



# Texas Southmost College

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## TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

### Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

**October 17, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on October 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Ms. Delia Suenz, Vice Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Secretary, Ms. Alejandra Aldrete, Dr. Tony Zavaleta, Mr. Edgar Garcia, and Mr. Eduard Camarillo. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College.

## 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. She then introduced Mariachi Escorpión, who serenaded President Rodríguez for his birthday.

### 2. Pledges of Allegiance

Trustee Zavaleta 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. Texas Southmost College Foundation Check Presentation

Mr. Roy De los Santos, TSC Foundation Chair, was called upon to make the presentation. He said he was honored to be asked to serve on the TSC Foundation and help manage the growth of the foundation funds, with support from the college leadership. He and fellow TSC Foundation Board members, Mr. Roel Rodríguez and Dr. Gustavo Stern presented TSC with a check for \$650,000 to be used for student scholarships.

### 5. Chairwoman's Report

Chair Garza presented the following items:

#### UK vs US boxing at Jacob Brown Auditorium

TSC was host to the Transatlantic Clash boxing event between rising stars from the United Kingdom vs. South Texas. She said it was an amazing event and she was very proud of the way TSC pursues a wide variety

of events and the people the college brings together. Chair Garza helped welcome the UK boxing team at the airport, then TSC hosted a press conference at the TSC Performing Arts Center. She said the boxing matches, held at the Jacob Brown Auditorium on October 5<sup>th</sup>, were very well attended and it was a well-run event. She thanked Secretary Lopez Harris, Trustee Aldrete, Trustee Camarillo, and President Rodríguez for also participating in the events.

## **6. President's Report**

### **Buffalo Soldier Historic Marker Unveiling**

Texas Southmost College hosted an event to unveil the Texas Historical Commission marker, which celebrates the African American Troops at Fort Brown. The marker, located outside of the Regiment House, recognizes the service of the Buffalo Soldiers along the U.S.-Mexico border, as well as the challenges they endured. The marker will continue to entice the public to come to campus to learn more about local history and honor soldiers who served here. He thanked Chair Garza, Vice Chair Saenz, Secretary Lopez Harris, and Trustee Zavaleta for participating, as well as Dr. Donald Hamm for his collaboration in organizing the event.

### **Harlingen Rotary Presentation**

President Rodríguez was the featured speaker at the Harlingen Rotary Meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>, at the invitation of TSC Foundation Board member Roel Rodríguez. He shared updates about TSC's academic and workforce programs and spoke about the progress the college continues to make in increasing enrollment and enhancing student success. He extended his thanks to the Rotarians for the opportunity to strengthen our connection with the Harlingen community.

Chair Garza said he was very proud of President Rodríguez's presentation and his ability to inspire audiences and field questions.

### **CTE Summit**

The Workforce Training and Continuing Education (WTCE), Instruction, and Student Services divisions partnered to host a Career and Technical Education (CTE) summit for BISD administrators and faculty on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Participants were treated to tours of CTE programs and labs at ITECC, which included the Health Professions; Business, Engineering, Architecture, and Technology; as well as WTCE programs and labs. Participants learned about the many pathways provided for students to help them connect to high-wage, high-demand careers. President Rodríguez thanked Ms. Vanessa Vasquez for being the mastermind behind the event and securing funding from Region One to provide professional development for K-12 partners. He also thanked Benita Villarreal, BISD's CTE director, and those on campus who collaborated to make the event possible.

### **TSC Open House**

TSC hosted a successful open house for the community on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Community members learned about TSC's programs of study, academic and support services, financial aid, student success, student clubs, the Scorpion Opportunity Hub, and how parents can navigate college when they are students, themselves. Community members were also assisted in applying for admissions and registering for the spring semester. President Rodríguez thanked the Student Services, WTCE, Instruction, and Finance and Administration Divisions, as well as participating students, for their collaboration to make the Open House a success. He also thanked Trustee Camarillo for participating in the event.

**School Groundbreaking**

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, President Rodríguez and Dr. Plummer attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the Brownsville Raul Yzaguirre Schools for Success. They joined Dr. Adriana Tamez, Superintendent, and Ms. Knosel, Principal, as the school begins their expansion of a 9th-12th grade campus.

