dr. Lane-Worley: Dr. Davis and I were asked to do a study on course fees and kits, and the relationship of kits to myBooks, and the relationship of kits to course fees; results will be given to cabinet.

Audience Member: Can the library be used for students who can't make testing center hours?

Answer: AI committee is looking at options. DE committee is looking into other proctoring solutions for next fiscal year. Dr. Lightfoot is working on and has the budget to try to extend Honorlock so that we have enough Honorlock seats for spring and summer.

- **Employee Satisfaction Survey Results: Dr. Scott Bennett**

  The College Employee Satisfaction Survey was administered in spring of 2026.

  The survey was run by Ruffalo Noel Levitz, a national research firm that uses the same standardized instrument at colleges across the country.

  The survey ran from early February through spring break, was confidential and voluntary. 323 responses across the college.

  The full report is on the Institutional Research webpage. The detailed results from the meeting audio recording: (5:50-11:10)

  323 responses
  4.32/5 overall satisfaction

  Audience Member: Does the college perform exit interviews?

  Answer: Many, many years ago, we did not. We do have exit surveys now.

  Audience Member: Is there access to comments from the survey? Or do we know what was done with the comments?

  Answer: No, comments are not publicly available; would lose confidentiality of the responses. I looked at the comments and provided a summary to the cabinet, which looks very similar to the results presented today.

  Audience Member: Then feedback or concerns expressed in the comments were addressed?

  Answer: We did look closer at some answers; summarized results for cabinet; have done things to address comments.

- **Mont Belvieu Campus Updates: Dr. Priscilla Sanchez**

  Dr. Priscilla Sanchez, Executive Director for School and College Partnerships, is responsible for the launch of the Mont Belvieu campus and shared what the rendering will look like.

  Shared images of current construction; available on PPT in Webex meeting recording.

  The building will be called the Barbers Hill Higher Education Center. The campus is the Lee College Mont Belvieu campus at 4747 Gill Parkway. We do have a website up that’s being updated as we progress.

  It will be a 60,000-square-foot building. We’re expecting to have about 1,000 students at capacity. We look at opening in fall 2027, running 13-week classes. Reduced tuition for students who live within the Mont Belvieu Branch Campus Taxing District at all campuses.

  Programs offered:

  Computer technology, including cloud computing, cybersecurity, computer maintenance, and computer networking, will be moving from main campus and housed over at Mont Belvieu.

In healthcare, sterile processing technician will be a cross-credit program and a new addition to the allied health program. Plans to start respiratory therapy and cardiac sonography pending accreditation.

Foundation courses: full college core offerings, and plans for health care prerequisites.

For instruction, division and department will be the same, on main campus, even if you're teaching at Mont Belvieu. We do have instructional offices, and we also have an adjunct office suite. Programs based at Mont Belvieu will have their faculty, their labs, and their equipment housed there.

Reviewed instructional spaces (classrooms and labs).

Audience Member: Question about the adjunct lab. Is there going to be a full functional Ricoh printer or similar in there? And if we are going to have evening classes, will there be support staff on site that have access to paper, ink, those sorts of things that may be needed?

Answer: There will be an office suite that has a major work room in the middle of it that is open. It has about 10 offices, a big copy room, and access to resources. Library will open later.

Audience Member: What type of basic needs services or resources will students have at this campus? Or will they have to contact the SREC here?

Answer: It will have a functional student market and an engagement center with a coordinator and people dedicated for support.

Audience Member: Are the six standard classrooms going to be lecture-style classroom with the rows of seating? Or are there any rooms that have the circle, more discussion-based seating?

Answer: There will be a variety of setups (shared images of example classrooms; available on PPT in Webex meeting recording).

Audience Member: Is the facility going to be open evenings?

Answer: Yes, it will be open in the evenings. Right now, the current goal is Monday through Thursday morning and then into evening hours as well.

Audience Member: Will there be a testing center on this campus?

Answer: Yes, fully functional with cameras.

Audience Member: Is the testing center going to have similar hours to the Lee College campus?

Answer: My understanding is yes; it's still going to follow the same process and reporting structure that the testing center on main campus does. But if there's needs dependent on what we need to offer at that branch campus, then we'll take that into consideration.

Audience Member: What is the standard classroom seating?

Answer: There's capacity for 30. It doesn't mean that a class is required to have 30. We want to be able to have functional space and technology for 30.

Audience Member: Expressed budget concerns for faculty traveling to Mont Belvieu; I know we pay quite a bit for our faculty that go out to McNair and Liberty, so it might be additional expenses.

Answer: There's an operating budget for Mont Belvieu and departments have operating budgets for their function on the Mont Belvieu campus.

Audience Member: The decision-making process for capping enrollment: are division chairs included in that? I've seen enrollment in dual credit go to 28. Enrollment is not retention; will lose a lot of those students because they're not going to be successful in high-enrollment classes.

Answer: Management of course sections and scheduling still handled by divisions on main campus. 30 seats doesn't mean a mandated 30 students.

Audience Member: How will textbooks be supported at this campus?

Answer: Working with shipping and receiving to be able to facilitate books across all of our sites. Will have a shipping and receiving room on site at Mont Belvieu also.

Audience Member: Will there be a large lecture room?

Answer: No, there will be a multipurpose room with 100-person capacity/flex space.

Reviewed student spaces with images: library, learning support hub, tutoring, conferencing, SI-style room can accommodate class of students, conference room.

7. **Announcements**
8. **Adjournment — Adjourned at 4:33 p.m.**

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