



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

February 11, 2010

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on February 11, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall at The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. Board members present were David Oliveira, Chair; Eduardo A. Campirano, Vice Chair; Dr. Roberto Robles, Secretary; Rosemary Breedlove; Chester Gonzalez; Adela G. Garza; and René Torres. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. García, President of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Oliveira at 5:34 p.m.

1. Announcement

Irv Downing, Vice President for Economic Development and Community Services, introduced Dr. Dan Barnard as the first Director of The Arts Center. Dr. Barnard has doctorate in music composition from the University of Kansas and has taught 18 years. He also has a decade of experience as an arts presenter. Dr. Barnard comes to the university from Dakota Wesleyan University, where he served in the Music Department since 1997. Dr. Barnard said he is excited about being at UTB/TSC.

2. Board Briefings

- Dr. Charles Dameron, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Dr. Miguel Escotet, Dean College of Education. Dr. Escotet noted that the college of education recently underwent a reorganization. The College of Education now comprises the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies; the

Department of Health and Human Performance; the Department of Language, Literacy, and Intercultural Studies; and the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation. It also includes the Center for Educational Development and Innovation. This reorganization reduces the fragmentation of various units in the college. The College of Education recently published its own policies and procedures manual and a student handbook. Dr. Escotet reported that the College of Education currently has 3,200 students enrolled. In addition, the College of Education is seeking approval to add two specializations to its doctoral program next year, including educational technology and higher education teaching. The doctoral program has 50 students. Dr. Escotet also reported that the new Center for Early Childhood Studies will provide research and educational opportunities for both students and faculty. Since 2004, the College of Education has received \$17.1 million in grants, including \$4.3 for the current fiscal year. The College of Education also successfully met accreditation standards for another five years. Also, the teaching certification pass rate for the College of Education has ranged from 94 percent to 98 percent overall.

- Ben Reyna, Special Assistant to Provost for Governmental Relations, introduced members of the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority to give an update on the West Parkway Project in Brownsville. Assistant Coordinator of the project, David Garcia, was accompanied by engineering consulting staff, Richard Ridings and Greg Garcia. David Garcia noted that West Parkway Project will use the abandoned rail corridor behind the ITECC. The project is designed to improve the mobility within Brownsville, encourage economic development and improve the abandoned rail corridor by adding walking paths and park like features. The presentation provided an overview of the status of the project.

3. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Consideration and Possible Action on Minutes from January 12, 2010, January 21, 2010, and February 2, 2010, Meetings

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the special meeting on January 12, 2010, the regular meeting on January 21, 2010, and the special meeting on February 2, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously.

5. Executive Session

as provided by Government
Code, Chapter 551.071, .072

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:20 p.m.

6. Consideration and Possible Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session

There were no items to report.

7. Community Advisory Committee on The University of Texas System and Texas Southmost College Educational Partnership Agreement

Chairman Oliveira reported the first meeting of the Community Advisory Committee was a great success. Members present at the February 10, 2010, meeting included Joel Alaffa, Rosalinda Amaro-Galarza, Mary Rose Cardenas, Jerry Frank, Dr. Ruben Gallegos, Bertha Garza, Eddie Garza, Reynaldo Garza, Paula Gomez, Gigi Habet, David Handley, Lawrence Klein, Josh Law, Mary Helen Lucio, Pat Marchan, Arturo McDonald, Manuel Medrano, David Merrill, Pete Moore, Bobbette Morgan, Joe Paredes, Terri Alarcon, Fred Rusteberg, Gonzalo Salazar, Cynthia Sellers, Jim Tipton, Dr. Edward Ude, Olga Villarreal, and Dolly Zimmerman. Mr. Oliveira noted that the purpose of these meetings is to provide information to the community regarding the status of the partnership, and to receive feed back from the community regarding the concept of improving the partnership. The focus of the first meeting was the History of the Partnership. There will be two more Community Advisory Committee Meetings on February 16th and February 23, 2010. Mr. Oliveira stated that the Board was looking forward to productive discussions and thank everyone involved.

8. Business Affairs Partnership Committee

Mr. Gonzalez reported the Business Affairs Partnership Committee met on February 8, 2010, and discussed the following items:

**Consideration and Possible Action on the
Adoption of Resolution Granting Certain Tax Exemptions
to Certain Historic Sites under the 2010 Heritage Plan**

Mr. Gonzalez reported that this request is in keeping with our community university's interest and commitment to the restoration and preservation of historic properties in Brownsville. He also stated that this is the 23rd year that the City of Brownsville is requesting that the Board of Trustees adopt a resolution granting certain tax exemptions to certain historic sites under the Heritage Plan. Mr. Peter Goodman, Director of the Downtown Historic District, made a presentation to the Board on some of the properties included in the 2010 Heritage Plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to adopt the resolution granting certain tax exemptions to certain historic sites under the 2010 Heritage

Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Campirano and carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"

**Consideration and Possible Action on
Authorization to Approve Contract for Election Services**

Mr. Gonzalez reported that staff negotiated a contract with the Cameron County Elections Administrator to conduct the District's election on May 8, 2010. The estimated cost for the May 8, 2010 election is \$90,541.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the contract with the Cameron County Elections Administrator to conduct certain election services for the May 8, 2010, election in the amount of \$90,541 and to authorize the district's Election Agent to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. Exhibit "B"

**Consideration and Possible Action on the
Approval of a Contract with CAS Companies
(TIPS #08032609) for Construction of a New Retaining
Wall Along the Resaca Bank at the Housing Zone**