**Raymondville High School Football game**

President Rodríguez participated in the coin toss at Raymondville High School's football game last month, at the invitation of Dr. Ben Clinton, Deputy Superintendent. He said it was a great way to celebrate TSC's long-standing partnership with Raymondville ISD, and he thanked the Student Services team for promoting TSC to the community before, during, and after the game.

**5th Annual Vendor Seminar**

The Purchasing Department hosted the 5th Annual Vendor Seminar on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. More than 30 vendors attended, both local and from across South Texas. During the seminar, they learned about how to do business with TSC, such as how to register to become a vendor and navigate the procurement process. In addition, local representatives from state-wide co-ops helped vendors learn how to become members of the co-ops and benefit from pre-negotiated contracts. President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Gisela Figueroa and her team for coordinating an educational event for the business community.

**ITECC visits**

TSC's ITEC Center continues to serve as an important regional hub for education and workforce training. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, the State Board of Education representative for District 2, L. J. Francis, participated in a tour of the facility to learn more about TSC's workforce training programs. The following day, Mr. Alberto Trevino, Commissioner Representing Labor for the Texas Workforce Commission, also toured ITECC. He participated in discussions with select industry partners about their training needs. President Rodríguez thanked Mr. Richard Mesquias and Dr. David Plummer for coordinating these visits.

**IMMT Certification**

TSC's Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology program has earned silver-level status as an Authorized Certification Assessment Center. This designation was awarded by the Smart Automation Certification Alliance, with certifications tailored for current workers, college students, and dual credit students seeking to become familiar with Industry 4.0 factory floor automation equipment and processes. President Rodríguez thanked Instructor Juan Rivera for completing the training and documentation needed to offer this new certification to our students and communities.

**Employee Recognition**

President Rodríguez recognized Dr. Angela McCauley, who was a featured speaker at the Sacramento Mountain Foundation Nonprofit Summit, which was held in Alamogordo, New Mexico last month. During her presentation, Asset-based Grant Writing, she shared strategies for conducting stakeholder activities that lead to writing successful grant proposals. President Rodríguez thanked her for representing TSC and sharing her expertise at the summit.

**World Architecture Day**

TSC's architecture students celebrated World Architecture Day on October 7<sup>th</sup>, in an event that was open to the community. They displayed their course projects in architectural history and design, comprised of handmade models and 3D print models. President Rodríguez thanked Instructor Dr. Adriana Rios for the exceptional experience she provides for students.

**Soccer Update**

The last home Scorpion soccer match will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Scorpion Field vs. Angelina College. President Rodríguez shared that the women's soccer team earned a spot in the playoffs, with the first playoff game taking place October 25<sup>th</sup>. The men's team has another regular season game next week and are still in the running to qualify for the playoffs.

**Student Services events**

President Rodríguez noted that there have been a number of new activities taking place in the new game room, such as a dominoes tournament, inflatable darts, loteria, ping pong, and a Madden tournament. In addition, the Student Services Division has recently held:

- Career and Employment Services Office Hours and Employer Connections;
- Student Government Association weekly meetings;
- A Recreation Center bash;
- Soccer and volleyball intramurals;
- Breakfast with the President; and
- Pizza with the President.

**Video Presentation**

President Rodríguez shared a video highlighting college activities since the last regular board meeting.

President Rodríguez thanked the Board of Trustees for their continued commitment and support to the college. He also thanked the entire campus community for the good work taking place to support student success, as well as the many events that helps TSC stay connected to its communities.

**7. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meetings:****a. Public Hearing – August 29, 2024**

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on August 29, 2024. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**b. Regular Meeting – September 19, 2024**

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2024. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**8. Consideration and possible action to review and reaffirm Texas Southmost College's Mission Statement**

Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology, was called upon to present the item. He noted that the mission statement for Texas Southmost College is to be reviewed on even numbered years as per the Board of Trustees' Guidelines for Review of the Institution's Mission Statement, which is part of the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation. The mission statement is "Transforming our communities through innovative learning opportunities."

