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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 24, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on September 24, 2015, at 5:30 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Trey Mendez, Vice Chair; Ed Rivera, Secretary; Dr. Reynaldo García; and Art Rendon. Also present was Dr. Lily F. Tercero, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent were Francisco G. Rendon, Chair; Ramon Champion Hinojosa; and Adela G. Garza.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mendez at 5:33 p.m.

2. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

Mr. Tad Hasse, a community member, addressed the Board regarding a robotics class. There were no other speakers.

3. Mission Statement

Vice Chairman Mendez read the mission and role and scope for Texas Southmost College District as follows:

Mission:

Transforming our communities through innovative learning opportunities.

Role and Scope:

Texas Southmost College's mission is guided by our commitment to provide:

- University transfer, career, and technical programs leading to an associate degree or certificate along with courses specializing in college preparatory and

developmental education, workforce training, adult literacy, and continuing education to support the evolving needs of citizens, industry, and economic development initiatives within Cameron and Willacy Counties.

- High-quality instruction and learning opportunities in the classroom, online, and through other delivery methods; a supportive and innovative faculty and staff; appropriate technology, equipment, and learning resources; and advising and assessment services to promote transfer to a four-year baccalaureate institution, entry or advancement in the workforce, or lifelong learning.
- A learning-centered, service-oriented environment that celebrates diversity and inclusion; facilitates growth and development; fosters social responsibility, critical thinking, communication, and innovation; and empowers and engages students, faculty and staff to achieve personal and professional goals.
- Institutional effectiveness that embraces individual accountability, data-informed decision making, change, and an unending pursuit of excellence.

4. President's Report

Vice Chairman Mendez called on Dr. Tercero to give the report. Dr. Tercero announced new staff members: Guadalupe Abete, Adjunct Instructor, Art; Pedro Martinez, Adjunct Instructor, Art; Rosalinda Olivares, Adjunct Instructor, History; Maraboto Reyes, Lab Supervisor, College Preparatory Studies; Christian Torres, Admissions Specialist, Student Services; and Cesar Trevino, Courier, Physical Plant and Facilities.

Update on TSC Accreditation Process. Dr. Tercero stated the process has been moving very quickly since the onsite visit in late August. TSC has received, reviewed and responded to the Report of the Accreditation Committee.

Update on Grant Activity. Dr. Tercero stated that TSC received notification from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) that Texas Southmost College has been awarded \$250,657 through the Perkins Basic Grant Program for fiscal year 2015-2016. These funds will be used to support TSC's career and technical programs. TSC greatly appreciates the support provided by the THECB.

TSC also received notification that a grant submitted in collaboration with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) has been approved. The National Science Foundation has awarded an Early-Concept Grant for Exploratory Research (EAGER) in the amount of \$299,733 to UTRGV and TSC. The funds from this grant will be used to hire 20 tutors to assist TSC students enrolled in various mathematics and science courses, such as Math, Physics, Chemistry and

Biology. This will enhance TSC's academic support efforts and positively impact student success.

Additionally, during the summer, Texas Southmost College hosted four (4) teachers from various local independent school districts as part of the Rio Grande Valley Externships for Teachers Program that was sponsored by a \$200,000 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission. Teachers from Los Fresnos, Port Isabel, Rio Hondo, and the South Texas ISDs spent three days at the TSC Campus assisting the Office of Admissions and Records, Student Life, Student Activities, Disability Services, Academic Advising, Texas and the Recreation Center.

