

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SAN JUAN COLLEGE BOARD
March 2, 2026**

ITEM A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Valerie Uselman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following members were present:

Valerie Uselman, Chairperson
R. Shane Chance, Vice Chairperson
Evelyn Benny, Secretary
Julie Rasor, Member
Byron Manning, Member
Bev Taylor, Member
GloJean Todacheene, Member

ITEM B. WELCOME OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

San Juan College Administrators and Staff in Attendance Included:
Toni Hopper Pendergrass, Edward DesPlas, Kerri Langoni Carpenter,
Michael Ottinger, Yolanda Benally, Carrie Tsosie-Jim, Gwyn Adams,
Damien Augustine, Mystelle Beasley, Josh Bishop, Crystal Blake, Alicia Corbell,
Aurelia Etcitty, Veronica Evans, Thalia Garcia-Charley, Teresa Emrich,
Nicholle Liessmann, Roy Lytle, Murdoch Maloney, Rick Martinez,
Robert Martinez, Hannah Messenger, Kimberly Nath, Sherry Paxson,
Brandie Solomon, Gerald Williams, and Donna Ellis, Recorder

Guest(s): Kalikah Bryant, Danielle McQuitty, Jayden Narcisco, Luke Polston,

ITEM C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Chance moved and Ms. Benny seconded to adopt the agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM D. REPORTS

1. Monthly Presentation

Dr. Crystal Blake, Professor of Biology and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor, will present on the San Juan College Phi Theta Kappa & All-USA Academic Student Scholarships.

iCare Minute Video

This month's iCare video features Instructor Damien Augustine, recipient of the Pasatiempo Writing Award. His work has been published in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, and he currently teaches English at San Juan College.

2. Association Reports

Associated Students representative, Mr. Luke Polston, will provide the Board with a report.

Professional Staff Association representative, Ms. Mystelle Beasley, will provide the Board with a report.

Faculty Association representative, Ms. Nicholle Liessmann, will provide the Board with a report

Support Staff Association representative, Ms. Thalia Garcia-Charley, will provide the Board with a report.

ITEM E. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

ITEM F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. February 2, 2026 Work Session Minutes

The February 2, 2026, Work Session Minutes were presented in the Board Packet for approval.

2. February 2, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The February 2, 2026, regular Board Meeting Minutes were presented in the Board Packet for approval.

3. Correspondence

None.

4. Financials

The Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2025, were presented in the Board Packet.

5. **Personnel Report**

The following employment actions were made since the last Board meeting:

Appointments: Kris Jackson, Workstation Support Analyst II, Information Technology Center, effective January 26, 2026; Katie Parsons, Custodian, Physical Plant, effective February 23, 2026; Victor Lobato, Technical Theater Coordinator, Fine Arts & Special Events, February 23, 2026.

Changes: Meridee Walters, Budget Officer, Business Office to Foundation and Financial Development Officer, San Juan College Foundation, effective February 2, 2026; Celeste Montoya, Administrative Assistant II, School of Trades and Technology to Accounting Technician I, Business Office, effective February 17, 2026.

Separations: Gabriella Henry, Custodian, Physical Plant, End of Employment, effective February 12, 2026; Huanyu Ren, Research Specialist, Institutional Research and Planning, End of Employment, effective February 20, 2026.

6. **Deletion of Equipment from Inventory**

None.

7. **Amendment to CampusWorks Contract – Remote Accounting Services**

The College uses CampusWorks as one of its remote services providers. Because of a critical need for high level accounting skills to complete the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports, in September 2025, the Board approved CampusWorks to be engaged to provide a full-time equivalent Assistant Controller for six months. Having completed the work for the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit, College leadership requests that this arrangement be extended for six additional months to assist the Business Office in completing the work for the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit.

The cost of the additional service is \$32,060.00 per month for a six-month total of \$192,360.00, plus applicable taxes.

