



Texas Southmost College

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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

March 6, 2017

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on March 6, 2017, at 12:00 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Adela G. Garza, Chair; Trey Mendez, Secretary; Dr. Reynaldo García, Ramon Champion Hinojosa and Art Rendon. Absent was Vice Chair; Ruben Herrera and Dr. Tony Zavaleta. Also present was Mr. Mike Shannon, Interim President of Texas Southmost College.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mrs. Garza at 12:00 p.m.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Chair Mrs. Garza leads the United States Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

3. President's Report

Mr. Shannon gave an update on the legislative visits. He discussed the new Bill that is being put forth by Representative Ryan Guillen that removes the borders on Dual Enrollment (DE). Mr. Shannon explained how this bill would affect Community Colleges presently offering DE courses in their area. This Bill would allow Universities to offer DE courses to any high school in the State. He explained that it is not in

the best interest of the students to take online classes through a University in the state.

The second item is regarding TSC “hold harmless” state funding. TSC “hold harmless” state funding was put in place for the college after the separation with UTB to compensate for the reduction in TSC’s enrollment and contact hours. TSC is asking the Legislators to keep the “hold harmless” in place for another session. TSC is asking for the \$1.7 million to continue over the next 2 year period. Mr. Shannon stated that the minimum TSC needs is \$1.2 million. He also said that the Chair and Vice Chair went on some visits to Austin as well. He mentioned that he would be visiting the Senate side, to discuss the “hold harmless” and the Bill from Representative Guillen.

Mr. Shannon then gave an update on hiring. TSC has made an offer for the Vice President of Finance and Administration, who accepted and will start with us on April 3, 2017. He has tremendous amount of experience and has been a Senior Auditor with Long and Chilton since 2006.

Mr. Shannon stated that he moved Donald Crouse, Dean of Humanities out of his position and into the position of Associate Vice President of Instruction. He stated that TSC needs someone to take the lead on Dual Enrollment and Early College High School. TSC is bringing on some additional schools, Harlingen, Los Fresnos, Raymondville, and other Willacy County schools.

Dr. García then asked if TSC had advertised for the Vice President of Finance and Administration position. Dr. García inquired also about the Vice President for Instruction position. Mr. Shannon stated that TSC would be re-advertising for that position. He stated that they had been advertised in all major publications. Mr. Rendon then asked if the position of the VP for Finance was pending Board approval. Mr. Shannon said no, that the per policy requiring board approval will need to have a second reading for the Board before that policy comes into effect.

He stated that Mr. Scott Nelson will serve as our Interim Dean for Health Care. TSC will then be conducting interviews for the Dean of

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and Career and Technical Education after Spring Break.

Mr. Rendon inquired about the Bill being introduced by Representative Guillen, if TSC know anything else about it. Mr. Shannon stated that it is in response to a particular situation between two schools. Mr. Shannon voiced his concerns to Representative Guillen opposing the Bill. Mr. Shannon explained that Permian Basin had mailed out letters to every school in the state in regards to online dual enrollment courses.

Mr. Rendon asked if the “hold harmless” state funding had already come in or is it pending? Mr. Shannon stated that TSC has had the funding for the last 2 year period, but was taken out of the budget for this session. TSC is asking for it to be put back in as a line item. Mr. Mendez explained that the way that TSC gets funding for this biennium is based on enrollment for not these last couple of years, but the couple years prior. He said over the last couple of years TSC’s enrollment was flat, so TSC won’t be seeing any increase in appropriations from the Legislature based on enrollment. TSC also met with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). Mr. Mendez said that a couple of Legislative Consultants are helping TSC with this issue.

4. Presentation Regarding the Results of a Feasibility Study for the Construction of a Hotel by David Parker, DP Consulting

A motion was made by Mr. Rendon to table this item and schedule the presentation for the regular Board Meeting for the month of March. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mendez and carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Hiring a Consultant for the Presidential Search

Discussion and Possible Action on Hiring a Consultant for the Presidential Search

Chair Mrs. Garza addressed the board and stated that she spoke with Dr. Bryon McClenney, Consultant, during the Board Retreat. She asked if he had done any Presidential searches before and Dr. McClenney stated that he had. Mrs. Garza invited him to submit a proposal so that it could be brought to the Board for approval. She asked the Board if they were OK having Dr. McClenney conduct the Presidential search for TSC.

Dr. García asked if this would be a national search. Mr. Shannon added Dr. McClenney will do a national search and felt very confident with Dr. McClenney and thinks he is the right person for this job. He stated that Dr. McClenney will put together a good pool for the Board. Mr. Shannon asked for approval to allow TSC to enter into a contract with Dr. McClenney to provide consulting services for the Presidential search.

Mr. Shannon asked the Board if they were going to want to put a dollar amount on this. TSC has a cap of \$25,000, anything over \$25,000 would have to come to the Board.

A motion was made by Dr. García to Authorize the Interim President to enter into a contract with Dr. McClenney as a Consultant to do a National Presidential search for TSC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinojosa and carried unanimously.

6. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 12:18 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 12:34 p.m.

**Consultation with Attorney on Pending Real Estate
Issues and Deliberation on Real Property Regarding
the TSC Fort Brown Condos Villas I and II,
Section 551.072 Texas Government Code**

A motion was made by Mr. Rendon that Texas Southmost College District sell the Fort Brown Villas I and II Condominiums to Mr. Vinod Kasan pursuant to the terms of the contract negotiated and signed by the parties. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mendez and carried unanimously.

A second motion was made by Mr. Rendon that Texas Southmost College District waive the notice provisions of section 7.2 of the Declaration of Establishment of Condominium Regime for Fort Brown Villa II. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinojosa and carried unanimously.

A third motion was made by Mr. Rendon to authorize the Interim President of Texas Southmost College District to execute all documents necessary to finalize and close the sale of the Fort Brown Villas I and II Condominiums to Mr. Vinod Kasan; to extend the closing date to on or before March 31, 2017; and pursuant to his authority, the Interim President shall have the authority to execute such documents on behalf of and in the name of Texas Southmost College District; and Texas Southmost Junior College District, and any other name by which Texas Southmost College District has been known. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mendez and carried unanimously.

7. Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mrs. Garza at 12:37 p.m.