



TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

June 15, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on June 15, 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, Ms. Eva Alejandro, Mrs. Delia Saenz, and Dr. Tony Zavaleta. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College.

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 Rodríguez, Ph.D.

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. President's Report

Chair Garza first provided updates for several items.

Legislative Update

Chair Garza shared that she serves as the representative and point of contact for the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT), an organization that advocates for community colleges at the state and national levels. She noted that it was with this group that she, Vice Chair DeLeon, and Trustee Alejandro met with Senator Cruz and Senator Cornyn in Washington DC in February to promote expansion of the federal Pell grant. She says she is hopeful the grant program will be expanded.

She said the CCATT has been very active during this past regular Texas legislative session. The member Trustees worked hand-in-hand with CEOs in Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) to advocate for community college priorities. She said it was the first time trustees have been included in the work, which proved to be very productive in passing House Bill 8. She reported that the next step is for the rule-making

committee to determine how the funding approved in House Bill 8 will be appropriated. She thanked President Rodríguez for his work during the session.

Mariachi Festival

During the 5th Annual Mariachi Festival earlier this spring, Nuestra Cultura Mariachi Association recognized TSC with the Visionary Award, which was presented for the “like-minded creativity in working together with the association to better the musicians of the RGV”. Chair Garza recalled when former Trustee Ramon Hinojosa began the event many years ago to bring together all of the Mariachi groups across the Rio Grande Valley, an event that has now been successfully revived following the COVID-19 shut down. She was honored to accept the award on behalf of TSC.

TSC honored for creating education opportunities

Chair Garza recognized Ing. Francisco Galvan from the Texas Tamaulipas Trade Office, who made a presentation to the Board. He offered his gratitude, as well on behalf of the former Tamaulipas governor, for helping students become educated and productive professionals.

Secretary Aldrete recognized

Chair Garza congratulated Secretary Alejandra Aldrete for her new position at the Brownsville Independent School District, where she is now serving as the Director of the Parent and Family Engagement Department. Chair Garza said she is confident Secretary Aldrete will continue to be a wonderful resource for families in the community.

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

Telly Awards

The TSC Marketing Department was recognized with a national award that celebrates excellence in video production. The TSC 2022 summer and fall registration television commercial, featuring the Study Local campaign, earned the prestigious national Telly awards in three categories: Gold, for General-Educational Institution; Silver, for Editing; and Bronze, for Art Direction.

The commercial featured the talent of many TSC faculty, staff, and students. President Rodríguez recognized the following departments for their contribution to the project: Art department, Health Professions, Workforce Training and Continuing Education, the Purchasing department, as well as the Brownsville Police Department. He offered his congratulations to the marketing and multimedia department staff members on this great achievement. Chair Garza added her congratulations to the Marketing team.

21st Century Community Learning Center achievement

For the last five years, TSC has been leading vibrant learning communities in partnership with the Brownsville Independent School District. Through the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, TSC provides robust enrichment activities and interactive events at 5 BISD high schools and 5 middle schools. The goal of the program is to help to ensure high school graduates find their place at a community college or university.

TSC was notified that the program achieved its Year Five goals, which means this year they served:

- 2,500 middle and high school students, who attended 45 days or more of programming
- 1,250 adults, who attended one or more family engagement events

The goals were achieved even in advance of the 6-week summer camps the program will provide for students across all 10 partner schools. President Rodríguez also noted that the Texas Education Agency issued a special invitation to the TSC 21st Century Porter Conjunto Group, La Leyenda. They performed at the annual “Out-of-School Time” state conference earlier this month.

He also announced that TEA notified the college that the TSC 21st Century Community Learning Center grant was renewed, awarding an additional \$10 million dollars over the next five years to fund the program’s service to the community. He congratulated the 21st Century team and the grants department for the great impact they are making in the community.

Conference Presentations

President Rodríguez reported on several recent conference presentations presented by TSC staff.

Dr. Prisci Tipton was the keynote speaker at the Texas Education Agency’s Community Partnership Schools training held in Austin June 15th. She presented an address titled, “Pipeline from Pre-K to College, community partnerships and college and career readiness, implementation and effective intervention.” At the event, she shared best practices and examples of successfully outcomes, based on her excellent work with TSC’s 21st Century Community Learning Center program. TSC was well represented at the National Association for Career and Technical Education Information national conference. Dr. Angela McCauley, Ms. Daniela Canales, and Mr. John Rodríguez were presenters at the conference held in Austin May 22nd-25th. Their presentation was titled: Scorpion Opportunity HUB: Connecting Students to Community Resources. The topic was well received by conference participants. President Rodríguez also thanked Dr. Stella Garcia and Angelica Fuentes for supporting the teams.

