



TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE and TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

80 Fort Brown • Brownsville, Texas 78520 • (956) 882-3879 • Fax: (956) 882-8811 • <http://blue.utb.edu/vpna>

Board of Trustees

David G. Oliveira

Chair

Eduardo A. Campirano

Vice Chair

Roberto Robles, M.D.

Secretary

Adela G. Garza

Chester Gonzalez

Rosemary Breedlove

René Torres

**Texas Southmost College District**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

September 17, 2008

UTB/TSC President

Juliet V. Garcia, Ph.D

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on September 17, 2008 at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall, Texas Southmost College. Board members present were David Oliveira, Chair, Dr. Roberto Robles, Secretary, Chester Gonzalez, René Torres and Adela G. Garza. Absent were Eduardo A. Campirano, Vice Chair, and Rosemary Breedlove. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. Garcia, 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 5:38 p.m.

**1. Executive Session**

as provided by Government  
Code, Chapter 551.072,74

**Real Estate**

**Contract** and resolution for  
purchase of Fort Brown Villa  
Condominiums Unit 7F, Type  
G, Bldg F, Phase II,  
Brownsville, Texas

**Contract and Resolution for purchase of a 0.817 acre tract of land out of Tract 1, Veteran's Area, 5.55 acre tract in Fort Brown Reservation in the City of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas.**

**Personnel Matters**

**Evaluation of the UTB/TSC President**

**The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.**

**The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:48 p.m.**

**Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session**

**Approval of contract and resolution for purchase of Fort Brown Villa Condominiums Unit 7 F, Type G, Bldg F, Phase II Brownsville, Texas**

**A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the earnest money contract and resolution for the acquisition of Fort Brown Villas Unit 7F in the amount of \$62,500. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "A"***

**Approval of Contract and resolution for purchase of a 0.817 acre tract of land out of Tract 1, Veteran's Area, 5.55 acre tract in Fort Brown Reservation in the City of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas**

**A motion was made by Ms. Garza to approve the earnest money contract and resolution for the acquisition of the 0.817 acre tract of land out of Tract 1, Veteran's Area, 5.55 acre tract in Fort Brown Reservation property in the amount of \$245,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "B"***

### **Discussion on the Evaluation of the UTB/TSC President**

Chairman Oliveira discussed President Juliet V. Garcia's performance for the previous year. He stated that President Garcia has been a true leader for our institution on many occasions this year, but most especially during the biggest challenge UTB/TSC has experienced to date: the Border Wall Fence. Mr. Oliveira stated that he and the other TSC Board members are very satisfied with the leadership role Dr. Garcia has provided the work she has accomplished for the institution. Dr. Garcia affirmed that it has been an honor to work for UTB/TSC, and that she looks forward to continuing her efforts. She thanked members of the Board, faculty, and staff for all their work on behalf of the institution.

#### **1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

##### **Consideration and possible action on Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 28, 2008**

**A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 28, 2008. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously.**

##### **Consideration and possible action on Minutes of the Special Meeting on September 8, 2008**

**A motion was made by Mr. Torres to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on September 8, 2008. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously.**

#### **2. Resolution**

##### **Consideration and possible action on adoption of resolution supporting the Big Read Program for Mexico**

Chairman Oliveira called on Doug Ferrier, Dean of Instructional Support, to introduce John Hawthorne. Mr. Hawthorne provided a brief overview of the program, and stated that UTB/TSC is one of two institutions to be awarded a \$20,000.00 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to expand into Mexico with a pilot program similar to the Big Read Program in Brownsville. The program's objective is to promote literacy by encouraging young students to read and discuss one book per month. The program will additionally improve relations among the Brownsville/Matamoros border communities.

Partnering in this venture with UTB/TSC are the American Consulate to Matamoros and the Mexican Consulate to Brownsville, who were present at the Board meeting. Mr. Hawthorne invited the community to a kick-off event scheduled on October 1, 2008, at the UTB/TSC Library.

Mr. Oliveira read the resolution supporting the Big Read for Mexico.

**A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to adopt the resolution supporting the Big Read Program for Mexico. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. Exhibit "C"**

### **3. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion**

There were no speakers.

### **4. Board Briefing**

Dr. Charles Dameron, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Dr. Mario Diaz, Director of the Center of Gravitational Wave Astronomy (CGWA). The Center was established in 2003 through a \$6 million NASA grant whose focus was the LISA mission, which employs three satellites for the detection of gravitational waves.

