



Texas Southmost College

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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 23, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on January 23, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Ms. Delia Saenz, Vice Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Secretary, Ms. Alejandra Aldrete, Mr. Edgar Garcia, and Mr. Edward Camarillo. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent was Dr. Tony Zavaleta.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Garza at 5:30 p.m. She called role and confirmed a quorum.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Trustee Aldrete led the United States Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

Chair Garza asked if there were any speakers signed up for public comment. There were no public speakers.

4. Chairwoman's Report

Chair Garza presented the following items:

TCOLE Visit

Texas Southmost College hosted the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement roundtable listening session on January 10th. This visit was facilitated by TCOLE Commissioner Patricia Burruss, who is Chair Garza's daughter. Chair Garza said it was a well-attended and successful event. Topics included items such as school security, jailers, and training. Participants attended a competition for high school law enforcement students, which was held at ITECC, and they were very impressed.

Spring Convocation

Spring Convocation was held on January 13th. Chair Garza said it was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the faculty and staff, and a lot of information was shared. She said she is always very pleased when people stop her and ask how to become a part of TSC, and she complimented President Rodríguez for being a good ambassador for the college. She also thanked Vice Chair Saenz, Secretary Lopez Harris, and Trustee Camarillo for participating in convocation.

5. **President's Report**

President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza for her complimentary words and said he is honored to work with the support of the Board of Trustees and the wonderful colleagues he has at TSC. He also noted that the TCOLE Round Table attracted a big turn out from the community, who embraced the training and information discussed. He thanked Commissioner Burruss and the new Executive Director, Greg Stevens, for hosting the event at TSC. He noted that the roundtable event coincided very nicely with the Texas Public Safety Administration Regional Competition, which took place at ITECC on January 11th, drawing in 232 high school students from the mid and lower Rio Grande Valley, as well as judges from throughout the community.

Fall Commencement

President Rodríguez noted that the TSC Fall 2024 graduating class was more than 250 members strong, which included the very first Hidalgo County dual enrollment graduates from La Villa Early College High School. Dr. Gonzalo Salazar, who is a Texas Southmost College alumnus and superintendent of the Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District, served as the commencement speaker. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza, Secretary Lopez Harris, Trustee Aldrete, Trustee Camarillo, and Trustee Garcia for taking part in the celebration.

ADN and LVN Pinning Ceremonies

The Fall 2024 ADN and LVN graduates were honored at their pinning ceremonies in December, and President Rodríguez shared that 100% of the nursing students had job offers upon graduation. He thanked Chair Garza, Vice Chair Saenz, and Trustee Camarillo for attending the event to celebrate with the students and their families.

WTCE graduations

WTCE celebrated several classes of graduates in December.

- The PCT and CNA graduation was held on December 5th. These healthcare professionals completed their GED and CNA Certificate at the same time, and are being hired in the community by employers such as Valley Regional Medical Center. President Rodríguez thanked Trustee Camarillo for participating in the event.
- Eighteen cadets graduated from the Criminal Justice Institute on December 7th. President Rodríguez shared that 16 of them, or 88.9%, have already passed their TCOLE exam, and the other two are studying up to take the exam. He thanked Chair Garza, Secretary Lopez Harris, Trustee Aldrete, and Trustee Camarillo for supporting the CJI graduates at the event.
- TSC also celebrated the graduation of a new class of pipefitting students. These graduates are being hired by top employers such as Bechtel Construction Services.

Holiday Events

The Scorpion Community participated in a number of holiday celebrations.

- The season kicked off with the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, which was held on December 3rd. More than 300 Scorpions and community members participated, including the Perez Elementary Cheerleaders, Saint Mary's Cheerleaders, A. X. Benavides Elementary Choir, little scorpions from the Raul G. Guerra Early Childhood Center, and Mariachi Escorpión. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza, Vice Chair Saenz, Secretary Lopez Harris, Trustee Aldrete, and Trustee Camarillo for participating.

- Faculty and staff celebrated the season at the TSC Holiday Luncheon on December 5th, which marks the season of tamales for many. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza, Vice Chair Saenz, Secretary Lopez Harris, and Trustee Camarillo for participating and showing support for the Scorpion family.
- The Board of Trustees participated in Brownsville's Christmas Parade on December 7th. This is much-anticipated annual event, as it is a good opportunity to interact with the community. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza, Secretary Lopez Harris, Trustee Camarillo, Trustee Aldrete, and Trustee Garcia for participating.
- The campus community supported Perez Elementary through a Toy Drive, delivering more than 350 toys to children on December 19th, and President Rodríguez thanked everyone for making the holidays even brighter for these families.

President Rodríguez said it is evident how engaged the Trustees are with their constituents, and he thanked them for volunteering of their time to support the college and the community.

Spring Convocation

Faculty and staff were welcomed to a new semester at Spring Convocation on January 13th, as noted by Chair Garza. During the event, President Rodríguez provided a briefing on the upcoming legislative session, and each Vice President shared highlights from their division. President Rodríguez extended his thanks to Chair Garza, Vice Chair Saenz, Secretary Lopez Harris, and Trustee Camarillo for participating in the event.

Leadership Brownsville

President Rodríguez met with Leadership Brownsville, on January 16th, during which he had the opportunity to share all of the good things happening at TSC. After learning about what TSC has to offer, these community leaders then go on to become ambassadors for the college. The administration was pleased to host the group on campus.