High School Graduations

President Rodríguez participated in a number of graduation ceremonies with school district partners. He said it has been inspiring to connect with local school board trustees, superintendents, principals, the graduates, and their families. He participated in the Port Isabel High School graduation on May 26th, during which he recognized the first two Port Isabel graduates who earned their associate degrees from Texas Southmost College earlier in the month.

On June 2nd, he attended two high school graduations. The first was for the Brownsville Early College High School class of 2023, held in the TSC Performing Arts Center. Later that evening, he served as the keynote speaker at the Santa Maria ISD graduation, where he said there was great interest from families in learning more about the educational opportunities available to them at Texas Southmost College.

BISD ITECC Tours

Last month TSC hosted 250 seniors from the Brownsville Independent School District for tours of our workforce programs at the International, Technology, Education and Commerce Center (ITECC), thanks to a collaboration with Melissa de la Torres, who serves in the BISD Office of College, Career, and Military Readiness. Students engaged in hands-on activities in the following programs: drone pilot, welding, healthcare, and construction. They also interacted with transition coaches, faculty, and workforce training staff. President Rodríguez thanked Judy Moreno and Imelda Martinez for leading the events, as well as the many staff members in Student Services and Workforce Training who made the visits successful.

New Scorpion Orientation

As part of our redesign of Student Services activities, TSC has shifted new student orientation to take place earlier, as well as multiple times throughout the summer. The first session was held on May 20th at the SETB Lecture Hall, with 93 students and 48 family members participating. They engaged in hands-on activities and met with representatives from all of the Student Services departments, as well as Business Services, Financial Aid, Tutoring, Educational Technology and Online Learning (ETOL), and campus security. President Rodríguez thanked Ms. Virginia Sandoval for leading the committee, and the many members of the campus community who made the event successful for new Scorpions.

West Brownsville Little League

TSC continues efforts to cultivate future Scorpions. On June 1st, Chair Garza and President Rodríguez participated in the West Brownsville Little League Closing Ceremony, where they connected with the young athletes, coaches, and parents. They also awarded medals and championship rings alongside Brownsville City Commissioner Linda Macias.

Scorpion Youth Soccer Camp

TSC held its first Scorpion Youth Soccer Camp on June 7-9, with 90 youth participating, ranging in ages from 5 to 12, including the grandchildren of Chair Garza and Immediate Past Chair Herrera. President Rodríguez said the camps have been an incredible opportunity to engage community youth and develop future Scorpions. He thanked the TSC Soccer Coach, Mario Zamora, Dr. Armando Ponce, Recreation, Education, and Kinesiology (REK) center staff, and TSC soccer players for volunteering their time to put on this great outreach event.

Lasara Golf Tournament

TSC was represented at the Lasara Independent School District golf tournament by Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Dr. Armando Ponce, and Coach Maria Zamora. President Rodríguez noted that while they may have lost a lot of golf balls, they did not lose out on the opportunity to strengthening TSC's relationship with the college's friends at Lasara ISD. He thanked the trio for representing TSC.

Dual Enrollment Outreach

President Rodríguez reported out on the outreach he has been conducting with rural school districts. Over the past few weeks he has met with superintendents and administrators to discuss strategies for enhancing dual enrollment in their school districts. He said the response has been positive, and has generated creative ideas for how to increase dual credit enrollment and the number of associate degrees students earn. He thanked Ms. Vanessa Vasquez, Dr. Brian McCormack, Mr. Jose Arambul, and Dr. Chris Alves for taking part in the discussions.

UT Austin College of Education Visit

President Rodríguez met with the UT Austin Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Charles Martinez, and Department Chair, Dr. Victor Saenz on June 7th. He reported they had a great discussion about how to best partner in the institutions' work that will make a positive impact on TSC and the Rio Grande Valley.

Brownsville elected official visits

TSC hosted visits with newly elected officials last month. Madam Chair and President Rodríguez met with Brownsville Mayor John Cowen on May 26th and Brownsville Commissioner Bryan Martinez on June 1st. During the visits, the officials were provided with a brief history of the college, toured ITECC, and discussed areas of future collaboration. He said the support for TSC's mission as a comprehensive community college

remains strong from our elected officials, and he looks forward to continuing to work together to enhance the quality of life for the community.

Student Services

The Student Services division continues to organize events that help students stay engaged. The most recent events included Military Appreciation, which was celebrated through the month of May, and a Blood Drive on June 15th.

Patient Care Technician and CNA graduation

Last month TSC graduated two more classes of health professionals from the Workforce Training and Continuing Education (WTCE) division. Four students earned a Patient Care Technician credential on May 18th and 10 students earned a Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate on May 19th. President Rodríguez said he is appreciative to the school district partners in Brownsville and Lyford for their collaboration in serving industry's needs for new healthcare professionals.