Dr. Diaz described LIGO, for Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory. Operating with the LISA mission, LIGO is a fully functional observatory involving optics, lasers, and optoelectronics. LIGO is the most expensive project ever undertaken by the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the NSF Board has recently approved that the CGWA has now expanded to a new experimental phase called Advanced LIGO allowing research in black holes, neutron stars, and the Big Bang.

Dr. Diaz introduced Dr. Malik Rakhmanov, who joined CGWA in January 2008, has several years experience working with the LIGO project. The grant award will allow UTB/TSC to build a facility that will perform research and training in laser, optics, and other related fields. UTB will hire an additional faculty and provide internships for students working with Dr. Rakhmanov and the LIGO project. The LIGO Lab will be located in SETB 1460 and will be approximately 1500 sq. ft. and is expected to be ready by October 2008. The Lab, at UTB will manufacture 3 premode cleaners, and will construct 60 optical levers for Advanced LIGO. The facility is expected to be fully operational by 2012.

Dr. Diaz outlined his vision for the future of the LIGO project including the establishment of a prospective partnership with SEMTECH, a manufacturer located in Reynosa, Mexico that makes semi-conductors. He added that he

imagined the possibilities being similar to Southwest Regional Institute in San Antonio, which employs over 3,100 researchers and has an annual revenue of over \$500 million.

**5. Bond Projects –Purchase of an Environmental Control, Energy Management and Building Automation system for the Center for Early Childhood Studies**

After a brief discussion, this item was tabled.

**6. Tax Rate–Adoption of the 2008 TSC District Ad Valorem Tax Rate**

Dr. David Pearson, Vice President for Partnership Affairs, introduced Melba Sanchez, Assistant Vice President for Finance, to provide an overview of the 2008 tax adoption. Ms. Sanchez stated that according to the Texas Constitution and the Property Tax Code, the concept of truth-in-taxation requires the District to comply with certain steps in adopting its tax rate. The District has taken the necessary steps toward adopting a tax rate for 2008 by calculating and publishing the effective and roll back tax rates, discussing the tax rate, and holding two public hearings. During that process, the District identified its needs for the upcoming fiscal year and has adopted a budget to meet those needs. The taxes necessary to cover those needs require the adoption of a tax rate of \$ 0.161089 per \$100 valuation.

**Consideration and possible action on the adoption of  
2008 TSC District Ad Valorem Tax Rate**

A motion was made by Ms. Garza to adopt a maintenance and operations tax rate of \$0.110614 and a debt tax rate of \$0.050475 per \$ 100 valuation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. Exhibit "D"

**7. Construction Report**

*Dr. Pearson reported the following:*

- The Cavalry Building renovation for the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy wing is nearing completion. The wiring system has been installed. The door frames and doors have arrived and are being installed. Final painting on the wainscoting and molding is expected to be completed by next month.

*Ms. Mendez reported the following:*

- The exterior brick for the ITECC's main entrance will arrive within the next two weeks. The interior finishes are nearly completed. The tile floor and classroom board have been installed. Carpeting for the lecture halls, classrooms, and offices have been completed. The mechanical system for the Broadcast studio is near completion. The center courtyard ceiling finishes have been completed. The completion date for the ITECC is on December 2008.
- Construction continues at the REK Center. The brick and air conditioning ducts have been installed. The swimming pool is starting to take shape. The wall floating, painting, and texturizing is almost complete.
- Construction continues at the Center for Early Childhood Studies. Mud has been causing delays but two Casitas, #2 and #4 are taking shape. Concrete for Casita #4 is being poured.
- Construction at the New Library and Classroom building continues. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is ready for concrete to be poured and windows are being installed. Roof work is in progress.
- Construction continues at the Arts Center. The Performance Hall is completed. The crane has arrived and is staged on site and ready to erect steel for the next six weeks.

## **8. President's Report**

*Dr. Garcia reported the following:*

- Dr. Garcia recognized the Alumni Association for their success in raising \$12,500 within a three year period. The Houston Endowment matched those funds for a student scholarship endowment now valued at \$35,000. The association has been awarding one \$500 scholarships per semester for the past three semesters. During the current fall semester they awarded two \$500 scholarships for a total of \$2,500 to date. Recently the Association was offered an opportunity to receive matching funds in the amount of \$10,757 from the Greater Texas Foundation for a second scholarship endowment. Dr. Garcia congratulated Olga Garcia, President of the Alumni Association, and The Association's members for providing scholarship funding for UTB/TSC students.

