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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

March 12, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on March 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board Members present were Mr. Ruben Herrera, Vice Chair; Dr. Tony Zavaleta, Secretary; Mr. Arturo Rendon, Mrs. Delia Saenz, and Ms. Eva Alejandro. Absent were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; and Mr. J.J. De Leon. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Herrera, at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Secretary Zavaleta led the United States Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

There were no speakers.

4. Consideration and possible action on the Minutes of the following meetings

a. Consideration and possible action on the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on February 20, 2020

A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 20, 2020, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Saenz and carried with five votes and two absences.

5. **President's Report**

Vice Chair Herrera called on President Rodriguez to give his report. Dr. Rodriguez reported on the following items.

- **COVID-19 Update**

The President called on Mr. Jaime Salazar, Director of Risk Management, to give an update on COVID-19. Mr. Salazar explained that the college has been monitoring the situation for the last few weeks and actively sending messages campus wide. He reported that as of now, there are no identified cases in Cameron County and specifically in the Valley. However, he added that the CDC and other officials are reminding the public that at any point, this status can change. Due to the fluid nature of the situation, he will continue to monitor local, state and federal updates as well as the the CDC and the Texas Department of State and Health Services.

Additionally, the college has put forth efforts by establishing Risk Management meetings at the cabinet level for the last few weeks to keep the Vice Presidents and the President informed.

- **Student Success Rate**

President Rodriguez introduced Dr. Joanna Kile, Vice President of Instruction, to provide an update on the student success rates, specifically within the division of health professions.

Dr. Kile began her presentation by reporting that the Diagnostic Medical Sonography graduates from May 2019 achieved a 100% pass rate on their American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography Board Exam. The program is under the direction of Dr. Ariel Villanueva.

Additionally, the Vocational Nursing Program graduates from 2019 collectively achieved a 92.31% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Exam Practical Nursing. Dr. Kile noted that the August 2019 graduates alone, achieved a 100% pass rate. The program is under the direction of Ms. Molly Showalter.

Dr. Kile expressed the administration's pride in this group and congratulated the faculty and their students who have worked diligently to achieve and improve their pass rates.

President Rodriguez reiterated that the college community is very proud of its graduates and of the commitment and hard work that is done by the TSC Health Professions team. He thanked them and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

- **Charro Days**

Texas Southmost College participated in, hosted, and sponsored over a dozen events during Charro Days, from February 22nd to March 8th.

Among the many Charro Days events, TSC hosted the 2020 Amigofest and continued the Mr. Amigo tradition at the college on February 27th with an appearance by Mr. Amigo, Julio César Chávez, 6-time World Boxing Champion in 3 different weight divisions, at the TSC Performing Arts Center.

Student Life also hosted the TSC Charro Fest on campus, which featured performances by TSC's Little Scorpions, Mariachi, Ballet Folklórico, food, music and games.

In addition, TSC participated in the Crossroads Festival and Sombrero Festival this year, attended the Walk of Fame at Linear Park, and had two floats in the Illuminated Parade on February 28th and the International Parade on February 29th.

- **Women in STEM Day**

TSC hosted its first Women in STEM day on March 2nd. The two-part event held a STEM Fair in the North and South Courtyard during the day and a NASA presentation in the evening at the SETB Lecture Hall.

The fair featured several of TSC's STEM related programs, including community and national organizations, such as the TSC Automotive and Construction programs, Texas A&M Chevron Engineering Academy at TSC, and NASA among many others.

In the evening, TSC did host a presentation by NASA on Microgravity that was attended by over 220 students and community members at the SETB Lecture Hall. The International Space Station Research Integrator, Diana Garcia, and NASA Systems Integration Engineer, Eric Lopez, were the keynote speakers. They inspired our students by telling their stories and informing them about the expansion of space exploration and microgravity research.

- **Dr. Seuss Festival**

The TSC Childhood Development Program in collaboration with the Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville hosted the college's fourth annual Dr. Seuss Festival on March 5th at the Jacob Brown Auditorium.

The festival is designed to promote family time, as well as the love of reading and higher education. Additionally, the event provides TSC's students from Childcare and Education related programs more hands on experience working with children and families. The event was attended by over 900 children and their families and included educational activities, games, books, giveaways, food, and story times. The Board Chair, Ms. Garza, Trustee, Mrs. Saenz, and President Rodriguez participated in the event by reading during the story time portion of the festival.

- **Extramural Tournaments**

President Rodriguez recognized the college's basketball and volley ball teams who participated and won extra mural tournaments.