TSC Surplus Auction

Last month TSC held a surplus auction, which was conducted by Galindo Auctions, LLC, on May 20th and raised \$63,797.14. President Rodríguez thanked Marcela Juarez and the Physical Plant staff for ensuring a well-run event.

Video Presentation

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

Following the video, President Rodríguez recognized Immediate Past Chair Herrera for his recognition as Criminal Defense Attorney of the Year.

President Rodríguez thanked the Board for their continued support and commitment on behalf of the communities TSC serves, as well as the TSC faculty and staff for starting off the summer semester Scorpion Strong.

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

a. Regular meeting - May 18, 2023

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 18, 2023. Trustee Alejandro seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. Presentation of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME) and the Mexican Consulate in Brownsville, Texas, to Texas Southmost College

The Honorable Juan Carlos Cué Vega, Consul General of Mexico, was called upon to make the presentation. He noted that since 2005, the Mexican government has allocated scholarship funding to educate Mexican citizens and citizens of Mexican origin abroad. The \$11,000 allocated by the Mexican Consulate this year represents the seventh year of partnership with Texas Southmost College. The scholarship allocation is matched by TSC with Texas Public Educational Grant Program funding. President Rodríguez and Cónsul Cué Vega signed the grant agreement.

7. Finance Committee

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

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of the proposed Tuition and Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the item. She reviewed updates to mandatory fees on the proposed tuition and fee schedule.

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion to approve the proposed Tuition and Fees Schedule effective Fiscal Year 2024. Secretary Aldrete seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended April 30, 2023

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero presented the monthly financial statement report for the month ended April 30, 2023.

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

c. Second Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2023

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the item. She introduced Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, who presented the report.

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

d. Fund Balance Operation Report

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Figueroa 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.

e. 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.

f. Grants Report

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the item. She reported on the new grants received during the month of May 2023.

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

8. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called on Trustee Zavaleta to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve revised Academic Agreement between Texas Southmost College and secondary school partners for the award of credit in Dual Programs

Ms. Vanessa Vasquez, Interim Associate Vice President of Student Services, and Mr. Jose Arambul, Executive Director of High School Programs and Services, were called upon to present the item. Ms. Vasquez reviewed proposed changes to the agreement. The board engaged in a brief discussion of fees assessed and students' use of online tutoring services.

A motion was made by Trustee Zavaleta to approve the revised Academic Agreement template with secondary school partners for the award of credit 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 award RFP 23-18 for "Campus Custodial Services"

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. She reviewed the RFP timeline, scope of work, review committee, pricing tabulation, review criteria, and budget and financial impact. There were 14 respondents to the RFP. The board engaged in a discussion of the review criteria.

A motion was made by Secretary Aldrete to award RFP 23-18 for "Campus Custodial Services" to Pritchard Industries, LLC and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion. The motion passed, with trustees voting in favor of the motion including Vice Chair De Leon, Secretary Aldrete, Immediate Past Chair Herrera, Trustee Alejandro, and Trustee Saenz. Trustee Zavaleta voted against the motion.

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

She also provided an update on the water leak at the ITEC Center, which has been contained, and noted that repairs have been made to prevent any further damage.

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

10. Student Services Committee

Chair Garza called on Trustee Saenz to present the report.

a. Update on the rollout of EAB Starfish Platform for Student Services

Ms. Vanessa Vasquez, Interim Associate Vice President of Student Services, was called upon to present the item. Ms. Vasquez provided an overview of the implementation progress, including the services provided through Starfish, implementation committee, project timeline, long-term goals, and key benefits. The board engaged in a brief discussion of data collection and reporting.

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

11. Policy Committee

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

a. Consideration and possible action on the following (LOCAL) policies: CHA and GD

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed proposed changes to the following policies:

CHA (LOCAL) Site Management Security. College and Board Legal Counsel developed a new policy to properly reflect the college's hybrid security model.

GD (LOCAL) Community Expression and Use of College Facilities. The proposed policy has been revised to incorporate a sliding scale for facility lease fees based on the type of organization requesting facility use.

Trustee Saenz thanked the committee for their hard work on these policies.

A motion was made by Vice Chair De Leon to approve revisions to the following LOCAL policies: CHA (LOCAL) Site Management: Security and GD (LOCAL) Community Expression and Use of College Facilities. Immediate Past Chair Herrera seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

12. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:39 p.m.

13. 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

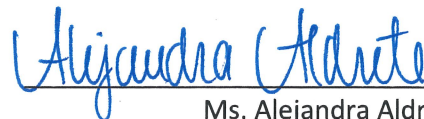
No action was taken.

14. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates**a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, August 17, 2023, 5:30 p.m.****14. Adjournment**

Immediate Past Chair Herrera made a motion adjourn. Trustee Saenz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 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 June 15, 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.