Funding for this project will be provided from fund balance approved for Workday implementation costs.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Trustees approve this additional engagement under current CampusWorks contract, for \$192,360.00 plus applicable taxes.

8. Microsoft Products Licenses

On a daily basis, San Juan College students, faculty and staff use products such as Windows, Teams, Outlook, Word, Excel, Power Point, One Note, One Drive, Power BI, SQL Service licenses, Microsoft 365 Cloud Security, Azure DNS Server, Windows Defender, Sharepoint, Microsoft Project, and Visio.

At the April 7, 2025, Board meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized a three-year contract for Microsoft products at a cost not to exceed \$655,801.61 plus applicable taxes. The cost for the second year of this contract is \$216,933.87.

Note: While the number of licenses and the cost per license for each of the Microsoft products varies, the average cost per employee (850) and student (12,000 total credit and non-credit) at San Juan College is \$16.88 for the year.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Trustees acknowledge this information pursuant to the second year of contracted licensure.

9. Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Telephone System

At the December 2, 2024, Board meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized a five-year contract for a Hosted VOIP Telephone System through Ring Central at a cost not to exceed \$1,225,000.00 (\$245,000.00 annually) through 2/28/2030.

Having taken advantage of this opportunity the College has received significant advantages including moving our fax services to the cloud and receiving new phones (which bring the College into compliance with E911 requirements) at no additional cost.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Trustees acknowledge this information pursuant to the second year of the approved contract.

10. Facilities Master Plan, 2026-2031

In October of 2024, the Board of Trustees approved the engagement of Architectural Research Consultants, Inc. to craft the College's Facilities Master Plan (FMP) for 2026 through 2031.

At the February 2026 Work Session, the draft of the FMP was reviewed and discussed with the Trustees. No changes were made to the document as a result of the review and discussion. The final version of Facilities Master Plan for 2026 – 2031 was distributed to Trustees in advance of this meeting.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Trustees approve the San Juan College Facilities Master Plan for 2026-2031.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Todacheene moved and Mr. Chance seconded to take the recommended actions as presented on the Consent Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM G. OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM H. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

1. APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD OFFICERS

The San Juan College Board of Trustees Policy Number 300, III. A. states “...following the election, the Board shall select from its members a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and Secretary who shall serve in these offices until the next regular Board election.” As such, the Board will select and appoint new officers in each of the three positions provided by policy. These officers will serve until the next regular Board election.

Ms. Benny and Ms. Taylor seconded to reorganize and appoint new Board officers required by Board Policy No. 300, III.A. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Selection of San Juan College Board of Trustee Officers

Mr. Chance moved and Ms. Benny seconded to nominate Ms. Valerie Uselman to serve as Chairperson. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Chance moved and Ms. Razor seconded to nominate Ms. Taylor to serve as Vice Chairperson. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Chance moved and Mr. Manning seconded to nominate Ms. Todacheene to serve as Secretary. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

2. TRAINING AIDS FOR INSTRUMENTATION CONTROLS AND ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The School of Energy's Instrumentation Controls and Electrical Technology Program supports San Juan College students by providing the skills needed for numerous career opportunities across various industries and places a strong emphasis on hands-on learning, real-world training with practical activities constituting more than 70% of the core curriculum. In order to continue to build training capabilities within the College's Instrumentation Controls and Electrical Technology Program, the School of Energy is requesting approval to purchase additional equipment.

Under the guidance of the College Purchasing Department and following a detailed and documented process to meet all of the State of New Mexico Procurement requirements, pricing has been obtained pursuant to TIPS contract number: 250802 from Associated Technologies Consultants headquartered in Plymouth, MI with a dedicated representative in NM in an amount not to exceed \$202,584.00 plus applicable taxes.

Resources for this amount come from a gift from Intel through the San Juan College Foundation.

