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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

October 30, 2017

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on October 30, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board Members present were Adela Garza, Chair; Trey Mendez, Vice Chair; Ruben Herrera, Secretary; Dr. Reynaldo García, Dr. Tony Zavaleta, and Dr. Ruben Gallegos. Also present was Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent was Art Rendon.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Dr. Tony Zavaleta led the United States Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

There were no public speakers.

4. President's Report

Mrs. Garza called on Dr. Rodríguez to present the report. Dr. Rodríguez reported that spring 2018 registration began on October 18, 2017, and the College has registered approximately 1,200 students to date. He stated several of the strategies TSC is implementing to maximize enrollment include contacting current enrolled students, recently enrolled students, and reaching out to recent high school graduates.

Dr. Rodríguez attended the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) Early College High School Leadership Cabinet meeting in September. The BISD attendees included the Superintendent, BISD Principals, and the Advanced Academic Team.

Dr. Rodríguez updated the Board on several upcoming events:

1. On November 9th, the TSC department of Veteran and Military Services will host TSC's 5th Annual Veterans Day Event. The event pays tribute to all American Veterans living or deceased, and gives thanks to the living Veterans who served their country honorably during the war or peacetime. Dr. Rodriguez stated following the event, the TSC Student Veterans Organization has planned activities for attendees in the Veterans Resource Center, located in the Oliveira Student Services Center.
2. Sociology and Social Work Faculty are leading the planning for the Day of the Dead Event on November 2nd, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Oliveira parking lot. The event is a collaborative effort between the Division of Humanities and Student Services, and will include a parade and a video presentation.
3. As a partner with the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, Texas Southmost College will participate in the coin toss at the Parents' Night high school football game between the Harlingen Cardinals and Brownsville Hanna Golden Eagles on Friday, November 3rd, in Harlingen.

Dr. Rodriguez next introduced a video, highlighting some of the activities to enhance student life and engagement at TSC over the past several weeks.

The video documented the following events:

1. 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance Ceremony, Sep. 11
2. Naturalization Ceremony, Sep. 13
3. Mexican Independence Day, Sep. 14
4. Aniversario de Independencia de Mexico, Sep. 15
5. West Rail Trail Project, Sep. 15
6. High School Counselors Meeting, Oct. 10
7. Taste of the Americas, Oct. 11
8. Student Government Association Meeting with the President, Oct. 12
9. Scorpion Lecture Series, Oct. 12
10. BISD Parent/Teacher Association Meeting, Oct. 13
11. TSC Living History Day, Oct. 14
12. Valley Bowl, Oct. 14
13. Incarnate Word Academy Fall Festival & Fajita Cook-Off, Oct. 14
14. "The Whole" Premier and Short Film Screening, Oct. 21
15. TSC and Historic Brownsville International Half-Marathon, Oct. 22
16. Pizza with the President, Oct. 3
17. Breakfast with the President, Oct. 12

Following the video presentation, Dr. Rodriguez introduced the TSC Valley Bowl Co-ed Flag Football Team. The Valley Bowl is a yearly competition between Intramural Champions from Texas Southmost College (TSC), South Texas College (STC), Texas State Technical College (TSTC), and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). The Tournament was hosted by UTRGV in Edinburg, and the TSC Co-ed Flag Football Team defeated STC in the final game by a score of 39-0.

Dr. Rodriguez then recognized a group of students from the Student Government Association, Campus Activity Board, and the Student Leadership Academy. He stated the students took the lead role in planning the two wonderful events on campus: "Pizza with the President" at the Fort Brown Campus and "Breakfast with the President" at the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center (ITEC Center). The purpose of each event was to provide an opportunity for Dr. Rodriguez to speak with students individually and hear about their experiences at Texas Southmost College. He mentioned that 601 students participated at the Fort Brown campus event, with 216 students participating at the ITEC Center. He recognized the student leaders for their exceptional efforts in organizing and promoting these events.

Dr. Rodríguez recognized several staff for their performance. The team from the Recreation Center that provide competitive and recreational sports opportunities for TSC students: Raul Cano, Coordinator for the Recreation Center; Tiffany Hernandez, Coordinator for Intramural Sports; and Gilbert Lopez, Intramural Sports Specialist. He also recognized Virginia Sandoval, Coordinator of Student Development and Lesly Flores, Student Service Specialist, for being outstanding mentors and providing guidance to the student leaders that planned the “Breakfast with the President” and “Pizza with the President” events. He then recognized Ms. Janie Juarez, Human Resources Generalist, for providing continuous exemplary customer service to our staff, faculty, students and the community.

This concluded the President’s Report.

5. Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2017

Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2017

A motion was made by Dr. Gallegos to Approve the Minutes of September 21, 2017, with a Correction to the Minutes on page 5 of the Minutes, “Ms. Tara Rios” to “Dr. Tara Rios”. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herrera and carried unanimously.

6. Academic Subcommittee Report

Mr. Herrera stated that the Academic Subcommittee met on October 11, 2017, and are recommending Approval of item 6 a. the GEAR UP – Federal Consulting Services Contract, Region One Education Services Center and Brownsville Independent School District Internship Program Affiliation Agreement 2017 – 2018.

Consideration and Approval of the Agreement for GEAR UP – Federal Consulting Services Contract, Region One Education Services Center and Brownsville Independent School District Internship Program Affiliation Agreement 2017 – 2018

Dr. Gallegos stated that the contract was long, and he would like to have seen "Texas Southmost College" more prominently visible throughout the document. Dr. Angelica Fuentes, Dean of College Preparatory Studies, explained that the Department of Education uses a standard template for all contracts and the GEAR UP Program initiated the contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to Approve item 6 a. and Authorize the President to Execute the Contract/Agreement, as presented, prior to the Attorney going through the Contract. The motion was seconded by Dr. Zavaleta and carried unanimously.

7. Report on the Fourth Quarter Investment Report

Mrs. Garza called on Mr. Santos Alarcon, Vice President for Finance and Administration, to give the report. Mr. Alarcon presented the Board with the Investment Report for the Quarter ending August 31, 2017, and he gave a brief summary of the book/market value for that particular period. The report is for informational purposes only, and no action is required by the Board.

Mr. Herrera requested for the Quarter Investment Report to be presented at the Budget/Finance Subcommittee meeting. Dr. Rodriguez stated that the College will follow the schedule when quarter reports need to be presented, and the report will first be presented at the Budget/Finance Subcommittee meeting, prior to the regular Board meeting. That concluded Mr. Alarcon's Investment Report.

Mr. Mendez stated that there are quite a few Endowment Funds listed on the report and he would like the College to make better progress regarding the awarding of scholarships from these endowments. He asked Dr. Rodriguez if there was a plan in place. Dr. Rodriguez stated that Mr. Alarcon is working on getting the funds disbursed to the students. Mr. Alarcon stated that there is some research being conducted on the Endowments in regard to their restrictions, if any. Dr. Rodriguez stated that an update will be provided at the next Board Meeting.

8. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:37 p.m.

9. Action on Executive Session Matters

**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

**Deliberation on Personnel Matters,
Section 551.074, Texas Government Code.**

No action was taken.

10. Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Regular Board Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair, Mrs. Garza at 6:38 p.m.