President Rodríguez shared that the Scorpion Community begins the new year with a renewed commitment to serving its communities with the strong support from the Board of Trustees, and with the steadfast dedication of faculty and staff.

6. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meetings:

a. Regular Meeting – November 21, 2024

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2024. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with South Texas Rehabilitation Hospital

Mr. Richard Mesquias, Vice President of External Relations and Workforce Development, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Mesquias said the agreement would place students in the following programs at the site to meet their accredited program specific competencies: Certified Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Licensed Vocational Nursing, and Associate Degree Nursing. Previously, the WTCE programs have not been included in this affiliation agreement with credit programs.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the clinical affiliation agreement with South Texas Rehabilitation Hospital and authorize President Rodríguez to sign the agreement, as presented. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. Student Services Committee

Chair Garza called upon Secretary Lopez Harris to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve a contract agreement with the RGV Food Bank Emergency Food Assistance Program

Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development, and Ms. Vanessa Vasquez, Associate Vice President of Student Services, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Plummer said the agreement would continue to support TSC students by partnering with the RGV Food Bank. Ms. Vasquez said the TSC point of contacts needs to be updated in the agreement for the distribution of USDA food packages or meals. The RGV Food Bank conducted an audit of the TSC Food Pantry in November, and TSC received a perfect audit score. Approximately 500 TSC students are served by the campus food bank each year, and Student Services staff conducts outreach on campus to increase awareness of the resources available.

Secretary Lopez Harris made a motion to approve the RGV Food Bank Emergency Food Assistance Program and authorize President Rodríguez to sign the agreement as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Policy Committee

Chair Garza called on Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on the approval of the following LOCAL policies: CAK Appropriations and Revenue Sources: Investments; CDE Accounting: Financial Ethics; DHB Employee Standards of Conduct: Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting; and FAA Equal Educational Opportunity: Pregnant and Parenting Students

Mr. Ruben Pena, College Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Pena provided an overview of the Texas Association of School Boards Community College Localized Policy Manual Update 48 released in December 2024. Update 48 contained revisions to four LOCAL policies:

- CAK Appropriations and Revenue Sources: Investments
- CDE Accounting: Financial Ethics
- DHB Employee Standards of Conduct: Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
- FAA Equal Educational Opportunity: Pregnant and Parenting Students

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, noted that the review of CAK Appropriations and Revenue Sources serves as the required annual review.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the TASB recommended revisions to the following LOCAL policies: CAK, CDE, DHB, and FAA. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action to approve revision to GD (LOCAL) Community Expression and Use of College Facilities

Mr. Ruben Pena, College Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Pena provided a summary of the proposed change to the timeframe required for submission of requests from 90 days to 30 days prior to the event.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the revision to GD (LOCAL), as written. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve sponsorship for use of facilities in accordance with GD (LOCAL) Community Expression and Use of College Facilities

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, was called upon to present the item. She reviewed the request from the Mr. Amigo Association for sponsorship and use of the TSC Performing Arts Center Lobby for the *Bienvenida*, which welcomes Mr. Amigo to the community. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the importance of the college participating in community events.

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve the Mr. Amigo sponsorship as requested. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Facilities Update

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff; Mr. Ronald Robles, Director of Operations- Facilities; Mr. George Hinojosa, Coordinator of Administrative Services; and Mr. Gerardo Mascorro, HVAC Supervisor, were called upon to present the item. The projects reviewed included the REK Center and Child Care Center Unit 2 chillers, thermal plant cooling tower installation, pipe fitting lab at ITECC, National Fitness Challenge Fitness Court, Gorgas Board Room and Conference Room, and the thermal plant hydronic system. The Trustees and President thanked the facilities team for working throughout the holidays to ensure the college stays up and running.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

11. Finance Committee

Chair Garza called upon Vice Chair Saenz to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on contract approval from Information Technology emergency and incident response professional services

Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the proposal for additional management and support of critical Information Technology and cybersecurity issues by assisting with investigations of incidents, containing actions, and restoring normal operations. The purchase would be made through the Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (TIPS).

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve a contract for professional services with Sequel Data Systems Incorporated through TIPS contract number 210101 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on contract approval of remote managed services

Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology, was called upon to present the item. The proposed contract would facilitate remote managed services from Sequel Data Systems Incorporated and Shadow IT. The purchase would be made through the Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (TIPS). The board engaged in a brief discussion of the scope of work covered under the contract, and thanked Mr. Villarreal, his team, and professional colleagues for their work over the winter break.

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the contract for remote managed services with Sequel Data Systems Incorporated through TIPS Contract number 210101 in the amount of \$92,360 plus up to \$5,000 for technical support, if needed, and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. First Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2025

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero presented the First Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2025.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

d. Grants Report for November and December 2024

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero presented the Monthly Financial Statement Report for the months of November and December 2024.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

12. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:50 p.m.

13. Action on Executive Session Matters**a. Consultation with Attorney on Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Section 551.071 Texas Government Code**

No action was taken.

b. Consultation with Attorney on Pending Real Estate Issues, Section 551.072 Texas Government Code

No action was taken.

c. Deliberation on Personnel Matters, Section 551.074 Texas Government Code

No action was taken.

d. Deliberation regarding security devices or security audits; Section 551.089 Texas Government Code

No action was taken.


14. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates


a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, February 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, March 27, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion adjourn. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


Ms. Adela Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees


Dr. Norma Lopez Harris
Secretary, Board of Trustees