



Texas Southmost College

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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

February 20, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on February 20, 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; Dr. Tony Zavaleta; Mr. Edgar Garcia; and Mr. Edward 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.

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. Chairwoman's Report

Chair Garza presented the following items:

TSC Foundation Donor Meet and Greet

The TSC Foundation Donor Meet and Greet took place on January 30th. Chair Garza said it was a wonderful event in the TSC Performing Arts Center, and that she was very proud of the TSC Foundation for the scholarships they raise on behalf of the student. She thanked the TSC Foundation Board, supported by Julie Villalon and Dr. Stella Garcia, for organizing the event. She also thanked Secretary Lopez Harris for participating, as well as TSC Foundation members: Edward Bustos, Maru De La Paz, Roel Rodriguez, and Dr. Gustavo Stern.

ACCT Legislative Summit

Chair Garza, Trustee Camarillo, and President Rodríguez traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the Association of Community College Trustees Legislative Summit. While there, they met with Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, Senator John Cornyn, and Senator Ted Cruz to discuss legislative priorities and community projects. The TSC delegation was well received by the RGV congressional team and the state senator.

PI ISD Ribbon Cutting event

Chair Garza and President Rodríguez attended the Point Isabel ISD College and Career Academy Ribbon Cutting event on February 5th for the new building that will house their CTE programs. Chair Garza said that it was important TSC was represented at the event, and the Point Isabel school district expressed an interest in expanding its dual credit relationship with TSC.

5. President's Report**Living History Day**

TSC hosted Living History Day during the first weekend in February. This year's event featured approximately 20 historical re-enactors representing various periods in US history, as well as historical periods around the world in Europe and Asia. President Rodríguez thanked the History Department and Student Services Division for collaborating on the event, as well as Dr. Prisci Tipton for supporting the attendance of 600 middle and high school students through the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. He also thanked Chair Garza for attending the event.

TSC Campus Tours for high schools

TSC's recruitment staff has recently hosted a number of campus tours for high school students, including students from Jubilee Academy, Porter High School, and IDEA Riverview. The tours allow students and families to experience the beautiful and historic campus and observe the college's welcoming environment. President Rodríguez thanked Ms. Vanessa Vasquez and her team for their continued efforts to showcase TSC.

Financial Aid nights

February is financial aid month, and TSC's Student Services team has taken their expertise on the road to assist families in completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Over the past few weeks, they have held Financial Aid Nights at Harlingen CISD, Los Fresnos CISD, and San Benito ISD. President Rodríguez thanked the Student Services staff for assisting families in affording a college education.

BISD Principal for a Day

TSC leaders participated in this year's Principal for a Day in the Brownsville Independent School District. Vice Chair Saenz was at Breeden Elementary, Trustee Camarillo was at Vela Middle School, Trustee Garcia was at Benavides Elementary, and Dr. Prisci Tipton was at Besteiro Middle School. President Rodríguez extend his thanks to all participants for continuing to strengthen TSC's ties in the community.

Faculty Art Exhibit

Approximately 200 people attended opening night of the Faculty Art Exhibit, held on February 12th at the ITECC Art Gallery. The exhibit featured the work of eight faculty, showcasing the instructional staff's creativity, expertise, and diverse artistic practices, as well as promoting engagement in the arts. President Rodríguez thanked the faculty who shared their personal work at the exhibit, and thanked Vice Chair Saenz and Secretary Lopez Harris for supporting faculty at the event.

Student Services Events

The Student Services Division hosted a number of events designed to engage students, including:

- Scorpion Spring Bash
- Scorpion Club Fair
- Student-Faculty Social
- Intramurals in basketball and indoor soccer
- Kickoff events for the Student Government Association, Campus Activities Board, and Scorpion Leadership Academy
- Valentine's Day Karaoke

President Rodríguez thanked Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development, for his leadership in the division.

Video Presentation

President Rodríguez shared a video highlighting college activities since November.

President Rodríguez extended his appreciation for the strong leadership and support from Board of Trustees as they help TSC set the course in serving its communities.

6. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution of Support for Continued Investment in the Dynamic Community College Funding Model

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the resolution. President Rodríguez noted that the resolution was drafted by the Texas Association of Community Colleges Trustees, and the organization is sending it out to all member organizations. Chair Garza said TSC's support of the resolution presents a united effort to the legislature in advocating for community college funding.

Resolution of Support

for Continued Investment in the Dynamic Community College Funding Model

Whereas, the State of Texas has demonstrated its commitment to student success and workforce development through the implementation of the outcomes-based funding model established by House Bill 8 during the 88th Legislature;

Whereas, this funding model represents a transformative approach to empowering community colleges to deliver measurable results in alignment with state workforce and educational goals;

Whereas, the funding model prioritizes student outcomes, including the attainment of credentials of value, dual credit opportunities, successful transfer to a four-year university, and support for economically disadvantaged students and adult learners;

Whereas, continued investment in this dynamic funding model will ensure Texas community colleges remain equipped to provide affordable, high-quality education that drives economic growth and mobility;

Whereas, Texas community colleges have requested support for formula funding recommendations made by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the FY 2026-2027 biennium, alongside a supplemental appropriations request for the current biennium to sustain progress and innovation;

Whereas, amendments to the state funding Performance Tier to include students transferring to private or independent institutions in Texas will strengthen student success pathways and acknowledge the key role these institutions play in the state's higher education and workforce development ecosystem;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Texas Southmost College officially declares its support for:

1. Continued investment in the outcomes-based funding model established by House Bill 8.
2. Full funding for the supplemental appropriations request for the FY 2024-2025 biennium.
3. Formula funding recommendations for the FY 2026-2027 biennium as proposed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
4. Amendments to the Performance Tier to include students who transfer to private or independent institutions of higher education in Texas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of this Board.

ADOPTED THIS 20th day of February, 2025, by the Board of Trustees of Texas Southmost College.

Chair Garza made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for Continued Investment in the Dynamic Community College Funding Model. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

a. Regular Meeting – January 23, 2025

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2025. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Finance Committee

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

a. Annual Financial Report and Audit for Texas Southmost College District for fiscal year ending August 31, 2024

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Figueroa introduced Mr. Alfred Vera, from Cascos and Associates, who presented the report. Dr. Figueroa noted that each year a different auditor is assigned to the project to ensure that a fresh pair of eyes conducts the audit each year. Mr. Vera said the college earned the highest opinion an organization can receive, an unmodified opinion. He then presented highlights from the report.

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

b. Consideration and possible action on adoption of a bank resolution for signature card authorization

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. She said the change removes her from the signature card and adds Mr. Pecero, who will serve as interim Chief Financial Officer beginning in March.

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT**Resolution**

Whereas, Texas Southmost College (the "College") needs to maintain banking relationships with various financial institutions; and

Whereas, Such financial institutions require the College to designate officers who are authorized to sign documents on behalf of the College; and

Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of Texas Southmost College designates the following officer(s) and/or authorized signatory(ies) as Authorized Signers to establish bank accounts on behalf of the College, close such accounts, operate such accounts, and designate persons to operate such accounts.

Name and Title

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Adela G. Garza</u> | – TSC Board Chair |
| 2. <u>Dr. Norma Harris</u> | – TSC Board Secretary |
| 3. <u>Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez</u> | – TSC President |
| 4. <u>Mr. Carlos Pecero</u> | – <u>Comptroller/Interim CFO</u> |

Resolved further, that a banking institution may rely upon this resolution in its entirety until receipt of notice in writing of any modification and/or revocation of authorized persons.

Upon motion duly seconded, the above resolution was passed at the special meeting of the Board of Trustees held on the Day of February 20, 2025.

Adela G. Garza
TSC Board Chair

Dr. Norma Lopez Harris
TSC Board Secretary

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to adopt the resolution for signature card authorization. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the months ended October 21, 2024, November 30, 2024, and December 31, 2024

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Figueroa said the financial statements for October, November, and December had been combined, due to the college's IT challenges in December. Mr. Pecero presented the report.

