



Date of Board Meeting: July 21, 2026

Subject: Great Western Dining contract beginning with the fall of 2026 semester.

Recommendation: Approve the Great Western Dining Services Agreement (copy attached) for cafeteria and board meal services. The agreement includes no increase to the residential student meal plan rates and a 4% increase to casual meals, prospective student meals, summer camp/conference rates, and catering services.

Background and Rationale:

The College contracts with Great Western Dining to provide food preparation and dining service for residential students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors. The agreement is reviewed annually, with pricing adjustments permitted under the contract based on the USDA Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Food Away From Home for our region.

During the annual contract review, the College negotiated several revisions to better align the agreement with current operations. The guaranteed service days were reduced from 232 days to 212.5 days to more closely match the College's academic calendar and residence hall occupancy schedule. Additionally, the College successfully negotiated no increase to the residential student meal plan rate, which will remain at \$14.83 per day.

Great Western Dining requested a 4% increase for all other meal categories, including casual meals, prospective student meals, summer camp/conference rates, and catering services. The College also negotiated separate pre-meal plan athletic meal rates, providing a more appropriate pricing structure for athletic teams arriving prior to the start of the regular meal plan period.

These negotiated changes maintain quality dining services while better aligning the contract with the College's operational needs and supporting responsible stewardship of College resources.

Budgetary Implications: \$380,000.00 (Auxiliary Fund Budget for 2026 – 2027)

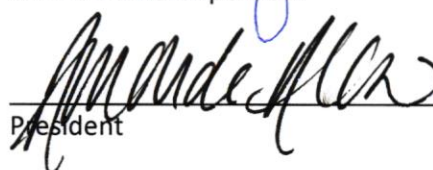
Strategic Priority Alignment:

☐ Student Success	☐ Community Impact
☒ Resource Optimization	☐ Institutional Excellence

Resource Personnel: Scott Cunningham, Vice President of Finance & Administration
Clarissa Bueno, Director of Purchasing

Approval:

 7-8-2026
Cabinet-Level Supervisor

 07/09/26
President



DINING SERVICE AGREEMENT

"EXHIBIT A"

LOCATION: Wharton County Junior College
Hutchins Building Cafeteria
911 Boling Highway
Wharton, Texas 77488

COMMENCEMENT DATE: August 1, 2026

TERM OF CONTRACT: An open-ended contract commencing August 1, 2018 and continuing from year to year thereafter for the maximum allowable term as proscribed by law, unless terminated by either party as hereinafter provided. GWD and WCJC shall mutually agree on the terms for contract renewal. Either party may terminate the contract in any year by providing 120-days written notice to the other party as provided in the Food Service Agreement.

PURPOSE OF EXHIBIT A: Exhibit A sets forth the terms and conditions upon which WCJC retains GWD to manage and operate the Food Service for WCJC's students, faculty, staff, employees, visitors and invited guests. In addition, GWD's Proposal ("Proposal") submitted to WCJC and Wharton County's RFP is incorporated herein by reference. In the event there is a discrepancy between this Agreement, the RFP and the Proposal, the following order of precedence shall prevail: (1) this Agreement, (2) the Proposal, (3) RFP.

FEDERAL MANDATORY INCREASES: In the event legislation or government intervention makes law any increases in minimum hourly rates or mandatory fringe benefits after the first year of this Agreement, GWD will pass these on to the WCJC commensurate with the effective date decreed at cost.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

Return to the College

The following commissions on Net Sales will be given to the College by GWD:

Non-Campus Sponsored Catering	10-percent (10%)
Guest Line Sales in the Cafeteria	5-percent (5%)

Courtesy Meal Service

For the purpose of assisting GWD in providing a quality meal program, there will be no charge for meals for the following Wharton County Administrative personnel:

1. President
2. Vice President of Administrative Services
3. Dean of Financial and Business Services

Any designated guests of any of the above would also be entitled to courtesy meal service as well as visiting individuals with equivalent positions from other institutions.



Presidential Catering Fund

GWD shall provide to the President of WCJC a fund of **\$3,000** to be used for catering services at the President's discretion.

Meal Plan Options

18-Meal Plan

10-Meal Faculty/Staff/Commuter Punch Card

The **18-Meal Plan** consists of breakfast, lunch, and dinner served Monday-Friday, with lunch and dinner being offered on Saturday and lunch offered on Sunday. Students may make any food choices they desire in the Cafeteria with unlimited servings.

The **10-Meal Commuter/Faculty/Staff Punch Card** may be used for any meal with unlimited servings except for premium meals (premium meals are special meals held once a month, commonly referred to as "steak night" and defined as: an eight-ounce steak, breaded shrimp, prime rib, game hen, half a chicken, triple bacon cheeseburgers, 8" deep pan pizzas or salmon steaks), and offers a discount from the Casual Meal Rate.

