



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/vppa>

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

UTB/TSC President

Juliet V. García, Ph.D

Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

December 17, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on December 17, 2009, 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 5:37 p.m.

1. Announcements

- Dr. García introduced UTB/TSC's new Provost, Dr. Alan Artibise, who has worked in higher education for more than 35 years. Dr. Artibise was previously employed as Executive Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Director of the Institute for Social Science Research at Arizona State University. As Executive Dean, he oversaw 30 academic schools and departments, 32 research centers and institutes, more than 800 tenured faculty members, and a college budget of \$200 million. He has a doctorate in urban history from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Artibise said he considered it a privilege to come to UTB/TSC. He looks forward to being an active member of a dynamic staff.
- Dr. Artibise announced that Dr. Luis Colom will be UTB/TSC's first Vice President for Research. Dr. Colom holds a Ph.D. in Biology and a M.D. As

Interim Vice President for Research and Director of the Center for Biomedical Studies, he helped to bring in more than \$12 million in external funding for research.

- Dr. García announced that Dr. Colom will also receive the Houston Endowment Endowed Chair in the College of Mathematics, Science, and Technology. The Houston Endowment, the largest philanthropic foundation in Texas, gave \$1.5 million in 2003 to create the endowed chairs to promote advanced knowledge in education through research, teaching, or public service. Three-year chair terms are funded \$25,000 per year.

2. Resolutions

Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Resolution Naming The Arts Center Box J the “Dr. Asim Zamir Box”

Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, announced the acceptance of a gift from Dr. Asim Zamir, a local pediatrician. She read a short biography of Dr. Zamir. Dr. Ragland thanked Dr. Zamir for his generous donation.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to adopt the resolution naming The Arts Center Box J the “Dr. Asim Zamir Box,” as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. Exhibit “A”

Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Resolution Supporting Chancellor Cigarroa’s Vision Statement

In August 2009, UT System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa presented his vision statement to the Board of Regents. Dr. García noted how much the Rio Grande Valley is mentioned in the statement. She read portions of it that pertained to the Valley and the border region, including this:

The path towards excellence is equally as important at UT Brownsville, UT Pan American, UT Permian Basin and UT Tyler, and we must work with their leadership to reach their full potential and thus that of the UT System. We simply cannot be everything to everybody. The power of the UT System is to create partnerships, especially among our campuses, including creating new joint degree and research programs. As Chancellor, I will work closely with the System leadership, our presidents and Board of Regents in order to continue to cross parochial limitations in support of broader university goals.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to adopt the resolution supporting Chancellor Cigarroa's vision statement as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "B"*

**Consideration and Possible Action on
Adoption of Resolution on Naming of
New Buildings, Including the University
Boulevard Library; the University Boulevard
Classroom Building; the Recreation, Education,
Kinesiology Center; The Arts Center; and
the Center for Early Childhood Studies**

Dr. David Pearson, Vice President for Partnership Affairs, noted that in recent months many new buildings came online, and now they need official names. Staff recommends that the new buildings be called the University Boulevard Library; the University Boulevard Classroom Building; the Recreation, Education, Kinesiology Center; The Arts Center; and the Center for Early Childhood Studies.

A motion was made by Mr. Torres to adopt University Boulevard Library; University Boulevard Classroom Building; Recreation, Education, Kinesiology Center; The Arts Center; and Center for Early Childhood Studies as the official names of the new buildings, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "C"*

3. Board Briefing

Dr. Charles Dameron, Vice President for Academic Affairs, noted that Dr. Bill Strong, a Professor in the Communication Department and former Vice President for Institutional Advancement, took a lead role in developing the Study Abroad Program five years ago. Dr. Dameron introduced Dr. Suzanne LaLonde, the current Director of the Study Abroad Program, to give an update on the status of the program. Dr. LaLonde reported that the Study Abroad Program has two components: summer study abroad and an exchange program with the University of Barcelona in Spain and Sorbonne University in France. Over the life of the summer program, hundreds of students have participated and visited such places as France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Spain, and Peru. While on the trips, students are enrolled in college courses and are instructed by professors who accompany them. The program is thriving, despite the economic downturn. She said 70 students are expected to participate this summer. She noted that these experiences are life-changing for students.

