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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 24, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session via videoconference on September 24, 2020 at 5:32 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Mr. Ruben Herrera, Vice Chair; Dr. Tony Zavaleta, Secretary; Mr. Art Rendon, and Ms. Eva Alejandro. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent board members included Mrs. Delia Saenz and Mr. J.J. De Leon.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Garza, at 5:32 p.m.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Secretary 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 was one speaker signed up, Mr. Antonio Guevara.

Mr. Frank Perez read the official guidelines for public comment. Chair Garza recognized Mr. Guevara as a speaker.

Mr. Guevara congratulated the entire TSC team for achieving reaffirmation of accreditation from SACSCOC through 2030.

He addressed agenda item 8C, Consideration and possible approval of the updated Tuition and Fee Schedule. He asked the board to consider two items: extending the 20% tuition discount into the Spring 2021 semester, and applying the discount to required fees. He said his recommendations come from a genuine desire to work collectively at TSC. He listed reasons to support his request. He shares the administration's desire to ensure local students have access to an affordable, high-quality education, and he noted college affordability continues to be a challenge for students during the pandemic. While tuition has been cut several times over the past few years, he said we must recognize college tuition continues to be a barrier for entry for many in our community. As a

c. Consideration and possible action on approval of matching grant support for the 19th Annual Binational Literary Conference Letras en el Estuario

Dr. Joanna Kile, Vice President of Instruction, was called on to present the item, and she asked Dr. Fuentes to present the item. Dr. Fuentes reported that this would be the college's 19th year to host the conference, which is scheduled to take place in February. The funding organization, Humanities Texas, requires matching funding for the grant. Dr. Fuentes said the college's proposal includes a funding match in the form of providing facility space for the conference and marking support.

A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to approve the allocation of matching grant support in the amount of \$2,287 for marketing and \$1,457 in-kind cost sharing for facilities and AV support, contingent on the Notice of Grant Award from Humanities Texas for \$1,086.39 and authorize President Rodriguez to execute the related documents, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alejandro and carried with five votes and two absences.

d. Consideration and possible action on approval of whiteboards purchase for student classrooms

Dr. Joanna Kile, Vice President of Instruction, was called on to present this item. She said the proposed purchases are part of the teaching and learning spaces project the board approved in February 2019. To determine the need for updates on campus, staff inventoried chalkboards and whiteboards in every classroom in North Hall, South Hall, Tandy Hall, SETB, and Rusteberg Hall. The new whiteboards would replace 106 chalkboards and outdated whiteboards. Instructors tested the proposed whiteboards and were satisfied with their quality.

A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to approve whiteboards purchase for the "Teaching and Learning Spaces-Furniture and Media Upgrades" project in the total amount of \$52,854 directly from Egan Visual/West Inc. through the purchasing cooperative contract as presented and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchases. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alejandro and carried with five votes and two absences.

e. Consideration and possible action on award RFP 20-16 for "Welding Gas and other Consumables"

Dr. Joanna Kile, Vice President of Instruction, was called on to present this item. She asked Dr. Figueroa to describe the RFP process. Dr. Figueroa presented the RFP timeline, and Dr. Fleishman discussed the description of services. He explained that students will use a wide array of consumables for the welding program.

Dr. Zavaleta asked if the \$804 estimated for consumable supplies was a fee students would pay for the course. Dr. Fleishman explained the cost of the consumables is already built into the course cost.

Dr. Figueroa reported that four proposals were received in response to the RFP. Matheson Trigas received the highest score from the committee.

A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to award RFP 20-16 for “Welding Gas and other Consumables” to Matheson Trigas and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the Purchase Order contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Herrera and carried with five votes and two absences.

7. Student Services Committee

Chair Garza called on Mr. Rendon to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of furniture purchase for the Oliveira Student Services Center Second Floor

Dr. Joanna Kile, Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Administration and Finance, were called on to present the item. Dr. Figueroa presented the project’s schedule of events, beginning in December 2019 when the Board of Trustees approved project funding. She also presented a floor plan illustrating the spaces to be furnished. She noted the furniture fabrics proposed are hospital grade; they are durable and may be disinfected frequently.

Mr. Rendon said the committee had a very thorough discussion of the proposal.

Chair Garza said she is very impressed with the renovated space, which, she said, is well-planned. The feedback from the students was very constructive and the architects did an excellent job of designing the space.

A motion was made by Mr. Rendon to approve the furniture purchase for the “Oliveira Student Services Center Second Floor Renovation” project in the total amount of \$391,960 directly from furniture manufacturers through the purchasing cooperatives contracts as presented and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contracts. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alejandro and carried with five votes and two absences.

8. Budget Committee

Chair Garza called on Vice Chair Herrera to make the report.

a. Update on grants awarded to Texas Southmost College for the month of August 2020

Dr. Angelica Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Academic Success, was called on to present the update. She reported on the grants awarded to Texas Southmost College in August.

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