



TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

March 23, 2023

Board of Trustees

Adela G. Garza
Chair

J.J. De Leon, M.Ed.
Vice Chair

Alejandra Aldrete, M.Ed.
Secretary

Ruben Herrera, J.D.

Tony Zavaleta, Ph.D.

Eva Alejandro

Delia Saenz

TSC President

Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, Ph.D.

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on March 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Mr. J.J. De Leon, Vice Chair; Ms. Alejandra Aldrete, Secretary; Ms. Eva Alejandro; Mr. Ruben Herrera, Immediate Past Chair. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent were Mrs. Delia Saenz and Dr. Tony Zavaleta.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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

Secretary Aldrete led the United States Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

Chair Garza called upon Mr. Eugene Fernandez, who was signed up for public comment.

As a longtime historian and director of a historical research nonprofit organization, Mr. Fernandez offered words of praise for TSC regarding the status of a historic mural at the Jacob Brown Auditorium. He said he met with members of the Board of Trustees and President Rodríguez and was very pleased with the actions taken to preserve a piece of local art history. He said the college continues to do the right thing in preserving historical artifacts.

4. President's Report

Chair Garza first briefed the board on TSC's participation in the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) Board of Trustees Summit, held February 21st in Austin. Chair Garza, Vice Chair De Leon, and President Rodríguez presented the session, "Integrating Dual Credit: TSC's Pathways to Success." They shared the changes that TSC has made in the program over the past five years, including updating the organizational structure, course sequencing, pathways, trainings, outreach, methods of instructional delivery, and shared administrative tasks with ISDs and charter schools. This resulted in greater access for

high school students to earn college credit and complete their academic core courses (42 credit hours) or associate degree before completing their high school education.

Chair Garza said it was a very productive conference and strengthened TSC's network with community colleges across the state. Vice Chair De Leon added that the conference was very productive and he is proud of the work at TSC, which is accomplished as a team.

Chair Garza then called on President Rodríguez to present his report.

State of the Brownsville Police Department

President Rodríguez attended the 2023 State of the Brownsville Police Department event on February 16th. Brownsville Police Chief Felix Saucedo, a TSC alumna, provided participants with information on the latest technologies the department uses to fight crime.

Trustee Saenz at Gonzalez Elementary

Trustee Saenz was a Career Day presenter for Gonzalez Elementary fifth graders on February 22nd. Trustee Saenz's presentation included the history of the school's naming, honoring her late grandfather, Mariano Gonzalez, who drove school buses for the Brownsville Independent School District for more than 40 years. President Rodríguez thanked Trustee Saenz for representing Texas Southmost College and inspiring students to continue their education.

Charro Days Events

The Scorpion Family participated in a number of Charro Days festivities.

- Chair Garza, Vice Chair De Leon, and Secretary Aldrete attended Charro Days Baile Del Sol on February 18th.
- Chair Garza, Secretary Aldrete and Immediate Past Chair Herrera participated in the 86th Annual Charro Days Fiesta Night at Amigoland Convention Center held on February 22nd.
- Chair Garza and Secretary Aldrete attended Noche Mexicana at TSC's Jacob Brown Auditorium on February 23rd.
- Chair Garza, Vice Chair De Leon, Secretary Aldrete, Immediate Past Chair Herrera, Trustee Alejandro, Trustee Saenz, and President Rodríguez rode on the TSC float on the Illuminated Parade night parade February 24th. President Rodríguez said he received positive feedback on the TSC Charro costumes they wore.
- Chair Garza, Secretary Aldrete, Immediate Past Chair Herrera, Trustee Alejandro, and Trustee Saenz also participated in the Grand International Parade on February 25th. President Rodríguez said they were fortunate to be able to meet with Governor Abbott who allotted time for a group of community members before the parade. TSC's 21st Century Porter Conjunto group also participated in the parade, joining Chief Patrol Agent Gloria Chavez on the Border Patrol float.
- Chair Garza, Secretary Aldrete, and President Rodríguez participated in the Costume Ball on February 25th at Jacob Brown Auditorium, for which TSC was the signature sponsor.

President Rodríguez thanked the Trustees for participating in these events and representing Texas Southmost College in these long-standing community and cultural events.

TAMUK Visit

Texas A&M Kingsville is strengthening its relationship with Texas Southmost College. A representative visited campus on March 1st to meet with the leadership team regarding more frequent visits, and the TAMUK President will be visiting the campus in early April.

Full Scale Exercise

TSC held its first multi-jurisdictional interagency full-scale mass emergency exercise on March 1st. Chair Garza and President Rodríguez participated in an opening press conference to discuss the purpose of the event. Following a year of collaborative planning, the event allowed TSC to assess its communication, coordination, Incident Command System, and interagency response. President Rodríguez thanked the TSC Safety and Risk Management team for their work on the event, as well as Chair Garza and Trustee Saenz for attending the Incident Command Team briefing.

