



Board of Trustees

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Alejandra Aldrete, M.Ed.
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Tony Zavaleta, Ph.D.

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TSC President

Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, Ph.D.

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

November 16, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on November 16, 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; Mr. Ruben Herrera, Immediate Past Chair; Dr. Tony Zavaleta, Ms. Eva Alejandro; and Mrs. Delia Saenz. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College.

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

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:

Exceptional Emergency Center Fall Festival

Chair Garza attended the Exceptional Emergency Center Fall Festival. She said she was very pleased to see Texas Southmost College represented as a participating organization and making community connections.

Meeting with Sen. Cornyn's Office

Chair Garza met with Senator John Cornyn's Director to discuss matters of importance to Texas Southmost College.

Dia de los Muertos

Chair Garza said the annual TSC Dia de los Muertos event was well-planned and educational. She said the entertainment was also exceptional. Board members said they received very positive feedback from the

community. President Rodríguez thanked the Board for their support of the event and the college's efforts to provide cultural outreach as part of its service to the communities.

Cybersecurity Training

Chair Garza reported that all TSC Board of Trustee members have completed their annual cybersecurity training, required by government code 2054.519, as stated in the college's policy, BBD LEGAL Board Members: Orientation and Training.

5. President's Report

Chair Garza called on President Rodríguez to present his report.

MOU Signing with the University of Houston

Texas Southmost College and the University of Houston entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitates seamless transfer for TSC students into the CT Bauer College of Business. Under this agreement students earning an associate degree from TSC in Business--or who earn at least 30 hours--and maintain a GPA of 3.25 or higher are guaranteed admission to the University of Houston as pre-business majors. In addition, all of their core courses and the designated courses in the Business Administration Field of Study will automatically transfer to U of H. U of H Regent Alonso Cantu and Dean Paul Pavlou participated in the event as part of the Houston delegation. President Rodríguez thanked Madam Chair and Trustee Saenz for participating in the event.

State of the County

Chair Garza, Dr. Stella Garcia, and Mr. Richard Mesquias attended the State of the County update, sponsored by the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce on November 1st. President Rodríguez said TSC had the opportunity to network with colleagues all across Cameron County and receive updates from elected offices.

Employee service to the community

Ms. Marisela Nava, Director of our TSC Child Care Center, was selected as an inaugural participant in the Texas School Ready, Registered Apprenticeship Program Advisory Committee. She will serve as the Committee Secretary for the Rio Grande Valley Community. The new program will launch in Houston, Amarillo, and Brownsville this fall, and is designed to strengthen the Texas School Ready workforce development framework by enhancing access to education, credentialing, and career pathway opportunities. President Rodríguez thanked Ms. Nava for the exceptional care she provides to the little Scorpions and her dedication to enhancing early childhood education across the State of Texas.

Football season events

President Rodríguez participated the coin toss at Harlingen's Boggus stadium on October 27th, where he cheered on future Scorpions from Harlingen South High School and Brownsville Veterans High School. Vice President of External Relations Richard Mesquias was there to strengthen community connections, and Interim AVP for Student Services Vanessa Vasquez and her team provided future students with more information about how to join the TSC Family.

The next day, the TSC delegation headed to Texas University A&M Kingsville to cheer on the Javalinas. It was an excellent opportunity to strengthen the college's relationship with President Robert Vela and his team. President Rodríguez thanked Drs. Garcia, McCormack, and Ponce and the new agriculture program instructor, Mr. Franco Guerra, for representing Texas Southmost College at the game.

Veteran's Day

Texas Southmost College honored veterans and military personnel during the Veteran's Day celebration on November 10. President Rodríguez noted that it was a moving ceremony with patriotic music and a keynote speech by U.S. Army Retired Captain Adriana Montoya-Daza, who is the Staff Assistant for Brownsville's Border Patrol Sector Chief. He thanked the Rivera Early College High School Air Force JROTC for the posting of the colors, the TSC Veteran's Success Center for organizing the event, Mr. Luis Villarreal for providing welcome remarks, and Chair Garza for providing remarks and honoring our veterans.

Seasonal events

TSC hosted a variety of events for the community to celebrate the fall season.

- On October 28th, Texas Southmost College hosted its annual Haunted Grounds Tour, with approximately 800 people participating. Community members shared very positive feedback about the event. While they enjoyed the spooky tour and the great entertainment, many said they also enjoyed having the opportunity to come out and explore the beautiful campus.
- On Halloween, offices across campus provided trick or treat goodies for the Little Scorpions from the daycare centers. While events had to be relocated due to the damp weather, the children enjoyed a memorable day. President Rodríguez thanked Student Life, Financial Aid, Marketing, Safety and Security, Veteran's Services, Success Coaches, and the many volunteers for who made the day a memorable one for the children.
- Texas Southmost College hosted the annual Dia de Lose Muertos event on November 2nd. Participants enjoyed the parade, music from Mariachi Escorpion, and a costume contest. President Rodríguez thanked Madam Chair, Vice Chair De Leon, Secretary Aldrete, Immediate Past Chair Herrera, and Trustee Saenz for participating in the event.

Student Life Events

In addition to the seasonal events highlighted, the Student Services Division hosted a variety of student-centered events since the last Board meeting including:

- Student Halloween Costume Contest,
- Three Employer Connection events,
- National Kindness Day, and
- The Graduation Fair.

