

MINUTES

February 23, 2026

Institutional Relations Committee

Executive Board at Wayland Baptist University – Plainview

IRC Members Present

Dustin Slaton, Chair

Glen Hambrick

Flor Soto

Daniel Tanguma

Kenneth Martin

Thong Lun

Gary Singleton

Lazaro Diaz

Antonio Herrera

IRC Members Not Present

TXB Staff Present

Julio Guarneri, TXB ED

Craig Christina, TXB AED

Stephen Stookey

John Litzler

Joshua Minatrea

Gabriel Cortez

Heather Penna

Maribel Paz

Guests

Suzie Liner, ExB Chair

Keith Warren, ExB Vice Chair

Albert Reyes, Buckner

Abe Jaquez, BUA

Blair Blackburn, ETBU

Othal Brand, VBMEC

Tony Celleli, Stark

Mike Mullender, BSW

Kendall Lyons, TBS

Ken Camp, TBS

Eric Black, TBS

Gene Wilkes, ETBU-

BH Carroll

Todd Roberson, CAHM

Adam Wright, DBU

Cory Hines, HPU

Linda Livingstone, BU

Donna Hedgepath, WBU

Brian Guenther, SMBA

Gerald James, BCLC

Debbie Potter, BGCT

President

Joseph Adams, BGCT 1st Vice

President

Monica Guarneri, guest

Preston Slaton, guest

Call to Order:

Dustin Slaton, chair of the Institutional Relations Committee, called the meeting to order. The meeting began with brief introductions around the room.

Devotional and Prayer:

Slaton brought a devotional based out of Deuteronomy 31:2. Slaton spoke of a season of transition and that all pastors are interim pastors and appointed for a season, not forever.

Minutes:

Slaton presented the minutes posted on the executive board website from September 2025; minutes were approved.

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institutional Reports:

Stephen Stookey allowed a few minutes for institutional leaders to give a highlight about their respective institution. Brief reports were shared by: Randy ETBU/MHB; Adam Wright, DBU; Albert Reyes, Buckner Int.; Linda Livingstone, BU; Abe Jaquez, BUA; Cory Hines, HPU; Donna Hedgepath, WBU; Brian Guenther, SMBA; Eric Black, TBS; Todd Roberson, CAHM; Joseph Hannah, BSW.

Following the reports Slaton asked Lazaro Diaz to pray for the educational institutions and leaders in the room, Thong Lun to pray for BSW, Daniel Tanguma to pray for SMBA and BSA, Flor Soto to pray for CAHM and Buckner Int., and Slaton will close out praying for Dr. Blackburn and his mother's health crisis.

Hispanic Education Council:

Gabriel Cortez gave a short report highlighting a couple of scholarships and fall events including the Hispanic Education Banquet at the BGCT annual meeting stating HPU will be hosting. He mentioned a couple of projects for the students and how they are working with a few schools to help create webinars to assist students with topics related to missions, financial aid and the processes.

Theological Education Council:

Stookey gave a short report on TEC. In 2022-2023 MFA 's had lowest ministry scholarships; 2023 to 2025 saw a two-year increase and is trending towards an upturn with 2025 showing a 58% undergraduate and 42% graduate rate. Two calling conferences are scheduled, one in Lubbock and the other in Austin which will be supplemented by funding from the Lilly Grant provided through Truett Seminary. The first retreat for financial aid students is planned the fall and will be in conjunction with the BGCT Annual Meeting which will allow students to be a part of the event.

Slaton advises we would visit the institution visitation assignments and passed out al list stating to choose three each to visit from the list.

Recommendations

Stookey presented the first recommendation to adopt the restated Certificate of Formation of the BUA. Motion approved; passed. Stookey presented the second recommendation to adopt BHSET relationship agreement. Motion approved; passed.

Closing

Slaton adjourned the meeting to go into executive session.

IRC Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,
Maribel Paz
Committee Specialist