



**Board of Trustees**

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**TSC President**

*Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, Ph.D.*

**TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**April 16, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on April 16, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Ms. Delia Saenz, Vice Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Secretary; Dr. Tony Zavaleta; Ms. Alejandra Aldrete; Mr. Edward Camarillo; and Mr. Edgar Garcia. 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 roll 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**

**Brownsville State of the City**

Since the Board of Trustees last met, the college hosted the Brownsville State of the City event at the TSC Performing Arts Center, and TSC was featured in one of the partner videos. Chair Garza said TSC continues to enhance its relationship with the mayor and commissioners, and she thanked Vice Chair Saenz, Secretary Lopez Harris, Trustee Camarillo, and Trustee Garcia for helping to represent the college at the event.

**Centennial Historic Run**

As part of the 100th anniversary celebration, TSC held a Historic Run on March 28<sup>th</sup>, which was a very popular event. More than 300 people registered and had a wonderful time. Chair Garza thanked Trustee Camarillo and Trustee Garcia for coming out to support the event and gave a special acknowledgement to Secretary Lopez Harris for participating in the 5K.

**Diamond Gala**

Chair Garza said the Diamond Gala was a beautiful event. The college has already raised more than \$385,000 in sponsorships for all centennial events thus far, including the Gala. She thanked all of the staff who helped make the event successful. She noted that it was also a very special evening for her and her family.

**5. President's Report****Police Academy training renewal**

President Rodríguez began his report with the good news that the Texas Southmost College's Police Academy training provider renewal application was approved for two additional years. This approval followed a successful audit process, where the TSC team, led by Dr. Angela Fuentes and Cristobal Abrego, demonstrated the program's full compliance and readiness. Under this renewal, the College will continue offering the Basic Peace Officer Certification and the Basic Correctional Officer Certification. President Rodríguez extended his congratulations to the Workforce Training and Continuing Education (WTCE) team for their continued good work to serve TSC's communities. In addition, the college received news that all of its 11 candidates passed their Basic Correctional Officer TCOLE licensing exam. The Trustees applauded the good news and complimented the team.

**Law Enforcement Symposium**

TSC hosted a Law Enforcement Symposium in partnership with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Dual Enrollment students, on-campus students, and the public were invited to the symposium at the TSC Performing Arts Center. The panel of speakers was comprised of representatives from the Texas Highway Patrol, Texas Rangers, Special Operations Groups, and the Crisis Negotiations Unit. In addition, students also had up-close encounters with DPS BearCat vehicles, ATVs, and boats, which were staged in the Jacob Brown parking lot. President Rodríguez extended his thanks to Chair Garza, Vice Chair Saenz, and Trustee Camarillo for attending.

President Rodríguez added that he received a very nice note from DPS Trooper Yvette Vela, who was instrumental in coordinating the event. She is a TSC alumna and advocated for the symposium in order to hold open the doors of opportunity for the next generation of TSC students. She thanked the many faculty and staff who made the event successful.

**TACTE presentation**

The Criminal Justice Institute was also featured during a state-wide conference at the Texas Association of College Technical Educators. Dr. Angelica Fuentes, Daniela Canales, and Dulce Hernandez presented at the TACTE conference this year on the CJI success and innovative uses of Perkins funding. President Rodríguez extended his thanks to the staff members for sharing your expertise with your colleagues from across Texas.

**Senator Cornyn Roundtable**

Workforce training was also in the spotlight during the roundtable event Senator Cornyn held at the Port of Brownsville last week. President Rodríguez had the opportunity to share the good work taking place at Texas Southmost College that supports Brownsville's growth. TSC alum, Roberto Silva, also participated in the discussion. He graduated last spring with a certificate in Auto Mechanics Technology and will graduate this May with his Associates in Automotive Technology. He is currently working as a technician with Toyota in Brownsville. TSC received nice coverage of the press conference from Telemundo.

**Hudson Elementary STAAR Rally**

President Rodríguez connected with 450 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders from Hudson Elementary this month during their STAAR testing rally. He provided encouragement for their testing week and spoke to them about the importance of doing their best in school. He noted that it is a great age to start introducing students to Texas Southmost College, and letting them know that the scorpion community looks forward to them becoming future Scorpions.