Video Presentation

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

President Rodríguez noted that, during the season of Thanksgiving, he is grateful to the Board of Trustees for their continued commitment and support to the college and the communities it serves, and he is thankful to the entire Scorpion Family for helping students finish out the semester Scorpion Strong!

6. Consideration and Possible Action on the Minutes of the following meeting:**a. Regular Meeting – October 26, 2023**

Secretary Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 26, 2023. Trustee Saenz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Finance Committee

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

a. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended September 30, 2023

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. She presented the Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ending September 30, 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 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.

8. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called on Secretary Aldrete to present the report.

a. 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 and dedicated chiller.

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

9. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called on Trustee Zavaleta to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on the approval of a new Associate of Science in Allied Health education (AS.ALHE) with initial implementation in Spring 2024

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed degree will provide additional opportunities for allied health students to further their educational and professional career goals in the field by earning the new associate degree, as well as accumulating credits through the program to transfer into an allied health bachelor's degree. The Board engaged in a brief description of the curriculum.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to approve the proposed new Associate of Science in Allied Health Education (AS.ALHE) with an initial implementation in Spring 2024. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on the approval of a new Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) – Certificate Level 1(CERT1.CNA) with initial implementation in Spring 2024

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed certificate will provide a pathway into the Licensed Vocational Nursing program and the Associate Degree Nursing program. This program will also be available for dual enrollment students. Dr. McCormack said TSC will also continue to offer the non-credit Certified Nurse Assistant program through the Workforce Training and Continuing Education division. Dr. Zavaleta said he is pleased that TSC continues to offer nursing programs, which have been a hallmark of the college throughout its history.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to approve the proposed new Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate -Level 1 (CERT1.CNA) with an initial implementation of the proposed degree in Spring 2024. Trustee Alejandro seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

c. Consideration and possible action on the approval of a new Associate of Arts in Music (AA.MUSI) with initial implementation in Fall 2024

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed degree will expand opportunities for students seeking to further their educational and professional career goals in music, music education, and related fields. The degree is designed to provide students with the first two years of study for a bachelor's degree in music program. The board expressed their thanks to the TSC faculty and administration for working to provide this opportunity for local music students.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to approve the proposed new Associate of Arts in Music (AA.MUSI) with an initial implementation of the proposed degree in Fall 2024. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- d. Consideration and possible action on the approval of the following Bachelor degree programs with initial implementation in Fall 2024: 1) Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminal Justice (BAAS.CRIJ), 2) Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education (BAAS.EDEC), and 3) Bachelor of Applied Technology in Organizational Management (BAT.ORMG)**

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the career outlooks for graduates of each of the three programs, as well as an overview of the degree development process. The Board engaged in a discussion of the curriculum and pathways to teacher certification.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to approve the proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminal Justice (BAAS.CRIJ), the Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education (BAAS.EDEC) and the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Organizational Management (BAT.ORMG) with an initial implementation of the proposed degrees in Fall 2024. Vice Chair De Leon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Policy Committee

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

a. Acknowledgement of LEGAL Update 46

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, presented an overview of LEGAL policies in Update 46.

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

11. Consideration and possible action on passing resolution and vote on position eight (8) of the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors the nominations for ACCT committees

Chair Garza presented the item. She reviewed the category that TSC is currently under for Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors representation and shared the candidate's bios with the Trustees.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Texas Southmost College District along with seven (7) other schools districts in Cameron County is represented by one (1) board member sitting as position eight (8) on the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, each of the eight (8) school districts represented by this director shall have the opportunity to **VOTE** for the representative of its choice for the period commencing January 2024; and

WHEREAS, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes will hold director position eight (8);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 16th day of November, 2023 that the Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District do hereby cast our **VOTE** for _____ to hold position eight (8) of the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this the 16th Day of November, 2023.

Adela Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees

A motion was made by Vice Chair De Leon to approve the resolution and vote for Gloria Casa for position eight (8) of the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Vice Chair De Leon, Secretary Aldrete, and Trustee Alejandro. The motion failed.

A motion was made by Immediate Past Chair Herrera that the board abstain from voting in the election. Trustee Alejandro seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12. Consideration and possible action on engaging the services of an independent auditor to conduct a full audit of the Workforce Training and Continuing Education (WTCE) department and programs

The board engaged in a short discussion of establishing a subcommittee, with Chair Garza to appoint the members.

A motion was made by Vice Chair De Leon to table the item and convene a subcommittee to provide a deep understanding of the audit the Board seeks to conduct. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:33 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

Vice Chair De Leon made a motion to approve the Salary Schedule for FY 2023-24 as discussed in Executive Session. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

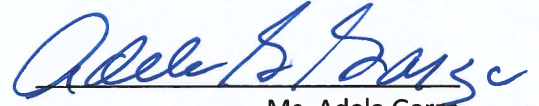
15. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, January 18, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

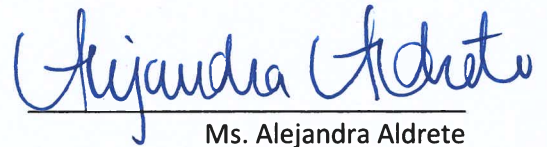
b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, February 15, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

14. **Adjournment**

Vice Chair De Leon made a motion adjourn. Trustee Saenz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 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 November 16, 2023 is available on the TSC.EDU website. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Dr. Angela K. McCauley, Director of Special Projects. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996.