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#### **TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

# April 20, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on April 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Ms. Alejandra Aldrete, Secretary; Mr. Ruben Herrera, Immediate Past Chair, and Dr. Tony Zavaleta. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent were Mr. J.J. De Leon, Vice Chair; Mrs. Delia Saenz, and Ms. Eva Alejandro.

#### **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.

Immediate Past Chair Herrera and the Trustees welcomed members of Leadership Brownsville who were present for the meeting.

## 3. Public Comment

Chair Garza asked if there were any speakers signed up for public comment. There were no public speakers.

#### 4. President's Report

Chair Garza first briefed the board on legislative visits she and President Rodríguez made on behalf of TSC at the end of March. The purpose of the visits was to discuss legislation TSC has been tracking through the process, in particular, House Bill 8, which relates to the creation of a new community college funding model, as well as a special rider. Madam Chair and President Rodríguez met with the following legislators during the visit: Representative Gamez, Representative Longoria, Representative Lopez, Senator LaMantia, Representative Martinez, Representative Guillen, and Representative Morales. Chair Garza said she is appreciative of the work President Rodríguez conducts on behalf of the college.

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

President Rodríguez thanked the board for their continued support of TSC and service to the communities.

# La Cultura Vive en Brownsville Conjunto Competition

TSC's 21st Century Conjunto, "La Leyenda", was invited to participate in the La Cultura Vive en Brownsville Conjunto Competition, where students from elementary to high school showcased their talent March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup> on the TSC campus. La Leyenda competed in the Junior Varsity level and received an Excellent Rating. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza and Secretary Aldrete for representing TSC at the event.

#### **Rotary Presentation**

Immediate Past Chair Herrera and Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Chief of Staff, provided an overview of the college at the Brownsville Historic Rotary Club meeting on April 13, at the invitation of former TSC Trustee Chester Gonzalez. Dr. Rodríguez thanked Immediate Past Chair Herrera for securing the invitation and participating in the event.

# Harlingen Chamber Business Over Breakfast

President Rodríguez served as the keynote speaker for the Business over Breakfast event, hosted by the Greater Harlingen Chamber of Commerce, on April 13. During the event, he shared videos on the 95th anniversary and provided an overview of how Texas Southmost College provides a great value proposition, as an institution of higher education in our service area. Participants included local Harlingen business and community leaders, including Harlingen CISD Superintendent Dr. Alicia Noyola, as well as many individuals who had a connection to TSC, either as alumni or family of alumni. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza for participating in the event.

# **21st Century Round Table Discussions**

TSC's 21st Century Community Learning Center program held round table discussions at all 10 BISD partner schools. At the events, students and their families learn about college matriculation, financial aid, workforce opportunities, and career paths. Presenters include TSC representatives, industry partners, and community-based organizations, giving families one-on-one time to learn about services and ask questions. The TSC team also held Career Pathway Information Sessions at the five partner BISD high schools: Hanna, Lopez, Pace, Porter and Rivera. President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Prisci Tipton and her staff for organizing the events for future Scorpions.

#### Mayor Trey Mendez, State of the City Address

Chair Garza, President Rodríguez, and TSC Foundation Board of Director representative Edward Bustos attended the 2023 State of the City address by Mayor Trey Mendez on April 19th. Mayor Mendez's address included a video which included an interview with President Rodríguez, who highlighted the positive working relationship TSC has with the city of Brownsville.

# **TAMUK Visit**

Texas A&M University Kingsville President Dr. Robert Vela, Jr. and members of his leadership team visited the campus on April 13th. Chair Garza, President Rodríguez, and members of the TSC leadership team met with them to discuss initiatives for strengthening the institutions' educational partnership and identifying strategies to help students obtain a high quality education through aligned curriculum and a smooth transfer process.

# **TSC Foundation Sapphire Gala**

The TSC Foundation hosted the 96th anniversary Sapphire Gala on April 15th, with more than 250 individuals participating. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza, Secretary Aldrete, Immediate Past Chair Herrera, and Trustee Alejandro for attending the gala. Approximately \$88,000 has been raised to-date, with proceeds benefitting the student scholarship fund.

# **CBP (OFO) Training Welcome**

President Rodríguez welcomed members of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations to the campus on April 17 and shared information about the educational offerings TSC has to offer. The Office of Field Operations, housed at the Gateway International Bridge, received training for their team at the TSC Newman center.