**CLNA Approval**

The college also received good news from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that TSC's Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment—or CLNA—was accepted as part of the Perkins Grant Program requirements. Data was collected from a wide range of TSC stakeholders, including faculty, high school partner schools, workforce boards, parents, students, and other community members. A CLNA committee, made up of our faculty, staff, and administrators then analyzed the data to develop goals and strategies that will be used to further enhance our student outcomes in CTE programs. After their review of TSC's CLNA, the Coordinating Board commended the team for the thoroughness and professionalism demonstrated in compiling the assessment. President Rodríguez extended his congratulations to Daniela Canales, program manager for the Perkins grant, and the entire CLNA committee for their diligent work in completing this project.

**Student Services Events**

With the spring semester in full swing, the hard-working Student Life team, continue to host events designed to engage the Scorpion community and promote student persistence, such as:

- Student Leadership Academy
- Paletas on the Paseo
- Mindful Mondays
- Men and women's soccer games
- Men and women's track and field events

President Rodríguez extended his thanks to the entire Student Life team for the great work they do throughout the semester.

**Video Presentation**

President Rodríguez shared a video, which highlighted college activities that have occurred since the board last met.

President Rodríguez thanked the Board of Trustees for their continued commitment to the college and the communities it serves. He also thanked the entire campus community for helping students finish the spring semester Scorpion Strong.

**6. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meeting:****a. Regular Meeting – March 12, 2026**

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2026. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**7. Consideration and possible action on passing a resolution to designate officer to calculate the no-new revenue and/or voter-approval tax rate for Tax Year 2026**

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the guidelines of the Texas Property Reform Act that the Board must meet when adopting a budget and new tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Frank Perez, Legal Counsel, read the resolution into the record.

**THE STATE OF TEXAS §**

**COUNTY OF CAMERON §**

**TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Southmost College District authorizes a designated officer or employee to calculate the no-new-revenue and/or the voter-approval tax rate for, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 26.04(c-1) of the Texas Tax Code provides that the governing body of a taxing unit will designate a person to also certify the accuracy of the tax rate calculations sheet.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Texas Southmost College District, acting through its governing body, hereby requests, in accordance with Section 26.04 (c-1) of the Texas Tax Code, the Vice President of Finance and Administration, Carlos Pecero, to calculate the no-new-revenue and/or voter-approval tax rate for tax year 2026 in the manner provided for a special taxing unit.

**ADOPTED** this 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY of APRIL 2026.

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Adela G. Garza  
TSC Board Chair

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Dr. Norma Lopez Harris  
TSC Board Secretary

Chair Garza made a motion to approve the resolution designating an officer to calculate the no-new revenue and/or voter-approval tax rate for Tax Year 2026. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## 8. Finance Committee

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

### a. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended February 28, 2026

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He presented the Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ending February 28, 2026.

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

### b. Second Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2026

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero reviewed the quarterly investment report covering the period from November 30, 2025 to February 28, 2026.

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

## 9. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Zavaleta to present the report.

### a. Consideration and possible action on approval of an Agreement between Texas Southmost College and Cameron County through its County Judge for use of the County Airport for Criminal Justice Institute training

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and External Relations, and Dr. Angelica M. Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Workforce Training and Continuing Education, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Fuentes said the proposed three-year agreement would allow TSC to provide safety training courses and exercise for the Criminal Justice Institution at the County Airport.

Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the agreement between Texas Southmost College and Cameron County through its County Judge for use of the County Airport and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**10. Facilities Committee**

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

**a. Consideration and possible action on award RFP 26-05 for Campus Tennis Courts Resurface**

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Ronald Robles, Executive Director of Facilities and Physical Plant, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Robles reviewed the RFP timeline, scope of work, evaluation committee, pricing and scoring tabulation, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. Four vendors responded to the RFP, with Casa Courts receiving the highest score from the committee. The board engaged in a brief discussion about additional updates to the courts, such as netting.

**Trustee Camarillo made a motion to award RFP 26-05 for campus tennis courts resurface to Casa Courts in the amount of \$215,000 plus five percent contingency, to cover unforeseen events, and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously**

**b. Facilities Update**

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Ronald Robles, Executive Director of Facilities and Physical Plant, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Robles provided an update on the following items: thermal plant cooling tower installation, and hydronic line replacement. Chair Garza complemented the entire Facilities team for their exemplary work.

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. Update on Registration Activities for Summer and Fall 2026**

Mrs. Vanessa Vasquez, Associate Vice President of Student Services, was called upon to present the item. She provided the board with information on high school registration events, on-campus registration events, and the wide array of active marketing campaigns.