4. Speaker to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Consideration and Possible Action on Minutes of Regular Meeting on November 19, 2009

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 19, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously.

6. Imagine Brownsville Comprehensive Plan

Irv Downing, Vice President for Economic Development and Community Services, reported that the City of Brownsville formally adopted the Imagine Brownsville Comprehensive Plan in August. Mr. Downing said it took two years for the plan to be developed. The plan provides a foundational guide for future growth and development of the "Brownsville Borderplex" and is consistent with the goals and views of the community. Mr. Downing said the level of participation in the development of the plan was unprecedented. Many from the college were volunteers in that effort, including Dr. García, who was co-chair of the committee. UTB/TSC and other governmental agencies have been asked to be key partners in helping make the plan for the region a reality. The overall purpose of the plan's coordination board is to provide an organizational framework for the inter-institutional coordination and guidance of the implementation of the comprehensive plan, including the development, prioritization, planning, financing, implementation, and tracking of all public sector projects and initiatives. Each partner of the plan is required to contribute \$25,000 annually to pay for administrative support, technical support, public involvement, communications, office rent, publications, and meeting logistics.

Consideration and Possible Action on a Memorandum of Understanding for Establishing the Foundation of the Imagine Brownsville Planning Coordination Board as the Entity Responsible for Coordinating the Implementation of the Imagine Brownsville Comprehensive Plan

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve memorandum of understanding. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. "Exhibit D"

**Consideration and Possible Action on
Execution of a United Brownsville
BorderPlex Proclamation, "A Proclamation
Uniting the Public Institutions of the
Brownsville BorderPlex to Work Together
to Implement the Imagine Brownsville
Comprehensive Plan"**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to authorize approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *"Exhibit E"*

7. Appointment of Committee Delegates

**Consideration and Possible Action on
Appointment of a Special Audit Committee**

Chairman Oliveira noted that a special audit committee would help the Board protect the interests of the Texas Southmost College District's taxpayers. It could allow the Board to more actively participate in the financial affairs of the university, making sure tax dollars are being used properly and wisely. Mr. Oliveira noted that the first order of business at of the committee is to establish its bylaws and policies.

Mr. Oliveira appointed Mr. Campirano to serve as Chair of the committee and Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Torres as members.

8. Executive Session

as provided by Government
Code, Chapter 551.071, .072

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:57 p.m.

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

**Utility Easements to the
Brownsville Public Utilities
Board for the Research Zone**

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve utility easements to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board for the Research Zone as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. "Exhibit F"

**Bid to Purchase a 4.7595 Acre Tract
of Land out of a Certain 24.646
Acre Tract of Land Referred to as
"Raymondville Plaza" Generally Located at
125 N. Expressway 77, Raymondville, Willacy
County, Texas, out of Lot 13, Section 47,
Gulf Coast Irrigation Company Subdivision,
Willacy County, Texas**

A motion was made by Mr. Torres accept the \$385,000 bid as presented and authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. "Exhibit G"

10. Business Affairs Partnership Committee

Mr. Campirano asked Rosemary Martinez, Vice President for Business Affairs, to give an update on the recommendations for tuition and fees. Ms. Martinez said the process to update the tuition and fees began in October. She said a committee of about 25 students, faculty, and staff heard the proposals and developed the recommendations. Ms. Martinez provided a presentation of the new tuition and fee rates.

Mr. Campirano reported that Dr. Artibise gave the committee an update on the recent forming of a Resource and Cost Containment Task Force. The deadline for the task force to give its report is February 15. In addition, Mr. Downing provided the committee with an overview of the Economic Development and Community Services Division.