#### **Campus Events**

TSC hosted a number of events for students over the past month:

- an Employer Connection event in partnership with the Cameron County Juvenile Justice
   Department, which provided students and recent graduates with an opportunity to interact with potential employers
- blood drives on the Fort Brown and ITEC campuses
- a "Painting for a Purpose" event to celebrate Women's History Month
- a TSC Soccer Pep Rally, during which President Rodríguez and Chair Garza greeted TSC's newest members of the college's NJCAA men's and women's soccer teams
- an Egg Hunt
- two Register to Vote campaigns, held in coordination with the Cameron County Elections
   Department
- a Health and Wellness Fair at the REK Center
- a beach clean-up/community service project, led by the TSC Eco-Move club
- a graduation fair for traditional and dual credit students hosted by the Student Services division. The students met with university representatives assisting in transfers and local employers ready to hire graduates, and pick-up their cap and gowns.

President Rodríguez thanked Ms. Vanessa Vasquez, Interim Associate Vice President of Student Services, and her team for engaging students in so many Student Life activities.

#### **Rivera Awards Ceremony**

President Rodríguez, Mrs. Vanessa Vasquez, and Mr. Jose Arambul attended the Rivera Early College High School awards ceremony on April 19th to congratulate 68 dual credit students who will earn their associate's degree from TSC this semester, weeks before their high school graduation. This is the largest graduating class from Rivera High School, as well as the largest in the district this year.

#### **Mock Trials at Cameron County Courthouse**

TSC mock trials were held on April 17th-18th at the Cameron County Courthouse, through a collaboration between the Cameron County District Attorney's Office and the TSC Criminal Justice program. After dividing into teams and presenting their cases, students received feedback from judges and attorneys in attendance.

The Honorable Luis Saenz, Cameron County District Attorney, participated in the trial along with his Assistant District attorneys, Mr. Edward Sandoval and Mr. Arturo Villarreal, Assistant District Attorney for the Domestic Violence Division. The Honorable Judge Juanita "Janie" Jaimez and Judge Leo Rincones presided. President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. Chris Alves, Interim Dean of Humanities, for their leadership in ensuring TSC students continue to obtain real world experience through the mock trial events.

# **History Lectures at Amphitheatre**

TSC History faculty collaborated to hold an innovative metacognitive and active learning presentation on World War II at the Smith Amphitheater on April 5th. Participating faculty included Ms. Jamie Saenz, Mr. Robert Ramaker, and Mr. Dirk Yarker, who were also joined by a TSC student presenter, Daniel Sampayo. A variety of uniforms and artifacts were displayed for students to view and handle to enhance their learning experience. President Rodríguez thanked the faculty for continuing to find ways to keep students engaged in the learning process.

# **Barkitecture Doghouse Showcase 4/5**

TSC students collaborated to build special dog houses that were donated to raise funds for good causes. Designed by TSC architecture students and built by TSC construction students, the final products were presented at the Barkitecture Doghouse Showcase April 5th. One doghouse was donated to the Sapphire Gala as a silent auction item, and the others were donated to the Rio Grande Valley Humane Society's annual fundraising gala. President Rodríguez thanked the TSC's community's involvement in the collaboration.

# **Emergency Response Simulation Event**

The Health Professions division held an emergency response simulation event on April 12<sup>th</sup>, which allowed all seven Allied Health and Nursing programs to collaborate in patient emergency treatment. President Rodríguez congratulated the Health Professions faculty and staff who planned the event, as well as to the participating students.

# **TSC Capstone Art Gallery**

TSC Art Student's masterpieces were featured in the Capstone Series Art Exhibition, which opened to the public April 20<sup>th</sup> in a special event accompanied by live music provided by TSC music faculty Victor Martinez and Antonio Durant.

# **Patient Care Technician Graduation**

TSC's first class of Patient Care Technician students graduated March 30th. The program combines the skills of Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Phlebotomy, and EKG into one program, and is in high demand by local health care facilities. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza and Immediate Past Chair Herrera for attending the graduation and celebrating the students' accomplishment with their families.

#### **WTCE Information Sessions**

The Workforce Training and Continuing Education division held Information Sessions on March 28th and April 11th to provide information to potential students on short term workforce training programs/courses. Community members had the opportunity to meet with WTCE faculty, learn about the programs and careers, and enroll in WTCE courses.

## **Ellucian Live Conference**

TSC employees joined staff from the Ellucian IT team to participate in the annual Ellucian Live conference. Attendees included Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration; Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology; Mr. Rene Villarreal, Associate Vice President of Administrative Technologies; Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Educational Technologies; Mrs. Patricia Saldivar, Director of Purchasing; Mrs. Crystal Hite, Budget Officer; and Ellucian IT Team members Randy Wallace, Executive Director of Applications, and Miriam Garza, Business Analyst.

