



TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE and TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

November 29, 2007

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on November 29, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall, Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Mr. Chester Gonzalez, Chair, Ms. Rosemary Breedlove, Vice Chair, Mr. Eduardo A. Campirano, Secretary, Dr. Roberto Robles, and Ms. Dolly Zimmerman. Absent was Mr. David Oliveira. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. García, President of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Call to Order

1. Executive Session

as provided by Government
Code, Chapter 551.072

Personnel

Appointment of Trustee to Fill Board
Vacancy

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:04 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:22 p.m.

2. Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

Appointment of Trustee to Fill Board Vacancy

Chairman Gonzalez requested nominations to fill Place 1, which was vacated by Mr. Roman "Dino" Esparza. He stated that the person appointed to Place 1 will serve until the next scheduled election, which will take place on May 10, 2008, at which time that person may choose to run to fill the remaining two years of the term.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to appoint Mr. José A. Herrera, Jr. to Place 1 of the Texas Southmost College Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Breedlove and carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Consideration and possible action on Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 25, 2007

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 25, 2007. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zimmerman and carried unanimously.

4. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

Mr. Allan Clark, Associate Professor of Fine Arts, announced that the Music Department received full accreditation from the National Association of Music Schools. Mr. Clark pointed out the benefits that the Music Building as proposed would bring to the UTB/TSC community.

Mr. Allan Brumley, a Harlingen resident and former Trustee of the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, shared his experience with building a deficient facility. Mr. Brumley stated that addressing deficiencies after a facility has been built was more expensive. Mr. Brumley encouraged the Trustees to approve the Music Building as proposed.

5. Board Briefing

Bravo Opera Company's Tenth Anniversary

Dr. Charles Dameron, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Ms. Amy Brownlow, Director of the Bravo Opera Company. Mrs. Brownlow announced that the Bravo Opera Company celebrated its 10 year anniversary in November and presented a video of their celebration.

6. Public Hearing on Continuing Taxation of Goods in Transit

There were no speakers.

7. TSC District Taxes

Consideration and possible action on Resolution on Continuing the Taxation of Goods in Transit

Ms. Melba Sanchez, Assistant Vice President for Finance, explained that the 80th Legislature passed House Bill 621 allowing a property tax exemption of “goods in transit,” which is described as inventory stored in a location not owned by the owner of the goods. The Act allows governing bodies to adopt a resolution prior to January 1, 2008 to continue taxing these goods as before.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to adopt the resolution regarding the continuing the taxation of goods in transit as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zimmerman and carried unanimously. *Exhibit “A”*

8. Joint Business Affairs and Student Affairs Partnership Committees meeting

Consideration and possible action on Partnership Concordance Policy: Tuition and Fees

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the Student Affairs and Business Affairs Partnership Committees held a joint meeting on November 28, 2007. Members from both committees were present to consider the Partnership Concordance Policy with regards to the proposed Tuition and Fees for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010. Dr. Dameron presented an overview of the tuition and fees setting process. Ms. Rosemary Martinez, Vice President for Business Affairs, reviewed the recommendations made by the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes. *Exhibit “B”*

Chairman Gonzalez explained that per the District’s Partnership Concordance Policy, TSC shall have the same tuition and fees as UTB until otherwise determined by amendment to the policy by the Board of Trustees. There was no action taken.

9. Physical Facilities Subcommittee

Ms. Breedlove reported that the Physical Facilities Subcommittee met on November 19th to discuss the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Music Hall Building and the proposed new funding allocation for construction projects. The committee also participated in the interviews for the two firms that responded to the Request for Proposals to plan, finance, construct and operate a housing and dining facility on campus.

**Consideration and possible action on
Acceptance of Guaranteed Maximum Price for Music Hall Building**

Mr. Pete Ed Garret, from Studio Red Architects, presented the current project details for the Music Hall Building and explained that it will serve multiple purposes benefiting both the visual and performing arts.

