



**Texas Southmost College District**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

March 26, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on March 26, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. Board members present were David Oliveira, Chair, Eduardo A. Campirano, Vice Chair, Dr. Roberto Robles, Secretary, Chester Gonzalez, René Torres, and Adela Garza. Absent was Rosemary Breedlove. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. Garcia, President of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Oliveira at 5:35 p.m.

**1. Announcements**

**Master Chorale Returns from Rome**

Dr. Garcia announced the return of the Master Chorale from their successful tour to Italy. The invitation came from a Vatican emissary who had heard them perform last year at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Ireland. A short video of their journey was presented to the Board. Dr. Garcia then introduced Dr. Heimermann, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, who introduced Dianne Brumley, Choir Director. Ms. Brumley introduced members of the choir and thanked members of the Board. Dr. Ruth Anne Ragland, the *Brownsville Herald* and the *Valley Morning Star* for their support. The Master Chorale concluded by giving a live performance for the Board.

**2. Speakers to the Items and Public Discussion**

There were no speakers.

**3. Acceptance of Gift and Resolution**

**Consideration and possible action on adoption of resolution naming The Arts Center Grand Piano Room "The Bernice and Ruben Edelstein Grand Piano Room"**

Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, announced the acceptance of a gift from Bernice and Ruben Edelstein. Dr. Ragland provided a brief biography of the Edelstein family, noting that they have for years been community leaders in promoting education, economic development, community service, and the fine arts. She informed the Board that the Edelsteins were not present at the meeting, but publicly thanked them for making this important contribution. Mr. Oliveira then read a resolution honoring Bernice and Ruben Edelstein, noting that a copy of the resolution and a framed portrait of The Arts Center would subsequently be presented to them.

A motion was made by Mr. Torres to adopt the resolution naming The Arts Center Grand Piano Room "The Bernice and Ruben Edelstein Grand Piano Room," as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "A"*

**4. Executive Session**

as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.071-072

The Board considered two contracts and resolutions for purchase of real estate: Fort Brown Villas Condominium Unit 1015, Type D, Building 1, Phase 1, Brownsville, Texas; and Lot 4, Block 11, Colonia Alta Vista Subdivision, Brownsville, Texas.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:45 p.m.

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

**Contract and resolution for purchase of Fort Brown Villas Condominium Unit 1015, Type D, Building 1, Phase I, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the earnest money contract and resolution for the acquisition of Fort Brown Villas Unit 1015, in the amount of \$44,500 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "B"*

**Contract and resolution for purchase of Lot 4, Block 11, Colonia Alta Vista Subdivision, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garza to approve the earnest money contract and resolution for the acquisition of Lot 4, Block 11, Colonia Alta Vista, in the amount of \$35,000 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "C"*

**6. Board Briefings**

Dr. Charles Dameron, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Dr. Fredrick Jenet, Associate Professor for Physics and Astronomy, to give a presentation on the "The Discovery of Radio Pulsar J1917+1736." Dr. Jenet described how the Arecibo Remote Command Center (ARCC) program at UTB/TSC involves high school, undergraduate, and graduate students in pulsar astronomy research early in their scholastic careers, fostering an ability to work with colleagues at different academic levels.

Dr. Jenet then elaborated on the events of Sunday, December 14, 2008, when groups of students at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico and here at the ARCC control room identified a new pulsar, which was named J1917+1736. He noted that finding a pulsar is not a common occurrence, since they represent only one of every ten million stars. Mr. Torres encouraged the students to publish an article on their discovery. Dr. Jenet thanked members of the Board, Mary Rose Cardenas, and Neil Simmons for their support of the ARCC program.

**7. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Consideration and possible action on  
Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 19, 2009**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 19, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously.

**8. Physical Facilities Committee**

**Consideration and possible action on  
awarding a contract to Industrial Audio/Video, Inc., for the equipment  
and installation of audio visual equipment controls for the Classroom  
Building, New Library, and the Center for Early Childhood Studies**

Mr. Oliveira called on Chester Gonzalez to make the report. He reported that the first item discussed was a contract to install audiovisual equipment controls for the Classroom Building, New Library, and the Center for Early Childhood Studies. The scope of work includes the installation of equipment for ten classrooms, three conference rooms, one multipurpose room, and one observation room. In addition, a pager sound system will be installed in the New Library.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the request for proposals to install the audio visual equipment was issued according to Texas Southmost College Board policies for purchasing bids. Proposals were received and evaluated on March 4, 2009. The total amount for the work described in all three facilities is \$104,068.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve a proposal from Industrial Audio/Video, Inc., in the amount of 104,068 and authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "D"*

