

### **B.3.5 (Policy) Board Members: Conventions, Conferences, Workshops and Events**

Responsible Department: Office of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

Board Adoption: 8-18-09

Last Board Action: 9-27-22, 8-20-24, 10-28-25, 2-21-2026

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#### **Specific Trips Authorized**

A Trustee has authority by virtue of this policy, and without further Board approval, to attend the following annual conferences:

1. American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC)
2. Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)
3. Association of Governing Boards (AGB)
4. Aspen Institute – Community College Excellence Prize
5. Baldrige Performance Excellence-Quest for Excellence
6. Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT)
7. Community College FUTURES Assembly
8. Excelencia in Education
9. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
10. National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO)
11. National Legislative Seminar of the ACCT
12. Regional Conference of the ACCT
13. San Antonio Chamber of Commerce SA to DC
14. San Antonio Delegation Cultural/Economic Development visits
15. Texas Association of Community College Attorneys (TACCA)
16. Texas Association of Community College Trustees and Administrators (TACCTA)
17. Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC)
18. Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)/Texas Association of Community College Attorneys (TACCA) Biennial Legislative Update
19. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Conference

If a Trustee wishes to attend an event not included in the approved list, the Trustee may request authorization from the Board. If a trip has not been authorized by this policy, the Trustee must submit a request to the Board for approval pursuant to this policy. If Board approval has been requested but is not received prior to the commencement of a trip, the

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Trustee may take the trip and seek reimbursement after Board approval. However, without prior authorization, the College District is under no obligation to reimburse the Trustee for the trip and the related expenses.

#### **Allowable Travel Expenses**

The following expenses are illustrative but not inclusive of all allowable expenses during an authorized trip by a Trustee. Receipts are required for expenses unless specified otherwise.

#### **Prepaid Expenses**

In order to find the most favorable rates, a Trustee may make trip arrangements using his/her College District procurement card (PCARD) or make reservations using his/her personal card and request reimbursement. See policy B.3.4 Board Member Reimbursement and Expenses for guidelines on use of a PCARD.

In the alternative, the Board Liaison may make trip arrangements for Trustees, and at the request of the Trustee, shall prepay expenses for airline tickets, hotel charges for the basic single-room rate, and registration and conference fees for events included in the approved list or pre-authorized by the Board. If these items are not prepaid by the Board Liaison and are paid by the Trustee using a personal card, the Trustee may request reimbursement pursuant to this policy.

#### **Meals**

The total cost of meals for the Trustees while traveling shall not exceed an allowance of \$100 per day averaged over the travel period. The maximum for the travel period is calculated as \$100 per day multiplied by the number of days. Tips to servers are not included in the cost of meals but should not exceed 20%.

- *On PCARD:* actual expenses of meals may be charged to the Trustee's PCARD up to the \$100 limit exclusive of tips. Itemized receipts are required within 30 days of return.
- *Reimbursement of Travel Advance Allowance:* Trustees who do not have a PCARD and are using their personal cards may receive a travel advance allowance. Itemized receipts are required within 30 days of return.

Trustees may not pay for a meal on behalf of another Trustee. All meals should be paid individually by a Trustee using a PCARD or the travel advance.

A Trustee may pay for the meal of a non-Trustee when there is an identified business purpose. The Trustee must list the name(s) and the amount spent on the non-Trustee and must identify the business purpose of the meal. This amount will not be counted as part of the Trustee's travel allowance.

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#### **Lodging**

An itemized hotel statement must be submitted when using his/her PCARD or personal card and requesting reimbursement for lodging expenses that were not prepaid. Lodging expenses must not exceed the prevailing single room rate. The maximum duration for lodging is one night prior to the beginning of a meeting and one night subsequent to the ending of a meeting. If a Trustee exceeds the maximum duration, the hotel expense is the responsibility of the Trustee. A Trustee may not be reimbursed for lodging when the Trustee is absent from the location of the meeting for any reason not connected with the duties of the Trustee.

#### **Transportation**

Mode of Transportation: A Trustee shall utilize the most economical mode of transportation that is readily available and provides reasonable, comparable transit time.

Mileage: Mileage expense shall be reimbursed at the prevailing approved rate for employees when traveling by personal vehicle.

Airfare: Air travel reservations will be made in economy class unless first class is the only flight available to conduct Trustee duties, in which case a statement from the Trustee validating the necessity is required. Trustees are allowed to pay for the first two pieces of checked baggage if the airline charges a separate checked baggage fee. If a Trustee deviates from a direct route of travel by air for personal reasons, the expenses for that portion of the trip will not be reimbursable. Because of the savings available for early purchase, Trustees are asked to schedule their travel at the earliest convenient date.

Car Rental: Actual expense is allowed for car rentals including fuel and toll charges. Receipts are not required for tolls. Sales tax for a state other than Texas is an allowable expense; however, liability insurance, personal accident insurance, safe trip insurance, and personal effects insurance are not reimbursable and must be paid by the Trustee personally. If a Trustee rents a car and combines personal travel with Trustee duties, the cost of the rental car is prorated on a daily basis.

Other Modes of Transportation: Actual expense is allowed for railroad travel, and at the destination, actual expense shall be reimbursed for travel by taxi, limousine, car services, such as Uber and Lyft, shuttles and public transportation. Tips for ground transportation should not exceed 15%.

Parking: Actual expense is allowed for parking fees.

#### **Other Allowable Expenses**

Actual expense is allowed for internet service and other hotel business office expenses for the

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conduct of official Trustee business.

Fee for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Pre-Check membership for air travel is reimbursable.

#### **Unallowable Expenses**

The following list of unallowable expenses is illustrative but not inclusive of all unallowable expenses during an authorized trip by a Trustee:

1. Gasoline, toll fees, or repair costs for personally owned vehicles.
2. Passports or passport photos required for foreign travel.
3. Inoculations required for foreign travel.
4. Personal expense items such as cleaning or laundry.
5. Alcoholic beverages.
6. Personal entertainment.

#### **Reporting Expenses**

To document all travel expenses, the following must be submitted to the Board Liaison within 30 days of the last day of a meeting or conference:

1. All required receipts if not pre-paid including but not limited to:
  - a. Hotel Lodging
  - b. Ground Transportation
  - c. Parking fees
  - d. Baggage fees
  - e. Meals
  - f. Airfare
  - g. Car Rental
  - h. Any other reimbursable expense as prescribed by this policy
2. One of the following trip authorizations:
  - a. Authorized annual conference (included in the approved list in this policy), or
  - b. Authorization by Board Minute Order.
3. The Board Liaison will prepare the Concur Expense report for the trip and submit for approval and reimbursement to the Trustee for out-of-pocket expenses.

If the Trustee did not attend the meeting or conference, the unused airline tickets must be submitted with a reason as to why the ticket was not used.

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#### **Seeking Approval for Unauthorized Trips and Expenses**

A Trustee who requests authorization for a trip or reimbursement for travel expense, or both that has not been authorized by this policy or by the Board, shall submit the request for approval to the Audit, Budget and Finance Committee of the Board. The Audit, Budget and Finance Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board. The Board's decision is final. If the Board approves the request, the Chancellor or designee shall reimburse the Trustee to the extent approved by the Board.

A Trustee shall reimburse the College District for all unauthorized travel expenses which the College District incurred on the Trustee's behalf within 30 days after disapproval pursuant to this policy.

*Legal Reference - TACC Policy Reference Manual*

BBG(LEGAL) - Board Members: Compensation and Expenses