The teams presented on the following:

- "Colleague Self Service: Budget Development" presented by Crystal Hite and Miriam Garza (85 in attendance)
- "Analytical Data and Reporting for Procurement" presented by Patricia Saldivar and Randy Wallace (102 in attendance)
- "Implementing Ellucian Purchase with Ethos Integration" presented by Patricia Saldivar and Randy Wallace (48 in attendance)
- "Transforming Workforce Training with Ellucian Elevate" presented by Miriam Garza and Luis Villarreal (30 in attendance)
- "Diving into Ellucian Ethos Integration: The Sequel" presented by Randy Wallace and Luis Villarreal (145 in attendance)

President Rodríguez congratulated the team for stamping TSC on the E-Live conference map.

#### **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 commitment and the TSC employee for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the communities we serve.

- 5. Consideration and Possible Action on the Minutes of the following meetings:
  - a. Regular meeting March 23, 2023

Secretary Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2023. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### 6. Finance Committee

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of Retention Policy Manager Software License Upgrades

Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology, was called on to present the item. He said the proposal is to upgrade the software and add licensing that will allow TSC to better automate the management of the entire lifecycle of physical and electronic information. The software would expand use to include the departments of Human Resources, High School Programs and Services, Student Services, and Procurement. The purchase would be made using CARES ACT funds.

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion to approve license upgrades for Retention Policy Manager and Combo software solution from Hyland Software, Inc. through DIR-TSO-4378 contract and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase orders, as presented. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. 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 2023

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the item. She said the Texas Property Tax Reform Act of 2019 requires the Texas Southmost College Board of Trustees to designate an officer to calculate the no-new-tax-revenue and/or voter-approval tax rate for the district.

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion to approve resolution to designate officer to calculate the no-new-revenue and/or voter approval tax rate for Tax Year 2023. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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 BEIT 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. Dr. Gisela Figueroa, to calculate the nonew-revenue and or voter-approval tax rate for tax year 2023 in the manner provided for a special taxing unit.

ADO PTED this DAY of 2023.	
	Adela G. Garza Chair, Board of Trustee,
	Alejandra Aldrete, M.Ed.

# c. Consideration and possible action on adoption of the 2023 Historic Preservation Plan Resolution granting tax exemptions to eligible historic sites listed in the 2023 Historic Preservation Plan adopted by the City of Brownsville

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the item. She reported that the City of Brownsville divided properties into three different schedules, A, B, and C. If approved, the financial implication to Texas Southmost College District is a total of \$24,021 tax forgone for the 111 properties in the plan.

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion to adopt the 2023 Historic Preservation Plan Resolutions granting tax exemptions to eligible historic sites listed in the 2023 Historic Preservation Plan Schedules A, B, & C as adopted by the City of Brownsville. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

# d. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended February 28, 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 February 28, 2023.

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

# e. 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 the number of days the college could operate with the available fund balance as of August 31, 2022, if no other revenue was received.

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

# f. 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 for the month and to date.

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

# g. 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 March 2023.

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

# 7. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called on Trustee Zavaleta to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of RFP 23-15 "Medication Dispense System"

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Ms. Mary Kasprisin, Director of Nursing, were called upon to present the item. Dr. McCormack reviewed the RFP timeline, proposed equipment, evaluation committee, pricing and scoring, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. The proposed equipment would be paid for from the Nursing Innovation GEER II grant. Three vendors responded to the RFP, with Pocket Nurse Enterprise, Inc. receiving the highest score from the committee.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to award RFP 23-15 "Medication Dispense System" to Pocket Nurse Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$67,136 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order, as presented. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on approval of RFP 23-16 "Medical Computing Carts Dispense System"

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Ms. Mary Kasprisin, Director of Nursing, were called upon to present the item. Dr. McCormack reviewed the RFP timeline, proposed equipment, evaluation committee, pricing and scoring, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. The proposed equipment would be paid for from the Nursing Innovation GEER II grant. Eight vendors responded to the RFP, with Native Networks receiving the highest score from the committee.