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

**12. Policies Committee**

Chair Garza called on Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

**a. Consideration and possible action to approve the following TASB Update 50 LOCAL policies: DC, DH, DJA, DM, EFB, EGA, FB, FC, FLA, FLB, FLBE, and FLD**

Mr. Frank Perez, Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. He recommended tabling local policy DC. He has been working with TASB regarding a discrepancy and conflict between the DC legal and local policies.

- **DC – Employment Practices (Revise):** Recommended revisions address SB 37, which requires the board to approve hiring decisions for certain positions and allows the board to overturn hiring decisions for certain positions.

**Trustee Aldrete made a motion to table the following policy: DC local. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Mr. Perez provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the remaining local policies.

- **DH – Employee Standards of Conduct (Revise):** Recommended revisions address HB 46, which prohibits a college from restricting the storage of low-THC cannabis authorized by state law.
- **DJA – Assignment, Work Load, and Schedules: Telework (Add):** This new recommended local policy addresses SB 2615. It permits employees to telework only under certain specific circumstances.
- **DM – Termination of Employment (Revise):** Language related to dismissal of noncontractual employees has been moved to this policy to consolidate language related to termination of at-will employees.
- **EFB – Curriculum Design: Degrees and Certificates (Revise):** Recommended revisions incorporate SB 37, requiring the college's chief executive officer to develop procedures addressing a Low-Enrollment Certificate Program Review.
- **EGA – Academic Achievement: Grading and Credit (Revise):** Language cross references policy FB related to the Academic Fresh State program and requires the board to establish the manner of determining grades and awarding credit as a best practice under the board's duty of governance.
- **FB – Admissions (Revise):** Recommended revisions address SB 37, clarifying that the board must develop admission procedures in collaboration with the college's chief executive officer. The recommended revisions also address SB 365, permitting the college to disregard course credits and grades earned by an applicant for admission 5-10 years prior to the start of the semester if chosen by the applicant, at Academic Fresh Start.
- **FC – Registration and Attendance (Revise):** Recommended revisions to this policy address administrative procedures related to registration.
- **FLA – Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Expression and Use of College: Facilities (Revise):** Recommended revisions throughout this policy incorporate SB 2972, which addresses the regulation of expressive activities on college campuses.
- **FLB – Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Conduct (Revise):** A cross reference has been added to policy code FM to incorporate the definition of antisemitism required to be used in discipline for Student Code of Conduct violations, as provided by SB 326.
- **FLBE – Student Conduct: Alcohol and Drug Use (Revise):** Recommended revisions address HB 46, which prohibits a college from restricting the storage of low-THC cannabis authorized by state law.
- **FLD – Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Complaints (Revise):** Language has been reorganized to clarify the structure of grievance processes.

The board engaged in a brief discussion of the state-level process for drafting, editing, and vetting the policies, as well as the work done at the TSC Board of Trustees committee level.

**Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the following LOCAL policies as presented: DH, DJA, DM, EFB, EGA, FB, FC, FLA, FLB, FLBE, and FLD. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:23 p.m.

### **13. Executive Session**

- a. Consultation with Attorney on Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Section 551.071 Texas Government Code**
- b. Consultation with Attorney on Pending Real Estate Issues, Section 551.072 Texas Government Code**
- c. Deliberation on Personnel Matters, Section 551.074 Texas Government Code**
- d. Deliberation regarding cybersecurity infrastructures, security devices or security audits; Section 551.0761 Texas Government Code**
- e. Deliberation on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter, Section 551.071 Texas Government Code**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:55 p.m.

### **14. Action on Executive Session Matters**

- a. Consideration and possible action on FY25-26 Salary Schedule**

**No action was taken on this item.**

- b. Consideration and possible action on sale of property to the City of Brownsville, TX**

**Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve and adopt the action as discussed in Executive Session regarding the sale of real property to the City of Brownsville. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**


Trustee Zavaleta shared that former faculty member and historian Milo Kearney passed away in San Antonio. He said Dr. Kearney was a tremendous academic and a beautiful person.

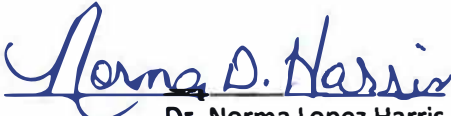
**15. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates**

- a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday May 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, June 18, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

**16. Adjournment**

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m..

  
Ms. Adela Garza  
Chair, Board of Trustees

  
Dr. Norma Lopez Harris  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

*The video recording of the Public Hearing and Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on April 16, 2026 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.*