**Consideration and possible action on  
awarding a contract to purchase  
and install fixed audience seating for the Arts Center project**

Mr. Gonzalez reported that owner procurement of this seating provides a savings to the Arts Center project of \$31,000. A proposal for the specified seats was sought directly from the manufacturer, Irwing Seating Company, while Studio Red Architects provided the specifications. Irwing Seating Company is a member of the Buyboard Purchasing Cooperative. The recommended proposal includes the purchase of 733 fixed seats and installation, for a cost of \$171,558.65.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve a contract to install fixed audience seating from Irving Seating Company in the amount of \$171,558.65 and authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction to execute the purchase order. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "E"*

**Consideration and possible action on  
award of a contract to Pederson Construction Co., Inc.,  
for the construction of the REK Center parking lot**

Mr. Gonzalez reported that funding was approved by the TSC Board for the construction of a parking lot adjacent to the REK Center in November 2008. Additional parking is essential for the REK, the multipurpose field, and Scorpion Field. The proposed parking lot project was advertised according to TSC Board policies for competitive sealed proposals. Proposals were received on March 12, 2009. Upon evaluation of the proposals by the committee, it was recommended to award the contract to Pederson Construction Co, Inc. This recommended action is within the budget set aside for the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to award the contract to Pederson Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$284,445.25 and to authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Campirano and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "F"*

**Consideration and possible action to approve an amendment  
to the project management services agreement  
with Broadus & Associates**

The final item discussed was the amendment to the project management services agreement with Broadus & Associates. In the course of the bond program there have been changes to the projects that directly impact the contract with Broadus & Associates, and require an adjustment in service fees due to the increase in scope of work and an extension of time for project completion. Mr. Daniel Kentro, Jr., TSC Attorney, elaborated on the amendment to the contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to increase the service management agreement with Broadus & Associates in the amount of \$383,000 and authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "G"*

**9. Business Affairs Partnership Committee**

**Report**

Mr. Oliveira called on Ms. Rosemary Martinez to provide the report. Ms. Martinez reported that the Business Affairs Committee Meeting met on March 24, 2009. They discussed and made recommendations on the following items:

**Consideration and possible action on authorization for disposition of items at annual auction**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to authorize staff to dispose of items at annual auction as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "H"*

**Consideration and possible action**

to purchase computer equipment for the Architecture Lab at ITBC Center through TCPN contract number 9914760 R4717

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the purchase of computer equipment in the amount of \$88,808.46 through TCPN and to authorize the Vice President for Partnership Affairs to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "I"*

**Consideration and possible action**

for approval of proposal for General Property Insurance

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to select R.N. Jones Agency, Inc., as an agent for windstorm and hail insurance coverage through TWA with a 1% deductible. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "J"*

**Consideration and possible action**

on approval of payment to UT System for participation in the Comprehensive Property Protection Plan for Fire and All Other Perils and Named Windstorm and Flood Coverages

A motion was made by Mr. Torres to approve payment to UT System for participation in the CPPP for Fire and All Other Perils and Named Windstorm and Flood Coverages. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "K"*

10. Academic Affairs Partnership Committee

Report

Adela Garza reported that the Academic Affairs Partnership Committee met on March 4, 2009.

Ms. Garza reported that the Committee discussed new and proposed undergraduate and graduate programs undergoing review by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and UT System, as well as those seeking accreditation. The Committee also discussed UTB/TSC's ongoing dual enrollment initiatives, among which are the dual enrollment program with local districts, the Early College High School, the Math & Science Academy, and the Summer Bridge Program. The Committee also heard reports on cooperative agreements with UTPA for a Physician Assistant program, and with UTSA for a Ph.D. program in Physics.

Ms. Garza reported that the APC heard that the SACS re-accreditation response was submitted, and that no further action is required by the University. The next SACS re-accreditation review will take place in ten years.

Ms. Garza then introduced Dr. Charles Dameron, Vice President for Academic Affairs, who described a new Associate of Science in Architecture program that required Board approval. Information on the program was included for the Board's review.

Consideration and possible action on approval of New Academic Program

A motion was made by Ms. Garza to approve the new Associate of Science in Architecture program as presented and direct the Vice President for Academic Affairs to forward to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for Approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Campirano and carried unanimously. Exhibit "L"

11. Construction Report

Dr. Pearson reported the following:

- Renovations at the former Newman Center are progressing. Data lines have been connected, built-in furniture has been installed, and the doors and wiring have been completed.
- Work continues at the Commissary Building, the future home of the Division of Institutional Advancement. Many of the bricks have been re-pointed and reinstalled, a new door was built for the old jail located on the basement level, and other work has been completed.