Ms. Todacheene moved and Ms. Taylor seconded to approve the purchase from Associated Technologies Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$202,584.00 plus applicable taxes. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

3. REVISION OF SJC BOARD POLICY NO. 600 – FIRST READING

To be consistent with all other Board Policies on individual's titles, a proposed revision to Board Policy No. 600 is recommended for the Board's consideration. The redlined version of the proposed revision is below.

I. Mission and Vision

~~The mission of Learning is to foster educational excellence through high quality engaging instruction, career and technical training, and academic support. Current programs; dynamic, dedicated delivery; and personalized support prepare students to reach their individual goals as well as contribute to the economic vitality of the region.~~

The mission of Learning is to educate and empower individuals to thrive in an ever-changing world. This is accomplished through high-quality engaging instruction, career and technical training, and academic support. Current programs; dynamic, dedicated delivery; and personalized support prepare students to reach their individual goals as well as contribute to the economic vitality of the region.

~~The vision of learning is to utilize best practices and evidence-based assessment in partnership with College and community members to produce nationally recognized programs, outstanding student completion and retention results, and leadership in economic development.~~

The vision of Learning is to inspire success through world-class education and life-changing experiences. Learning utilizes best practices and evidence-based assessment in partnership with College and community members to produce nationally recognized programs, outstanding student completion and retention results, and leadership in economic development.

The College is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of individuals ~~its residents~~ through its ~~the~~ various programs and services ~~that it offers.~~ ~~Through~~ These programs and services are designed to, ~~the~~ College assists ~~its~~ students in developing special knowledge and skills that prepare them for livable-wage careers and in realizing intellectual, physical, emotional, and social maturity.

The types of education to be provided under the umbrella of a quality, caring, comprehensive community college to address both educational goals and distinctive non-instructional education support goals include:

- Transfer education
- Technical/Occupational certificates and degrees
- Community learning
- Workforce training
- Internships, apprenticeships, and service learning
- Dual credit in partnership with county high schools
- Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language education
- ~~Developmental education~~
- Integrated academic support

The College will also provide a variety of instructional options and academic support services to increase student access, retention, and goal completion. These services will include:

~~East and West Centers~~

- Instruction at satellite locations including East, West, South, and 30th Street centers.
- Online courses and degrees with related learning support

- ~~Center for Student Engagement with a variety of support programs (e.g., tutoring, retention, service learning, supplemental instruction)~~
- Tutoring Center with a variety of support programs (e.g., drop-in tutoring, embedded tutors, online tutors, supplemental instruction, and workshops)
- Library instruction and serves, including digital searching and resources
- Grants with student support objectives and innovations
- Non-credit programs and enrichment activities
- Activities in the arts and music
- Activities to broaden cultural awareness and mutual understanding

II. Partnerships

The College will work in partnership with other colleges and universities, business and industry advisory groups, schools, and others in the community as a foundation for continuous quality improvement. Best practice information from regional and national sources will be utilized to ensure program currency and support adoption of the most promising practices to help our students be successful in their educational and career pursuits.

Learning will engage in a comprehensive program of student learning outcomes assessment activities as part of providing the highest quality education. That assessment will include a review of course, program, and general education, ~~and common student~~ learning objectives outcomes. Program reviews will provide an additional and comprehensive method for reviewing the full range of instruction and services provided through our academic programs.

Mr. Chance moved and Mr. Manning seconded place Board Policy No. 600 revision on the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting to be held on April 6, 2026, for the second reading and a vote to take action on this proposed policy revision. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

4. REVISION OF SJC BOARD POLICY NO. 601 – FIRST READING

To be consistent with all other Board Policies on individual's titles, a proposed revision to Board Policy No. 601 is recommended for the Board's consideration. The redlined version of the proposed revision is below.