Read Across America (formerly Dr. Seuss Day)

TSC celebrated Read Across America Day March 2nd. President Rodríguez donned his Dr. Seuss costume, and he and Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, read to the little Scorpions at the TSC Child Care Center.

Concordia University

Representatives from Concordia University met with President Rodríguez, as well as students interested in transferring to their university on March 8th. TSC is in the process of developing articulation agreements with Concordia University, which will be brought before the Board soon.

Charro Fest

Student Life held Charro Fest at the North/South courtyard on February 23rd, with food, activities, and entertainment featuring folklorico dancers, mariachis, a performance from the new TSC Mariachi program coordinator, and a performance by TSC's Little Scorpions. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza and Trustee Saenz for participating in the event and meeting the new soccer program recruits in attendance.

Athletics

Local high schools have hosted several signing ceremonies for high school students joining the new Scorpion soccer team. Additional signing ceremonies will continue throughout the semester.

Law Enforcement Forum

The Career Services office held a Law Enforcement Forum on March 7th. Several law enforcement organizations shared information about careers and available job openings with students. President Rodríguez thanked Carol Sandoval, Coordinator of Career & Employment, for organizing the event.

2023 Spring Break Safety Conference

Student Life held the 2023 Spring Break Safety Conference on March 9th to provide students with information on staying safe and making good decisions while they are on Spring Break. President Rodríguez thanked Virginia Sandoval, Director of Student Development & Retention, and her team for organizing the conference.

TSC Community Garden Harvest

The TSC Community Garden produced its first harvest on February 27th. The garden is an inter-divisional collaboration between Instruction, Student Services, and Grants. President Rodríguez also thanked the college's community partner, Brownsville Wellness Coalition, for continuing to support the garden.

Women in STEM

Several events were held March 1-8, to promote women in STEM. The week began with a festival held in the North/South Courtyard, during which community partners demonstrated STEM activities and students conducted experiments. Three *Agents of STEM* panels were held (two virtual and one in-person) to

introduce students to STEM Careers. President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Murad Abusalim, Dean of STEM/CTE for organizing the event and securing a sponsorship from the Brownsville Community Incentive Corporation to fund event t-shirts.

Board of Nursing—Survey Visit

The Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) conducted a survey site visit November 2-4, 2022. The Board of Nursing staff reviewed documents submitted by TSC and considered the college Vocational Nursing program in full compliance with Rule 214. President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim VP of Instruction, Dr. David Pearse, Dean of Health Professions, and Ms. Vaneida Soto, Program Director, for their work to ensure TSC remains in compliance with TBON standards.

Orbital Tube Welding

Equipment for TSC's new Orbital Tube Welding program is currently being installed at ITECC. The equipment was funded through a Skills Development Fund grant as a result of a partnership between TSC, Workforce Solutions Cameron, and SpaceX, the industry partner. Training is expected to begin soon, and once the grant activities are concluded, Workforce Solutions Cameron will transfer the ownership of the equipment to the college.

SACSCOC Evaluation Committee

President Rodríguez, Dr. Gisela Figueroa, and Mr. Oscar Hernandez, were invited to serve on offsite and onsite evaluation committees for colleges undergoing a SACSCOC review. While the work may be time consuming, it allows TSC to observe how other colleges operate and prepare itself for upcoming SACSCOC reviews. President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Figueroa and Mr. Hernandez for accepting the assignments from SACSCOC.

Employee Gathering

TSC hosted held a Charro Days Employee gathering on February 23rd, providing employees with breakfast and a special gift. Employees dressed in festive wear and enjoyed taking group photos.

TASBO Award

President Rodríguez congratulated the Purchasing Department for earning their second Texas Association of School Business Officials Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations for being committed to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services in accordance with state of Texas laws. Out of more than 1,000 school systems in the state, only 71 recipients met the award criteria for 2023, and TSC remains the only community college to earn the award. President Rodríguez recognized Ms. Patricia Saldivar, Director of Purchasing, and her staff for their commitment and dedication in meeting the high standards.

Video Presentation

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

President Rodríguez thanked the Board for their continued support and the TSC employee for their hard work on behalf of the communities we serve.

5. Consideration and Possible Action on the Minutes of the following meetings:

a. Regular meeting - February 26, 2023

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 16, 2023. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. Consideration and possible action on Resolution of Support for the Texas Commission on Community College Finance Recommendations

Chair Garza presented the item. She discussed the information she, her fellow Board members, and President Rodríguez have been sharing with legislators during the legislative session, and asked Mr. Frank Perez, Legal Counsel, to read the resolution into the record (provided on next page).