- The Center for Civic Engagement, in conjunction with the Office of the President and the League of Student Voters at UTB/TSC, began a voter registration drive on Monday, September 15, 2008, at various site locations on campus. Monday, October 6, 2008, is the deadline to register to vote for the November General Election. Dr. Garcia noted that volunteers will be on site to register voters during the week of September 29, 2008.
- The UTB/TSC campus will be a site for early voting on Election Day, November 4, 2008. Early voting begins Monday, October 20, through Friday, October 24, 2008.
- Dr. Garcia encouraged all students, staff, faculty and community members to vote on campus. She noted that without good voter turnout, our campus is in danger of a losing its status as an early voting site.
- Dr. García congratulated Dr. Hilda Silva, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Dr. Sylvia Leal, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, for hosting the Disney Institute earlier this month, in the Student Union's Gran Salon. More than 200 Valley residents and businesses attended the "Business Behind the Magic," a seminar about the Disney success and how these valuable keys can be incorporated into one's own success.
- Dr. García announced a new Early College High School partnership between UTB/TSC and the Brownsville Independent School District. More than 100 freshmen have begun the program at Clearwater Elementary School where they were greeted by ECHS first principal, Roni Louise Rentfro. The Early College concept is that by the time the students graduate they will have a high school diploma and an associates degree from UTB/TSC. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled on Thursday, October 9, 2008, at 10:00 am, at the BISD Central Administrative Building.
- Dr. García announced that the Patron of the Arts is in its 24<sup>th</sup> season this month with several gifted artists scheduled to perform. Ricardo Delgado Herbert, baritone, and James Pulles, pianist will perform a concert of 19<sup>th</sup> century songs on September 20, 2008, in the SET B lecture Hall, at 8:00 pm.

The Faculty and Students Hispanic Heritage Concert is scheduled on September 27, 2008, at SET B Lecture Hall, at 8:00 pm.

- The art season kicked off with James C. Miller, a contemporary South Texas artist trained in flathed scanned photography and art instillation. The exhibit runs through September 27, at the Rusteberg Art Gallery.

The Talent and Inventive Exhibit will follow from September 30, 2008, through October 8, 2008, at the Rusteberg Art Gallery.

- Dr. García invited the public to the Distinguished Lecture Series. Our guest speaker, Dr. Jared Diamond, The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, is featured at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Distinguished Lecture Series, to be held on October 16, 2008, at 7:00 pm, in the Science and Engineering Technology Building Lecture Hall. Dr. Diamond will also help us recognize the winners of the high school essay competition on the topic of "Globalization: For Better or Worse! Touching On Why Societies Succeed and Fail." The top three winners will receive prizes of \$250, \$200, and \$150, and an additional seven finalists will receive \$100. The students will be recognized at the student lecture given by Dr. Diamond on October 17, 2008.

#### 9. Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, October 30, 2008

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Thursday, December 16, 2008

#### 10. Announcements

Dr. García introduced the recipients of the Houston Endowed Chairs the largest philanthropic foundation in Texas. They gifted \$1.58 million in 2003 to sponsor two endowed chairs, which have three year terms and are funded at \$25,000 annually. She introduced the two most recent recipients of the Houston Endowment Chairs: Dr. Manuel Medrano and Dr. Bobbette Morgan.

Dr. Medrano has been a faculty member in the School of Liberal Arts where he has been a History professor since 1972. He will utilize the award to continue the "Los Del Valle" history project. Dr. Medrano thanked Dr. García, faculty, and students for their ongoing support.

Dr. Bobbette Morgan, an Associate Professor for Curriculum and Instruction, joined UTB/TSC in 2000, and is the first Director of Doctoral Programs in the School of Education. She also led the effort to create the first doctoral program with an emphasis in Bilingual Studies. Dr. Morgan plans to use the award to bring speakers and promote conferences where professors with similar interests can meet. She thanked Dr. García, faculty, and students.

Dr. García introduced Dr. Vinco Solis Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Solis introduced Rusty Harwood, Chess Program Director, and recognized student champions Danny Fernandez and Arturo Gracia, Jr., from the UTB/TSC Chess Club.



## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Oliveira at 8:27 p.m.



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 September 17, 2008 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 Gloria Miranda, Administrative Assistant. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 21, 1996. They are aired on Channel KBSU in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.