Mr. Campirano stated that the committee recommended approval of the following item:

**Consideration and Possible
Action on Budget Amendments**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the budget amendments, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously. Exhibit "H"

11. Academic Affairs Partnership Committee

Ms. Garza reported that the committee heard reports on UTB/TSC's newest programs, including the Associate of Arts in Architecture, the Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting, and the Master of Science in Computer Science. Newly approved programs include the Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies, Master of Arts in Psychology, a collaborative doctoral program in biology with The University of Texas at San Antonio with specializations in neurobiology and cell and molecular biology. Ms. Garza noted there would be accreditation site visits for the Computer Science and Engineering Technology programs. Decisions on the visits should be made by August. The university has received 14 new grants worth more than \$13 million since September 1. Ms. Garza also announced that the committee has recommended the following action:

Consideration and Possible Action on Name Change of the Academic Affairs Partnership Committee to the Academic Affairs and Research Partnership Committee

A motion was made by Ms. Garza to approve the name change. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. Exhibit "I"

12. District Elections

Dr. Pearson explained that TSC Trustees are elected on even numbered years for a six year term. Positions 3, 4, and 5 of the Board are up for election on May 8, 2010. He added that according to Chapter 31.123 of the Election Code, the Board must appoint a member of the staff as the election's Agent to perform the duties of the Secretary of the Board in matters related to an election if the Secretary of the Board does not keep office hours at the District. The duties of the Agent include receiving declarations for candidacy, the filing of campaign finance reports, and disseminating election results. Dr. Pearson stated that the recommendation is to appoint Kim Sanchez, Operations and Services Manager for the Texas Southmost College District Office, as the District's Agent for the May 2010 election.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Appointment of Agent for District May 8, 2010, Elections

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to adopt the resolution appointing Kim Sanchez as the Agent for the May 8, 2010, Trustee election. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. Exhibit "J"

13. Fourth Quarter Financial Statements and Investment Report

Melba Sanchez, Assistant Vice President for Finance, provided a brief report on the Fourth Quarter Financial Statements and Investment Report for FY2008. Ms. Sanchez stated that the reports are provided for informational purposes only, and no action is required by the Board.

14. Construction Report

Dr. David Pearson, Vice President for Partnership Affairs, reported the following:

- Work on the Commissary Building is on schedule to be completed by the start of the spring semester. Floors are being finished, lights are being installed, and various finishes touches are being applied.

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

- The Science and Technology Learning Center had its topping off ceremony last Tuesday. Ms. Mendez presented a summary of the ceremony.

15. President's Report

Dr. Garcia reported the following:

- The 15th Winter Commencement will be held on December 19, 2009.
- The men's and women's soccer teams and the volleyball teams all won the Red River Athletic Conference and went on to nationals. Neither the men's nor the women's soccer teams advanced beyond the first round, which was hosted on the UTB/TSC campus, but both teams performed admirably. Volleyball, which reached nationals for the first time, came in tied for fifth place.
- Higher Ground Entertainment is producing a documentary called "The Kings of Brownsville" about how chess became important in this community. A fundraiser was hosted by Dr. Robles to help meet the shortfall in the production of the documentary's trailer.
- UTB/TSC will be host of the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championships on South Padre Island from December 27-29, 2009. At the tournament last year, UTB/TSC placed third.

- The School of Health Sciences has teamed with the Brownsville Independent School to send 1,500 special needs students to the movies. Dr. Eldon Nelson, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, helps led this effort every year.
- Dr. Pearson will be returning to the faculty. She expressed her gratitude for Dr. Pearson's three years of service as Vice President for Partnership Affairs. A graduate of Yale University, Dr. Pearson joined UTB/TSC in 1997 as an Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences. He later became a full Professor and was elected President of the Academic Senate, becoming the first President to have joined the faculty after the establishment of the Partnership. A few years later, Dr. Pearson accepted an apprenticeship as a Faculty Fellow to explore the role of university administration. His internship soon turned into a position as the Vice President for Partnership Affairs. His passion for teaching and writing soon morphed into that of a student once again as he found himself learning about the worlds of construction management, facilities maintenance, tax rates, and governing boards. Under his leadership for the last three years, the campus has benefited immensely at a critical time of transition and intense work. With the bond construction projects almost complete, Dr. Pearson made the decision to return to his first love in higher education: the professoriate.

16. Proposed Meeting Dates

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Partnership Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Thursday, February 25, 2010

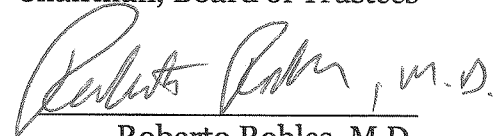
Thursday, March 25, 2010

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Oliveira at 9:33 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 December 17, 2009, 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.