



# TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

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## Texas Southmost College District

### Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

April 19, 2012

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on April 19, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Francisco G. Rendon, Chair; Adela G. Garza, Secretary; Trey Mendez; Ren  Torres and Dr. Robert A. Lozano. Also present was Dr. Lily F. Tercero, President of Texas Southmost College. Board members absent were Dr. Roberto Robles, Vice Chair and David Oliveira.

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rendon at 5:36 p.m.

#### **2. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

#### **3. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion**

Chairman Rendon called on Mrs. Elizabeth Heise, Academic Senate President. Mrs. Heise addressed the board on behalf of the faculty regarding the transition.

#### **4. Mission Statement**

Chairman Rendon read the existing mission for the Texas Southmost College District as follows:

“Texas Southmost College is a comprehensive open admissions public community college whose mission comports with Texas Statute Subchapter A, Section 130. Texas Southmost College offers programs leading to certificates of completion and associate degrees, developmental education to prepare students for college-level work, occupational and technical programs to prepare students for

immediate employment, academic courses of study to develop the core skills, understandings, and knowledge appropriate for baccalaureate programs, and continuing education, counseling, guidance, adult literacy and personal enrichment.

Texas Southmost College advances economic and social development, enhances the quality of life, encourages respect for the environment, cultivates personal enrichment, and expands knowledge in service to its community. It convenes the cultures of its community and fosters an appreciation for the unique heritage of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It provides academic leadership in the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic life of the region it serves.

Texas Southmost College places excellence in teaching and learning at the core of its commitments. It seeks to help students at all levels develop the skills which will sustain life-long learning while respecting the dignity of each learner and the needs of the entire community.”

## **5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

### **Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2012**

**A motion was made by Mr. Torres to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mendez and carried unanimously.**

## **6. Scorpion Logo for TSC**

### **Discussion and Possible Action on the Scorpion Logo for TSC**

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to present the item. Dr. Tercero reported that many community colleges utilize mascots as part of their marketing or branding strategies and to create awareness and recognition. It also provides an incentive for student participation and involvement, fostering a sense of unity and pride among student, alumni, and the community.

In a historical overview of the logo, she reported that it was officially adopted in 1929, and again in 1991 when the partnership was created. In February 2012, UT System Legal Counsel notified TSC of their plans to abandon the Scorpion around the end of April, but also indicated that they were open to developing a new mascot or maintaining the Scorpion, pending an agreement.

Dr. Tercero reported that based on newspaper articles and information posted on the UTB/TSC web page, UTB had been moving forward since January with its decision to select a new mascot.

Dr. Tercero reported that if the Board decides to keep the Scorpion, the College will be responsible for assuming the maintenance and defense of the mark henceforth; however, such costs should be minimal.

Dr. Tercero stressed that the Scorpion mascot is viewed by many within the community as an important traditional symbol, therefore re-adopting the Scorpion as TSC's official mascot will allow TSC to reconnect with its past. If adopted, the Scorpion will be used in select marketing publications and campaigns.

Dr. Tercero reported that the staff's recommendation is to approve the Scorpion as the mascot for Texas Southmost College in honor of its historical significance, respect to many students who have attended and graduated from TSC, and acknowledgement that it is possible and important to maintain meaningful traditions and symbols, even while undergoing transformational change.

**A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to affirm the Scorpion as TSC's Official Mascot. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lozano and carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"**

## **7. Report on Transition Team**

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Leonardo de la Garza, TSC Consultant for the TSC Transition Team to provide an update on the transition process. Dr. de la Garza reported that Dr. Aguero and Dr. Tercero met with representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Dr. Tercero reported that the overview and timeline of TSC's progress and plans of becoming fully operational by Fall 2013 was provided to SACS. Dr. Tercero announced that the SACS representatives believe the College is on track toward accreditation by 2015 and they are committed to helping TSC through the process.

Dr. de la Garza reported that at the last Transition Team meeting, held on Monday, April 16, 2012, discussions began with the UT System to outline the possible process for real estate negotiations related to TSC-owned campus land and buildings. He reported that discussions continue with UT System regarding enrollment issues that may impact state funding for the upcoming biennial legislative session.

Dr. de la Garza reported that Dr. Tercero and her staff will be working with the UT System Transition Team to begin looking at interim "shared costs" agreements that might be developed, in preparation for the opening of the College in Fall

2013. He reported that Dr. Tercero has also been meeting with members of our local legislative delegation to keep them updated on TSC's progress.

Dr. de la Garza reported that he and Dr. Tercero met with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Paredes and the leadership of the Texas Association of Community Colleges. He reported that THECB and TACC are excited about the re-establishment of TSC and are more than willing to help with any state funding issues going forward. They understand the importance of TSC's community college presence.

**8. Executive Session as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.071 and Chapter 551.072.**

**The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:03 p.m.**

**The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:24 p.m.**

**9. Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session**

**Consultation with Attorney on Pending or Contemplated Litigation Section 551.071, Texas Government Code**

No discussion or action was taken.

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

No discussion or action was taken.

**10. Update on Status of Maintenance of Neutra House during Transition**

This item was postponed for a future meeting.

**11. Second Quarter Financial Statements and Investment Report FY 2012**

Mr. Lewis provided a brief report on the Second Quarter Financial Statements and Investment Report for FY 2012. Mr. Lewis stated that the reports are provided for informational purposes only, and no action is required by the Board.

**12. Proposed Meeting Dates**

**TSC Board Workshop**

Monday, April 30, 2012

**Thursday, May 17, 2012**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rendon at 6:28 p.m.



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Mr. Francisco G. Rendon  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



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Ms. Adela G. Garza  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

**NOTE:** The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on April 19, 2012, is on file at the District Office of the Texas Southmost College District. The master tape is on file at UTB/TSC Media Services. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Max E. Roca, Administrative Assistant. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996. They are aired on Channel KBSD in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.