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to reaffirm Texas Southmost College's mission statement as written. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



**9. Academic Committee**

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Zavaleta to present the report.

**a. Consideration and possible action on Articulation Agreement between Texas Southmost College and Abilene Christian University**

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the agreement provides for the seamless transfer of TSC students' academic credits to Abilene Christian University and its baccalaureate programs.

**Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the Articulation Agreement between Texas Southmost College and Abilene Christian University, and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

**10. Finance Committee**

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

**a. Consideration and possible action on approval of Budget Amendment 25-001 for the rollover of FY24 purchase orders commitments and pending projects**

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. She said the budget amendment would allow TSC to fulfill FY24 purchase orders on approved projects for which the college has a contractual obligation.

**Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 25-001 as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**b. Consideration and possible action on approval of Budget Amendment 25-002 to recognize excess revenue in the amount of \$259,262**

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. She said the budget amendment would recognize excess revenue from fall tuition and fees and FAST revenue. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the amount of revenue recognized from each category.

**Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 25-002 for Fiscal Year 2025 as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**c. Fourth Quarter investment Report for Fiscal Year 2024**

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called on to present the agenda item. Mr. Pecero reviewed the Fourth Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2024. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the running totals of investments over the year. The item was for information only. No action was taken.

**11. Facilities Committee**

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

**a. Consideration and possible action to cancel RFP 24-18 Internet Protocol (IP) Based Surveillance Camera and Door Access Control**

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/ Chief of Staff, was called upon to present the item. She said the proposed action would cancel RFP 24-18 and allow staff to issue a new RFP that will stipulate state requirements in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code.

**Trustee Camarillo made a motion to cancel RFP 24-18. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**b. Consideration and possible action on approval of Charro Days Festivities sponsorships in accordance with GD (LOCAL) Community Expression and Use of College Facilities**

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, and Mrs. Erika Fayett, Coordinator of Leasing and Events, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Garcia said Charro Days Fiesta Inc. and the Rotary Club of Brownsville Sunrise have requested sponsorships for Charro Days. She reviewed the requests, lease estimates, and sponsorship proposals. The board engaged in a discussion of participating in future events during Charro Days.

**Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve Charro Day Fiesta, Inc. and Rotary Club of Brownsville Sunrise sponsorship requests as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**c. Facilities Update**

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, and Mr. Ronald Robles, Director of Operations- Facilities, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Robles reported out on the dedicated chiller plant for the TSC REK Center and Child Care Center Unit 2 project, as well as the cooling tower installation. Chair Garza complemented Mr. Mascorro on the progress he is making on multiple projects. Mr. Robles also briefed the board on the South Padre Island Coast Guard Station and Amphitheater projects.

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

**12. Student Services Committee**

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

**a. Consideration and possible action on approval of the Data Sharing Agreement between Texas Southmost College and Region One Education Service Center**

Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development, and Mrs. Vanessa Vasquez, Associate Vice President of Student Services, were called upon to present the item. Ms. Vasquez said the agreement would allow collaboration between Region One and TSC to identify GEAR UP students enrolled at TSC. Region One supports student persistence by providing supplemental resources.

**Secretary Lopez Harris made a motion to approve the Data Sharing Agreement between Texas Southmost College and Region One Education Service Center. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

**13. Executive Session**

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:34 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:34 p.m.

Trustee Zavaleta departed following Executive Session

**14. 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**

Trustee Garcia made a motion that the Board of Trustees adopt the Texas Southmost College strategic priorities for FY2025, as discussed in Executive Session. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion that the Board of Trustees adopt the revisions to the FY2024-2025 salary schedule, as discussed in Executive Session. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.


**15. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates**

**a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, November 21, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

**b. Regular Board Meeting – January 16, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

**16. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion adjourn. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

  
Ms. Adela Garza  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Dr. Norma Lopez Harris  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

*The video recording of the Special Board of Trustees meeting held on October 18, 2024 is available on the TSC.EDU website. These minutes were prepared by Dr. Angela K. McCauley, Chief Institutional Editor and Special Projects. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996.*