At the request of UTB/TSC, CAS Companies provided a cost estimate for the replacement of the retaining wall along the Resaca bank at the housing zone by the former Resaca Club. The proposal is to construct a wood retaining wall as per campus standard design and specifications. The proposal includes removal and disposal of the existing retaining wall, constructions of the new retaining wall and backfill material. The cost of work under this proposal is \$66,655.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the contract with CAS Companies in the amount of \$66,655 and to authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. Exhibit "C"

9. Audit Committee

Mr. Campirano reported that the Audit Committee met on February 1, 2010. Present were Mr. Campirano Mr. Gonzalez, and Mr. Torres. Also present were Dr. García, Dr. Alan Artibise, Veronica Mendez, Rosemary Martinez, Melba Sanchez, Doug Arney, Norma Ramos, and Rene Zayas. The first item discussed was the Audit Committee bylaws. The committee members requested a review of Article VI: Meeting by staff and legal counsel to ensure compliance with Open Meetings Act. The Committee approved the bylaws pending changes upon review of legal counsel.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Approval of Audit Committee Bylaws

Mr. Campirano recommended tabling approval of the Audit Committee bylaws to give the Board of Trustees time to review them.

The next item discussed was the selection of external auditors for FY 2010 Audit. The committee was reminded that the district has the option to issue a request for proposals or select the firm to conduct the audit services for the coming year on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications.

The Committee recommended that the district issue a request for proposals to conduct the audit services for the coming FY 2010.

The next item was a presentation by Norma Ramos, Director of Internal Audits for UTB/TSC, about the Office of Internal Audits and its procedures. Ms. Martinez, Vice President for Business Affairs, and Mr. Zayas, Institutional Compliance Manager, on the UTB/TSC institutional compliance program.

10. District Elections

Consideration and Possible Action on the Notice and Order of Election

Dr. Alan Artibise, Provost, reported that the district is having elections for three seats, Position 3 (currently held by Mr. Gonzalez), Position 4 (currently held by Mr. Campirano), and Position 5 (currently held by Ms. Breedlove). The notice and order of election serves to notify the public that the district will conduct an election listing the early and regular voting sites, dates, and times. Staff proposes 38 polling locations for Election Day and seven early voting sites. The 38 polling locations are the same as in the election years 2006 and 2008. However, there is one less early voting site this year, which is in the Brownsville Independent School District Administration Building. Since BISD is now holding its elections in November, they will not participate as an early voting site location. Dr. Artibise stated that Mary Rose Cardenas Hall South 117 will be used as both an early voting site and as an election site on Election Day.

A motion was made by Ms. Garza to approve the notice and order of general election as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously. Exhibit "D"

11. Construction Report

Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction, reported the following:

- Work on interior of the Cavalry Building is progressing, including woodwork in the office wing.
- On January 28, 2010, a special program was hosted at the Science and Technology Learning Center for pre-architectural students to learn about the roles of professionals involved in a construction project. Mrs. Mendez also reported that the walls of the north building are almost completed.
- The former Resaca Club has been demolished.
- Work continues at Oliveira Library. Construction is progressing and on schedule to open for the fall semester. Contractors are currently working on metal studs.
- Parking lots with more than 100 spaces are currently being added adjacent to the Fort Brown Memorial Center and The Arts Center. Staff had hoped to finish work sooner but was delayed because of heavy rains.
- The Athletic Zone is under way after having been given the approval to proceed by the Brownsville Historic Commission last week.

12. President's Report

Dr. García reported the following:

- The Scorpion baseball team has gotten off to a good start. The team is currently has five wins and three losses.
- The golf teams are becoming active again, as well. They will host the Sen. Eddie Lucio Golf Tournament Sunday and Monday, February 21-22 at the South Padre Island Golf Club in Laguna Vista.
- The Center for Biomedical Studies will host an outreach seminar, "Epilepsy: Treatment, Research, and Impact," on February 17. Speakers will include local neurologist Dr. Robert Lozano and neuroscientist and UTB/TSC Assistant Professor Dr. Emilio Garrido-Santabria.
- Dr. García gave a report on cost containment to the UT System Board of Regents meeting in Dallas last week. She informed the regents of the efforts UTB/TSC is taking to contain costs, including the streamlining of processes. The provost and all of the people working on cost containment issues for UTB/TSC should be commended for their work. The process has been difficult with all-time highs in enrollment and a state expected to be in deficit.
- Staff continues to work to make online registration more efficient for students. There have been some problems during peak enrollment times,

which are attributable to a lack of technology infrastructure. Short of spending millions of dollars to try to fix the problems immediately, the university has asked for a peer-review site visit in March for possible solutions. Staggering registration times may help alleviate the problem.

- The Arts Center will open with an inaugural event called "A Night of Strings" on February 15.

13. Proposed Meeting Dates

Community Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 16, 2010,
5:30 p.m.

Community Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 23, 2010
5:30 p.m.

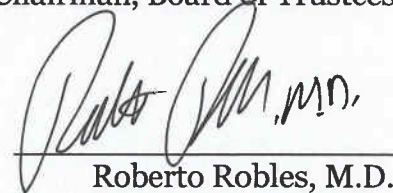
Thursday, March 25, 2010
Thursday, April 22, 2010
Thursday, May 13, 2010
Thursday, June 24, 2010
Thursday, August 26, 2010
Thursday, September 16, 2010
Thursday, October 21, 2010
Thursday, November 18, 2010
Thursday, December 16, 2010

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Oliveira at 8:00 p.m.



Mr. David G. Oliveira
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Roberto Robles, M.D.
Secretary, Board of Trustees

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on February 11, 2010, is on file at the District Office of the Texas Southmost College District. The master tape is on file at UTB/TSC Media Services. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Andrew Keese, Technical Writer. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996. They are aired on Channel KBSD in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.