I. Introduction

Academic freedom is a right protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

II. Academic Freedom

A society, to remain free, requires citizens to be well-schooled in traditional knowledge and capable of critical evaluation of both new and old ideas. An institution of higher education can best foster growth in a democratic society when both student and ~~instructor~~ ~~teacher~~ can freely participate in the process of sifting and weighing traditional approaches and creating and evaluating new ones. Through the community and the community college, society should provide an academic atmosphere in which questioning is encouraged, where alternatives can be explored, and where one may follow where an inquiry leads. It is, therefore, imperative that ~~the educator~~ San Juan College faculty and students enjoy full freedom in the discussion of ~~his or her~~ their subject and related matters, both in and beyond the classroom; the ultimate purpose of such freedom being ~~the~~ pursuit of truth.

In ~~his or her~~ their work, ~~the teacher is~~ faculty are governed by the policy statements of the ~~College~~ college. ~~He/she is~~ They are entitled to freedom in the classroom in ~~his/her subject~~ their subjects, but ~~the teacher an instructor~~ should be careful not to introduce ~~controversial material matter into their~~ teaching that has no relation to ~~the one's~~ subject.

As a citizen, an instructor is governed by civil law. Faculty are entitled to all the personal and civil liberties pertaining to citizenship, and the legal exercise of these privileges should in no way endanger one's position as a member of the college's instructional staff.

~~As a teacher, his/her~~ An instructor's right to express ~~himself or herself themselves~~ on matters of ~~College~~ college policy and procedure shall not be denied or abridged, nor should such an expression jeopardize ~~his/her one's~~ academic position as long as ~~he/she~~ the faculty member expresses ~~himself/herself themselves~~ in a professional and ethical manner. ~~When the teacher~~ An instructor who speaks or writes as a citizen, ~~he/she~~ should be entirely free from institutional censorship or discipline, but ~~his/her their~~ special position in the community obliges ~~him/her them~~ to remember that the public may judge ~~the teacher's one's~~ profession and ~~the~~ institution by the validity of ~~his/her one's~~ opinions and the manner in which ~~he/she they are expressed expresses them~~. When ~~he/she speaks or writes speaking or writing~~ as a citizen, ~~he/she an instructor~~ should indicate that ~~he/she they are~~ not an institutional spokesperson. ~~Academic freedom, as it relates to faculty, is independent of employee evaluations and re-employment contract offers.~~

~~Whenever the teacher~~ When an instructor speaks or writes as a citizen or as a ~~teacher~~ faculty member, ~~he/she~~ they should strive to be scrupulously accurate and objective, to ~~exercise appropriate emotional restraint~~ maintain a professional demeanor, and to show respect for the convictions of others.

~~The~~ Academic Freedom ~~Policy~~ does not protect ~~teachers~~ instructors from the consequences of dishonesty, libel, slander, plagiarism, or intentional misrepresentation.

Ms. Taylor moved and Mr. Chance seconded place Board Policy No. 601 revision on the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting to be held on April 6, 2026, for the second reading and a vote to take action on this proposed policy revision. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be **Monday, April 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** in the San Juan College Board Room.

ITEM J. CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made at 7:27 p.m. by Ms. Rasor and seconded by Ms. Taylor for the Board to meet in Executive Session subject to the exception in NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(5) of the Open Meetings Act: Collective Bargaining. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

The Executive Session concluded at 7:59 p.m. and the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure. Mr. Chance moved and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion to return to the regular meeting. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous roll call vote.

ITEM K. RATIFICATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN SAN JUAN COLLEGE AND SAN JUAN COLLEGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The initial Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), was ratified by the Board of Trustees in February, 2023. The San Juan College Education Association (SJCEA) and SJC's management team have been negotiating a successive CBA since May, 2024. On January 12, 2026, the parties reached a tentative agreement regarding the CBA. The complete, clean-copy of the CBA was shared with the Board prior to this meeting.

Following negotiations with the San Juan College Education Association, College leadership recommends Board approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

ITEM L. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Benny moved and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Uselman adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Valerie Uselman, Chairperson
San Juan College Board

ATTEST:

Ms. Evelyn Benny, Secretary
San Juan College Board

Date: April 6, 2026