Dr. Tercero also announced the following:

- TSC Architecture students were awarded scholarships by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (LRGV-AIA). She stated that two students received a \$1000 scholarship, Diana Melissa Andrade and Juan Moya and two students received a \$750 scholarship, Pedro Gonzalez and Martin Jaramillo. TSC congratulated the students and thanked the Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for supporting our students.
- TSC hosted BISD's College and University Day, which was held at TSC's Jacob Brown Memorial Center. Approximately 2400 students from the BISD high schools participated in this event.
- The Higher Education Research and Development Institute (HERDI) is establishing a new division to represent the southern part of the country. Dr. Tercero has been asked to serve as an inaugural member of the Board of Directors. This group serves to provide input and advice to businesses and corporations serving higher education institutions.
- TSC has been selected as one of only 230 BRIGHT SPOTs in Hispanic Education by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence. TSC was selected for its efforts and initiatives in three areas: K-12 and College Access; Postsecondary Completion; and STEM Education. The White House Initiative noted that TSC is expanding access to quality higher education opportunities and the American Dream for scores of first-generation Hispanic college students. The Initiative also highlighted TSC's focus on innovation and its innovative and redesigned learning experience.

5. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

**Consideration and Approval of Minutes of
the Special Meetings of August 20, 2015; August 24, 2015;
and the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2015**

A motion was made by Mr. A. Rendon to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 20, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. García and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Rendon to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 24, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. García and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Rivera to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. A Rendon and carried unanimously.

6. Consideration and Approval of a Resolution to Nominate and Vote for the Position Eight (8) Representative on the Cameron Appraisal District, As Enacted by Senate Bill 359 during the 83rd Legislative Session

Consideration and Approval of Resolution to Nominate and Vote for the Position Eight (8) Representative on the Cameron Appraisal District, As Enacted by Senate Bill 359 during the 83rd Legislative Session

Vice Chairman Mendez called on Dr. Tercero to present the item. Dr. Tercero reported that the Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 359, allowing junior college districts to participate in the selection of appraisal district board of directors. TSC has received notification from the Cameron Appraisal District as to the process for adherence of the new law. TSC as the junior college district in Cameron County will participate in the nomination of and have one vote in the selection of Director Position Eight (8) of the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Dr. Tercero read the resolution.

A motion was made by Dr. García to Nominate Adela Garza for the Position Eight (8) and approve the Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rivera and carried unanimously.

Exhibit "A"

7. Consideration and Approval of a Bike and Hike Trail Easement with the City of Brownsville

Consideration and Approval of a Bike and Hike Trail Easement with the City of Brownsville

Vice Chairman Mendez called on Mr. Chet Lewis, Vice President of Finance and Administration, to present the item. He stated that a representative from the City of Brownsville, Mr. Ramiro Gonzalez, Redevelopment Manager with the Planning Department, had approached Texas Southmost College (TSC) seeking approval for a Bike and Hike Trail Easement Project.

He stated that the construction of the Bike and Hike Trail will substantially improve and increase the value of the college property and promote the health, safety, and welfare of students and faculty attending the school as well as the public in general.

Mr. Lewis called on Mr. Gonzalez to make presentation on the Bike and Hike Trail Easement.

Mr. Frank Perez, TSC Attorney, explained to the Board that the motion failed due a majority vote. He stated that if there are four members at the meeting all four members need to vote an affirmative yes in order for an item to pass according to TSC Board policy.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Rendon to approve the Bike and Hike Trail Easement and authorize the President to execute the Bike and Hike Trail Easement contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rivera and carried. Mr. A. Rendon, Mr. Rivera, and Mr. Mendez voted yay. Dr. García voted nay. The motion failed. Exhibit "B"

8. Executive Session as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.071 and 551.072.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:13 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:02 p.m.

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

**Consultation with Attorney on
Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Section
551.071, Texas Government Code.**

No action was taken.

**Consultation with Attorney on
Pending Real Estate Issues, Section
551.072, Texas Government Code.**

No action was taken.

10. Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, October 29, 2015
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2015
Regular Board Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairman Mendez at 7:04 p.m.



Mr. Francisco G. Rendon
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Mr. Ed Rivera
Secretary, Board of Trustees

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on September 24, 2015, is on file at the District Office of the Texas Southmost College District. The master tape is on file at TSC Media Services. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Max E. Roca, Senior Administrative Assistant. 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.