First, President Rodriguez called attention the volley ball team that won the 4v4 sand volleyball bracket of the SpikeFest Volleyball Tournament. He explained that the team won six consecutive matches overall against Texas State Technical College, South Texas College, and UTRGV to win the Sand Volley Ball Tournament. The Scorpions won 25-10, 25-11 and 25-10, 25-8, respectively, against the two UTRGV teams

Next, President Rodriguez called attention to the college's basketball team that won the South Texas Shootout Basketball Tournament in February. He stated that the team defeated Texas State Technical College and UTRGV twice each to win the tournament title with an undefeated record. In their first two victories, the Scorpions outscored their opponents so much that the "Mercy Rule" was applied.

- **Video Presentation**

President Rodriguez shared a video which highlighted several activities and events that occurred since the last Board Meeting. He concluded his report by thanking everyone for their continued hard work and commitment.

6. Budget and Finance Committee

Vice Chair Herrera called on Secretary Zavaleta to make the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on award of RFP 20-08 for "Building Renovation to House Courtroom and Criminal Justice Program"

A motion was made by Mr. Rendon to award RFP 20-08 for "Building Renovation to House Courtroom and Criminal Justice Program" to R.E. Friedrichs Company in the amount of \$143,792 and authorize the President to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Saenz and carried with five votes and two absences.

b. Consideration and possible action on adoption of a Resolution granting certain tax exemptions to eligible historic sites listed in the 2020 Historic Preservation Plan accordingly to the Ordinance 2020-1652-A approved by the City of Brownsville

A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to adopt the Resolution granting certain tax exemptions in the 2020 Historic Preservation Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with five votes and two absences.

c. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the Month Ending January 31, 2020

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called to present the item.

Secretary Zavaleta inquired if there was anything in the report that Dr. Figueroa would like to highlight. She pointed out that the college has already surpassed its tuition projection.

This item was for information purposes only. No action was taken.

7. Facilities Committee

Vice Chair Herrera called on Mrs. Saenz to give the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to authorize President Rodriguez to utilize the parking restricted funds to improve parking lots across campus

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called to present the item. She stated that the college has about 2,054 parking spaces which equates to over a million square feet and some of the spaces are in dire need of repair. The administration is seeking approval to use the restricted parking fund to accomplish these repairs. She added that this is not part of the fund balance and the only allowable expenses that can be drawn from this account are parking expenses.

A motion was made by Mrs. Saenz to approve President Rodriguez to utilize the restricted parking funds to repair college parking lots. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with five votes and two absences.

b. Facilities Project Updates

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called to present the item. She began by providing an update on the Workforce Labs Projects and provided images for the Trustees to reference the progress. She stated that the welding booths are already being installed in the Welding Lab and it will have a total of forty-eight booths once it is complete. The classrooms and ceilings in the Plumbing, Pipefitting, and Electrical Program lab are near completion. The Industrial Maintenance Lab is on schedule for completion and the Criminal Justice Lab is in the process of hanging a railing system from the ceiling.

Next, Dr. Figueroa updated the trustees on the Roof Renovation project.

In addition, the Oliveira Student Services project is in progress and Dr. Figueroa expressed approval with its development. She added that it is scheduled to be completed by May 2020.

This item was for information purposes only. No action was taken.

8. Academic Committee

Vice Chair Herrera called on Secretary Zavaleta to make the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on Agreement for Federal (Adult Education and Family Literacy Act) Program Instructional Services between Brownsville Independent School District and Texas Southmost College

A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to approve the agreement for the Federal Program mentioned between BISD and Texas Southmost College and give President Rodriguez the authority to sign and execute the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with five votes and two absences.

b. Consideration and possible action on a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Texas Care Imaging in Brownsville for Texas Southmost College Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to approve the agreement between Texas Care Imaging in Brownsville for Texas Southmost College Diagnostic Medical Sonography and authorize President Rodriguez to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with five votes and two absences.

9. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:12 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:11 p.m.

10. Action on Executive Session Matters

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

No action was taken in open session.

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

No action was taken in open session.

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

- **Consideration and possible action on FY 2019-2020 Salary Schedule**

A motion was made by Mr. Rendon to accept and adopt the salary schedule as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alejandro and carried with five votes and two absences.

11. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

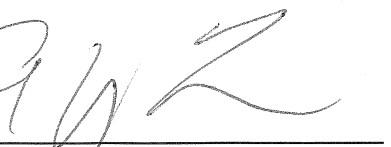
- Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Rendon. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Saenz and carried with five votes and two absences. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



Ms. Adela G. Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees



Tony Zavaleta, Ph.D.
Secretary, Board of Trustees