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for the Texas Commission on Community College Finance Recommendations. Vice Chair De Leon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §**

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of Texas established the Texas Commission on Community College Finance to evaluate community college funding and improve student outcomes through alignment with state postsecondary goals,

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Community College Finance developed their recommendations with input from various stakeholders, including business leaders, lawmakers, college officials, students, and trustees,

WHEREAS, the recommendations are a historic opportunity to obtain funding to ensure postsecondary student success,

WHEREAS, the recommendations include performance-based funding based on measurable outcomes,

WHEREAS, the recommendations include much-needed support for workforce development to produce credentials of value in high-demand fields,

WHEREAS, the recommendations include support for students enrolling in dual credit programs,

WHEREAS, the recommendations would provide support to economically and educationally disadvantaged students, as well as adult learners,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Board of Trustees of Texas Southmost College District officially declares its support for the recommendations issued to the 88th Texas Legislature by the Texas Commission on Community College Finance.

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

ADOPTED this 23rd day of March, 2023, by the Board of Trustees of Texas Southmost College District.

Adela G. Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees

Alejandra Aldrete, MEd.
Secretary, Board of Trustees

7. Finance Committee

Chair Garza called on Immediate Past Chair Herrera to present the report.

a. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended January 31, 2023

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the agenda item. Mr. Pecero presented the monthly financial statement report for the month ended January 31, 2023.

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

b. Fund Balance Operation Report

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration was called upon to present the agenda item. She reported out on funding for the current number of days of operation for the college.

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

c. Institutional CARES expenditures report

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the item. She reported on new institutional CARES grant fund expenditures.

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

d. Grants Report

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Dr. Angelica Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Institutional Projects, were called on to present the item. Dr. Fuentes reported on the new grants received during the month of February 2023.

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

8. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called on Vice Chair De Leon to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible to approve an Affiliation Agreement with Harlingen Medical Center for the seven (7) Health Professions Programs

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. David Pearse, Dean of Health Professions, were called upon to present the item. Dr. McCormack said the proposed agreement would provide for clinical experience at the site for students in the following programs: Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Radiology Technology, Respiratory Care, Emergency Medical Sciences, Associate Degree Nursing, Vocational Nursing, and Medical Laboratory Technology.

A motion was made by Vice Chair De Leon approve the Affiliation Agreement with Harlingen Medical Center for the seven (7) Health Professions Programs and authorize President Rodríguez to sign the agreement. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called on Secretary Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on renewal of Windstorm and Hail Insurance for FY 2022-2023

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. Dr. Figueroa reviewed the RFP timeline, current policy, existing terms, renewal options, and budget and financial impact.

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a recommendation to form a committee that would investigate specific assets the board wants to insure, as opposed to insuring all buildings.

A motion was made by Secretary Aldrete to approve Renewal of Windstorm and Hail Insurance primary layer coverage with Shepard Walton King Insurance Group, a HUB International Company, in the amount of \$1,104,478 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Facilities update

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration was called on to present the item. She reported out on the status of the following projects: TSC Courtroom and Criminal Justice Project, Oliveira Student Services Building second floor restroom additions project, audio-visual upgrades for auditorium conference rooms, the multi-agency full-scale attack exercise, and the upcoming auction.

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

10. Student Services Committee

Chair Garza called on Trustee Zavaleta to present the report.

a. Athletics NJCAA Update

Dr. Armando Ponce, Executive Director of Athletics and Civility, was called on to present the item. He introduced the new soccer coach, Mr. Mario Zamora, who joined TSC in February. Dr. Ponce also presented an overview of the NJCAA tentative schedule for the Fall 2023 season, as well as an update on recruitment efforts. He announced that a pep rally will be held on Thursday, March 30th.

The board engaged in a brief discussion of transportation for the teams.

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

11. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:37 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:29 p.m.

12. 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

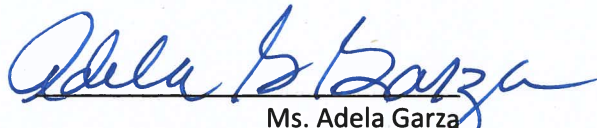
Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion to approve the annual evaluation of Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez and terms of the employment agreement, as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair De Leon and passed unanimously.

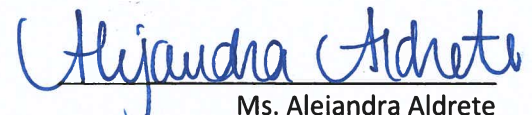
13. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

- a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, April 20, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, May 18, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice Chair De Leon. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alejandro. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.


Ms. Adela Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees


Ms. Alejandra Aldrete
Secretary, Board of Trustees

The video recording of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on March 23, 2023 available on the TSC.EDU website. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Dr. Angela K. McCauley, Director of Special Instructional Projects. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996.