Meal Plan Rates

Rates are based upon a sliding scale that varies the cost based on the number of resident students so that as Wharton County grows, the increase in residents on meal plans are reflected in lower rates to the College and a guarantee of **212.5** full service days.

<i>116—130</i>	<i>\$13.88</i>
<i>100—115</i>	<i>\$14.83</i>
<i>99—Below</i>	<i>To Be Negotiated</i>

Commuter/Faculty/Staff 10-Meal Punch Card

<i>Card Price</i>	<i>\$77.39</i>
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Guest Meal Rates

<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>\$6.80</i>
<i>Lunch & Dinner</i>	<i>\$10.82</i>
<i>Special Events</i>	<i>\$11.85</i>

Applicable state sales tax will be charged on the above prices.

Admissions Meals

When prospective students visit the College during Orientation or campus tours, a special rate of \$6.43 per meal will be offered. Arrangements for meal tickets and billing would need to be made prior to the visiting students' arrival by the Admissions Office with GWD's Food Service Director.



Summer Session/Camps & Conferences Rates

Great Western will make a charge of **TWENTY-ONE DOLLARS AND ONE CENT (\$21.01)** per day per camper for each day of Sports Camps and Band Pre-school Camp. Sports camp meal service will consist of Breakfast **(\$5.45)**, Lunch **(\$6.83)** and Dinner **(\$8.73)**.

Pre/Post-Semester Sports Team Rates

The per-student daily rate for sports teams staying in the residence halls and eating in the cafeteria prior to the start of regular board rates shall be based on the number of participating students.

The applicable rate is as follows:

100–150 students: **\$19.00** per student per day
50–99 students: **\$19.31** per student per day
25–49 students (minimum): **\$20.63** per student per day

The minimum group size for these rates is **25** participating students

Hours of Operation

GWD shall maintain hours of operation as determined by the Vice President of Administrative Services and hours will not be less than 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM for the Snack Bar for the first semester. At the end of the semester, hours for the Snack Bar will be analyzed and any changes will be mutually agreed upon by GWD and WCJC.

The main cafeteria is expected to be open at least 1 1/2 hours for breakfast, 2 hours at lunch, and 1 1/2 hours at dinner. The exact times should be mutually agreed upon after reviewing class schedules.

Residential Dining Hours:

Monday – Friday

Breakfast	7:15 AM – 9:00 AM
Lunch	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Dinner	5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Saturday

Lunch	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Dinner	5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Sunday

Lunch	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
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Snack Bar Hours:

Monday – Friday	7:30 AM – 2:00 PM
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Additional Provisions

Continuous Monitoring:

As we work to develop and enhance your dining program, we will continually assess and analyze your campus climate so that all campus market segments' needs for dining are met. We will also continually develop and adjust our menus so that we find the optimal mix of traditional, International, vegetarian and contemporary resident dining offerings, monitoring trends and introducing new ideas, and continually evaluating what works for your campus population.

Background Checks

Great Western Dining will provide the College with criminal background checks and will consult with the College prior to hiring anyone with a criminal history.

Guarantee of Service Days:

Meal plan rates are based on a minimum of **212.5** full service days.

Catering Manual:

Catering Manual prices will be increased 4.0% to begin August 1, 2026 and continue through July 31, 2027.

Advance Board Bill:

GWD will submit an invoice of one (1) month average anticipated board cost to WCJC by July 1 of the corresponding year. WCJC will need to pay this invoice by August 1. The advance board bill will begin to be credited back to the College in May each year.

Guarantee of Rates and Fees:

All rates and fees proposed to WCJC and any other financial arrangements related to the dining service operation and contained in this proposal will be maintained and guaranteed by GWD for a period of TWELVE (12) FULL MONTHS from the date GWD commences operations.

Subsequent years' board rates shall be negotiated with the College and shall not increase by more than the Consumer Price Index "Food Away From Home," for all urban consumers.

If the guaranteed number of days set forth in Exhibit A are not achieved during any particular semester due to the President of the United States, Governor of the State of Texas, or Local Health Department declaring a medical necessity to close our dormitories the College shall pay GWD an amount equal to the food and beverage costs already purchased by GWD to provide services. The amount when added to previous invoices for cafeteria services shall not exceed the guarantee for the semester of \$140,000.00.



In addition, should the College not be able to achieve the guaranteed number of days set forth in Exhibit A for any other reason than that listed above, the College agrees to also reimburse GWD the documented amount of the Cafeteria Manager's salary & benefits for the remainder of the semester.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

**WHARTON COUNTY
JUNIOR COLLEGE:**

**GREAT WESTERN DINING
SERVICE, INC.:**

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: John Nilges

Title: _____

Title: Co-President & CAO

Date: _____

Date: _____