Mr. Gilbert Gallegos, from Broaddus & Associates, explained the adjustments made to the proposed Music Hall, which had increased the project construction cost.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to authorize SKANSKA USA to proceed with Part II – Construction Phase Services for the Music Hall Building in the amount of \$21,084,574, and authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning & Construction to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles. Motion carried by four votes for and one vote against, cast by Mr. Campirano. Exhibit “C”

**Consideration and possible action on
Funding Allocation for Bond Projects**

Dr. García explained that Institutional Advancement will work diligently in nurturing potential donors to secure the \$6.7 million needed to construct the Music Hall Building as approved by the Board. Dr. García added that should this task not be accomplished, the other option would be to draw \$3.5 million in Maintenance Tax Notes. The remaining \$3.2 million could be obtained by slowing down the pace of property acquisition and capital improvements, redirecting the budgeted amounts for those line items toward the Music Hall Building.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve the funding allocation for the construction projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. Exhibit “D”

**Consideration and Possible Action on
Selection of a firm to plan, finance, construct
and operate a housing and dining facility**

Ms. Breedlove reported that the District solicited request for proposals (RFP) to plan, finance, construct and operate new student housing on campus. The RFP was for a new facility that would include 400 beds and other amenities. Staff also requested that the proposals include construction and management of a 10,000 square foot dining facility as an option for consideration. Responses were received from Collegiate Development and University Service Corporation on August 31, 2007. Ms. Breedlove stated that after conducting the interviews with the two respondents, staff requires additional time to evaluate the proposals. A formal recommendation will be presented at the December Board Meeting.

10. Resolution

Consideration and possible action on Resolution in Support of a Regional Convention/Events Center in Cameron County

Mr. Gonzalez read the resolution in support of a regional convention/events center in Cameron County.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to adopt the Resolution in Support of a Regional Convention/Events Center in Cameron County as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zimmerman and carried unanimously. Exhibit "E"

11. Construction Report

Dr. Pearson reported the following:

- Renovations continue in the Lightner Courtyard. Plant material is being installed, including live oaks.

Ms. Mendez reported the following:

- Construction at the REK Center is on schedule.
- The pouring of concrete at the REK Center continues as well as the installation of metal studs.
- The roof at the REK Center is close to completion.
- The site has been cleared for the New Library and Classroom buildings.
- Demolition work has begun at ITEC Campus. Roof replacement is about 50 percent complete.

12. President's Report

President García reported the following:

- Mr. Eduardo Rodriguez, a partner in the Brownsville law firm of Rodriguez, Colvin, Chaney & Saenz, and Chair of the UTB/TSC Development Board, was honored by the Texas Appleseed organization in Austin. He received the J. Chrys Dougherty Good Apple Award for his leadership in education, greater diversity in the legal profession, and pro bono service.
- Dr. Vince Solis, Assistant Vice President of Student Development, briefed the Board on a national award bestowed on the UTB/TSC Chess Team. Dr. Solis stated that the Chess team is currently ranked second in the state and seventh in the country, tied with Yale University and Harvard University. He announced

that the UTB/TSC Chess team has been named the 2007 Collegiate Chess Institution of the Year by the U.S. Chess Federation.

- Winter Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, December 22, 2007 at 10 a.m. at the Student Union Lawn. The keynote speaker will be TSC Trustee Ms. Dolly Zimmerman.

13. Proposed Meeting Dates

Board Meetings:

Thursday, December 20, 2007
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
Thursday, February 28, 2008
Thursday, March 27, 2008
Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. Gonzalez reviewed the dates with the Board

14. Announcements


- Dr. García announced that the Sergio Bustamante Sculpture, *El Centro de Ti Mismo*, will be the campaign symbol for the Music Education Building fundraising effort.
- Mr. Gonzalez announced that the Scorpion Volleyball team advanced to the top ten NAIA Women's National Championship tournament by defeating Virginia College.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 8:17 p.m.



Mr. Chester Gonzalez
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Mr. Eduardo A. Campirano
Secretary, Board of Trustees

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on November 29, 2007 is on file at the District Office of the Texas Southmost College District. The master tape is on file at the UTB/TSC Media center. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Claudia L. Cortina, Administrative Secretary. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996. They are aired on Channel KISD in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.