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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

March 31, 2016

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on March 31, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Francisco G. Rendon, Chair; Ed Rivera, Secretary; Dr. Reynaldo García; Adela G. Garza; and Art Rendon. Also present was Dr. Lily F. Tercero, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent was Trey Mendez, Vice Chair.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rendon at 5:31 p.m.

2. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

3. Mission Statement

Chairman Rendon 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. Discussion and Possible Action regarding a Feasibility Study for the Construction of a Hotel as Presented by David Parker, DP Consulting

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Feasibility Study for the Construction of a Hotel as Presented by David Parker, DP Consulting

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to present the item. Dr. Tercero stated that David Parker, DP Consulting was present to provide details regarding a feasibility study for the construction of a hotel. Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. gave a brief introduction of David Parker and James Parkey. Mr. Parker presented a preliminary assessment of the Brownsville hotel market, including a series of exhibits summarizing the local market's recent activity and potential future performance.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Rendon to move forward with the feasibility study at no cost to the College with a possibility of a workshop for the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinojosa and carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"

5. President's Report

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to give the report. Dr. Tercero announced employees with new positions: Irene Buitureida, Academic Advisor, Advising and

Orientation and Christian Torres, Reporting and Compliance Specialist, Admissions and Records.

Dr. Tercero gave an update on the facilities master plan. She stated that Munoz & Company facilitated the Board's Kickoff Meeting on March 24th and Board members participated during the presentation, which included an overview of higher education master planning, 21st Century learning spaces and utilization reports.

Dr. Tercero stated that TSC has successfully completed the process of achieving separate accreditation. As defined by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), an accredited institution must seek reaffirmation of accreditation as defined by the accrediting agency. TSC has received notification from SACSCOC that TSC is scheduled for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2020. As part of the College's reaffirmation of accreditation process, TSC must prepare reports and other documents as defined by SACSCOC, including a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focused on an issue or issues relating to the improvement of student learning and/or the environment supporting student learning, linked to the College's ongoing integrated institution-wide planning and assessment process. TSC must have a Topic and Process identified by spring 2017, and show evidence that the QEP process is progressing. In order to prepare for this important step in the College's reaffirmation of accreditation, she has appointed a group to oversee this effort for the College.

Dr. Tercero stated that all institutions maintain a software application, known as a Learning Management System (LMS), to maintain course learning materials and to deliver courses, as well as to administer, document and report coursework. TSC has been using LearningStudio, which is a software application offered by Pearson. However, Pearson has decided to no longer provide this system to educational institutions. Therefore, TSC is moving forth to identify a new LMS for the College. The existing LMS system will continue to be maintained and supported by Pearson until TSC moves to a new system. To ensure an inclusive process, Dr. Tercero has appointed a group representing faculty, staff and students to oversee this effort.

Dr. Tercero announced a new scholarship opportunity for TSC students. Dr. Kathy Bussert-Webb and her husband, Robert Bussert-Webb, have graciously donated \$10,000 for the establishment of the "CAMERON PARK SCHOLARSHIP" at Texas Southmost College. She said that it is exciting news and that TSC greatly appreciates their generosity. She called on Dr. Bussert-Webb to come forth and be recognized by the Board. Dr. Bussert-Webb, recognized the College's efforts and expressed her commitment to establish this new scholarship to help expand educational opportunities for students living in the Cameron Park area.

6. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

**Consideration and Approval of Minutes of
the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2016**

A motion was made by Mr. A. Rendon to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2016, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rivera and carried unanimously.

7. Consideration and Approval on Adopting a Resolution on Naming the Recreation Center

**Consideration and Approval on Adopting
a Resolution on Naming the Recreation Center**

Chairman Rendon called on Mr. A. Rendon to present the item. Mr. A. Rendon stated that he was honored to have submitted this agenda item regarding naming a facility for René Torres.

A motion was made by Mrs. Garza for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Dr. García.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Rendon to table the item on Adopting a Resolution on Naming for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Dr. García and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "B"*

8. Consideration and Approval of the Appointment of an Investment Officer for the College District

**Consideration and Approval of the Appointment
of an Investment Officer for the College District**

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to present the item. Dr. Tercero asked the Board to appoint Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, as the College District's investment officer.

A motion was made by Mr. Rivera to Approve the Appointment of Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, as the Investment Officer, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. García and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "C"*

9. Report of the First Quarter Financial Statements and Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2016

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to present the item. Dr. Tercero stated that the reports are provided for informational purposes only, and no action is required by the Board. She called on Mr. Pecero, who provided a summary report on the First Quarter Financial Statements and Investment Report for FY 2016. *Exhibit "D"*

10. Executive Session as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:14 p.m.

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

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Garza to Authorize Dr. Tercero and Attorney to finalize a negotiation settlement in the Jeffrey Gregor case on terms in the best interest of the District and consistent with the policies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rivera and carried unanimously.

**Consultation with Attorney on
Pending Real Estate Issues, Section
551.072, Texas Government Code. Consideration
and Approval Regarding the Possible Leasing, Sale, Exchange,
Transfer, and/or Acquisition of Land or Buildings**

No action was taken.

**Deliberation on Personnel Matters,
Section 551.074, Texas Government Code. The
deliberation may include a discussion of the evaluation
and employment contract of the President.**

No action was taken.

12. Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, April 28, 2016
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 2016
Regular Board Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rendon at 7:15 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 March 31, 2016, 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.