Ms. Kasprisin confirmed this equipment is the same that graduates will encounter in the field.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to award RFP 23-16 "Medical Computing Carts" to Native Networks, Inc. in the amount of \$45,810 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order, as presented. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

c. Consideration and possible action on approval of Video Audio Learning Tool (VALT) purchase for the Nursing Simulation Lab

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Ms. Mary Kasprisin, Director of Nursing, were called upon to present the item. Dr. McCormack reviewed the proposed equipment and budget and financial impact. The proposed equipment would be purchased as a sole source purchase and paid for from the Nursing Innovation GEER II grant.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to approve purchase of video audio learning tool (VALT) from Intelligent Video Solutions in the amount of \$130,000 through sole source purchasing method and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase orders, as presented. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

d. Consideration and possible action to approve an Affiliation Agreement with Mesa Hills Post-Acute

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. David R. Pearse, Dean of Health Profession, were called upon to present the item. The proposed agreement is updated to reflect the senior care's center new ownership and management, which serves as a clinical site for Respiratory Care students.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to approve the Affiliation Agreement with Mesa Hills Post-Acute for Respiratory Care students and authorize President Rodríguez to sign the agreement. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

e. Consideration and possible action to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Texas State University for Health Professions AAS Graduates

Dr. Brian McCormack, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. David R. Pearse, Dean of Health Profession, were called upon to present the item. The proposed MOU would facilitate seamless transfer to Texas State University, without loss of credit, for TSC students earning an associate of applied science degree.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Texas State University for Health Professions AAS graduates and authorize President Rodríguez to sign the agreement. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### 8. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called on Secretary Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of RFP 23-17 "Audiovisual and Media Equipment"

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. Dr. Figueroa reviewed the RFP timeline, scope of work, evaluation committee, pricing and scoring tabulation, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. The equipment would be purchased with federal CARES Act funding. Three vendors responded to the RFP, with Ford Audio-Video Systems, LLC receiving the highest score from the committee.

Mr. Morris provided a description of the equipment and the benefits it will provide to the college community.

A motion was made by Secretary Aldrete to award RFP 23-17 for "Audiovisual and Media Equipment" to Ford Audio-Video Systems, LLC in the amount of \$391,976 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order, as presented. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

# b. Consideration and possible action on award RFQ 23-12 for "Engineering (A/E) Services for Chilled/ Hot Water Piping and Equipment Replacement at Jacob Brown Auditorium"

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mrs. Marcela Juarez, Director of Operations, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Figueroa reviewed the RFQ timeline, scope of work, architectural/engineering services, evaluation committee, pricing and scoring tabulation, review criteria, and budget and financial impact. Five responses to the RFQ were received, with Ethos Holistique Holdings, LLC receiving the highest score from the committee.

A motion was made by Secretary Aldrete to award RFQ 23-12 for "Engineering (A/E) Services for Chilled/Hot Water Piping and Equipment Replacement at Jacob Brown Auditorium" to Ethos Holistique Holdings, LLC and authorize President Rodríguez to negotiate and execute the contract, as presented. If a satisfactory contract cannot be negotiated with this firm, then the award should be made to the next highest ranked respondent Adaptive Industrial Services, LLC. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

# c. 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, and the fence replacement for the child care center unit #2.

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

# 9. Student Services Committee

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

#### a. Presentation on community partnerships to support student retention and completion

Dr. Angelica Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Institutional Projects, was called upon to present the item. She reviewed efforts to partner with community-based organizations to remove or reduce barriers for special student populations for the ultimate goal of increasing retention and completion rates. This work led to the establishment of the Community-based Organization (CBO) Network and the establishment of the TSC Scorpion Opportunity Hub.

The board engaged in a brief discussion of services available for veterans, as well as transportation for all students.

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

Consideration and possible action to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Texas
 Southmost College and Community-based Organizations to provide TSC students to access to basic
 needs and other social services

Dr. Angelica Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Institutional Projects, was called upon to present the item. The proposed MOU is a template designed to be used for community-based organizations that request an MOU for serving students at the Scorpion Opportunity Hub.

A motion was made by Immediate Past Chair Herrera to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Texas Southmost College and Community-based Organizations to provide TSC students to access to basic needs and other social services. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

# 10. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:56 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:03 p.m.

#### 11. 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

Secretary Aldrete made a motion to accept the salary schedule for 2022-2023, as discussed in executive session. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Secretary Aldrete authorized Texas Southmost College administration to work with legal counsel to conclude the Tercero litigation, as discussed in executive session. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

# 12. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

- a. Regular Board Meeting Thursday, May 18, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Regular Board Meeting Thursday, June 15, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
- c. Board Retreat Friday, June 16, 2023

# 14. Adjournment

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion adjourn. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Ms. Adela Garta Chair, Board of Trustees

Ms. Alejandra Aldrete Secretary, Board of Trustees

The video recording of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on April 20, 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.