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

d. Annual Investment Report for fiscal year ended August 31, 2024

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Figueroa noted that this is a summary of the investment information that has been presented to the Board of Trustees each quarter. Mr. Pecero presented the annual investment report covering the period from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024.

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

e. Annual Review of CAK Local: Appropriations and Revenue Sources - Investments

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. He noted that the review is required, as described Government Code Chapter 2256. The board last revised the policy at the January 22, 2025 meeting and last conducted the annual review of the policy at the February 21, 2024 meeting. There are currently no additional recommendations to update the policy. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the process of reviewing the policy through the policy committee in January.

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to acknowledge the annual review of CAK Local: Appropriations and Revenue Sources - Investments. Secretary Lopez Harris 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 approval of annual lease for fully equipped patrol vehicles

Mr. Richard Mesquias, Vice President of External Relations and Workforce Development, and Dr. Angelica Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Workforce Training and Continuing Education, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Mesquias said the leased patrol vehicles will be used for the driving portion of the Basic Peace Officers Course, and would be funded through the Perkins grant. The board engaged in a brief discussion of possible additional costs, such as insurance, maintenance, and permanent acquisition of the vehicles.

Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the lease agreement for two fully equipped patrol vehicles with American National Leasing Company through TIPS contract in the amount of \$41,801 annually for three years and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on approval of an affiliation agreement with Neighbors in Need of Services (NINOS) for the Child Care and Development Program

Dr. Christopher Alves, Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed MOU would allow NINOS/Head Start employees to complete their program's required practicum hours at their workplace (NINOS).

Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the affiliation agreement with NINOS for students enrolled in the Child Care and Development program and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of ITECC Campus Main Fire Line Repairs

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 presented the scope of work, quotes received through the Purchasing Cooperative, and the budget and financial impact.

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve ITECC campus main fire line repairs with A1 Facility Services through TIPS contract in the amount of \$164,286 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. 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: 1. Dedicated Chiller for REK Center and Child Care Unit 2, 2. Thermal Plant Cooling Tower Installation, 3. Thermal Plant Chiller Installation, 4. Pipe Fitting Lab (ITECC), 5. National Fitness Challenge Fitness Court, 6. Gorgas Board Room and Conference Room, 7. Thermal Plant Hydronic System (Engineering Funded), and 8. PUB Water Tower Demolition.

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

11. Student Services Committee

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

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Abilene Christian University and Texas Southmost College to provide a ten percent (10%) tuition reduction to TSC employees who meet ACU's admissions standards

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. Ms. Vasquez said the agreement would benefit TSC employees seeking to continue their education. Those who meet Abilene Christian University's admissions standards will receive a 10% reduction in tuition and fees.

Secretary Lopez Harris made a motion to approve an MOU with Abilene Christian University and authorize President Rodríguez to sign the agreement. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

12. 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: BBD, BBF, BBG, BBH, and GDA

Mr. Ruben Pena, College Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Pena provided an overview of the changes proposed for the following LOCAL policies:

- BBD Board Members: Orientation and Training: annual training Plan added
- BBF Board Members: Ethics: new reference to Association of Community College Trustees Guide to Ethical Governance
- BBG Board Members: Compensation and Expenses: clarification on language
- BBH Board Members: Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops: new policy
- GDA Community Expression and Use of College Facilities: Conduct on College District Premises: clarification on language

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the following policies: BBD, BBF, BBG, BBH, and GDA, as presented. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

13. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:54 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:32 p.m.

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

No action was taken.

d. Deliberation regarding security devices or security audits; Section 551.089 CLOSED MEETING.

No action was taken.

15. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

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

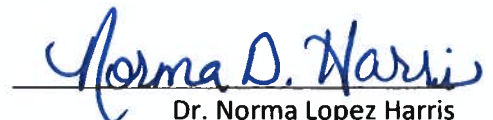
b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, April 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Trustee Camarillo made a motion adjourn. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 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 February 20, 2025 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.