



**Board of Trustees**

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*Delia Saenz*

**TSC President**

*Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, Ph.D.*

**TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

**February 20, 2020**

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on February 20, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Mr. Ruben Herrera, Vice Chair; Dr. Tony Zavaleta, Secretary; Mr. J.J. De Leon and Mr. Arturo Rendon. Absent were Ms. Eva Alejandro and Mrs. Delia Saenz. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Garza, at 5:30 p.m.

\*Note: Chair Garza announced that Vice Chair Herrera would be arriving late.

**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 January 23, 2020**

A motion was made by Mr. De Leon to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2020, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with four votes and three absences.

## 5. **President's Report**

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

- **Spring Enrollment**

The current total enrollment numbers for Spring 2020 are 9,328 students which is a 23.5% increase or 1,778 additional students from last year. This data sets the record for the highest enrollment for the college since it reopened in the Fall of 2013 with 3,673 students. Current enrollment represents 5,655 additional students or a 154% increase. President Rodriguez thanked the Trustees, campus community, and community partners for their hard work and support in helping to grow the college.

- **Charro Days**

President Rodriguez, along with Chair Garza and Trustee Mrs. Saenz, attended the poster unveiling on January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Charro Days headquarters. The poster was themed, "La Adelita", and was produced by local artist Don Breedon.

- **Legislative Summit**

The Board of Trustees and President Rodriguez attended the Association of Community College Trustees Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington D.C. from February 9<sup>th</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup>. The summit is the premiere community college advocacy event that brings together over a thousand community college leaders. The event shines a spotlight on the importance of our nation's community colleges for congress and the administration. The summit is designed to educate and inform community college leaders on federal policy issues that impact both secondary institutions and students.

- **Platica Series**

TSC hosted its first Platica Series of the Spring 2020 Semester. The theme was, "Leading with Character", and featured Cameron County's District Attorney, Mr. Luis Saenz. District Attorney Saenz spoke to approximately 200 students about his childhood and experiences growing up. His story resonated with students and served as a source of inspiration. Several students asked questions during the session and approached him after to continue conversations and take photos with him.

- **Principal for the Day**

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, President Rodriguez served as Brownsville ISD's Principal for the day at Cromack Elementary School. He stated that this gave him the opportunity to spend time with some of the brightest children in the community.

- **Los Fresnos Rodeo Parade**

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, Chair Garza, Trustee Mrs. Saenz, and President Rodriguez participated in 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Los Fresnos Rodeo Parade. Together, they celebrated the Los Fresnos community marquee event of the year aboard the TSC float.

- **Sombrero Festival Gala**

The Sombrero Festival Gala was held on February 15<sup>th</sup>. President Rodriguez joined Chair Garza and Trustees Mrs. Saenz and Mr. De Leon as representatives of TSC.

- **Law Enforcement Expo**

The TSC Criminal Justice Program, in collaboration with the Division of Humanities and the Office of Student Life, hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Texas Southmost College Law Enforcement Expo on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Jacob Brown Auditorium. Over 700 students from several school districts across the Rio Grande Valley attended the expo. The event featured over 25 law enforcement agencies from the local, state, and federal levels. The expo provided students an opportunity to explore the various career opportunities available in law enforcement by seeing the equipment and vehicles that are used in the field, but more importantly, by having the ability to speak one on one with the law enforcement officers.

- **Drawing for Place on the Ballot**

President Rodriguez announced a reminder that the drawing for place on the Ballot for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> general election is scheduled to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the TSC Gorgas Board Room.

- **Brownsville Sunrise Rotary Club**

Mr. Lizandro Garcia was introduced to present an endowment award on behalf of the Rotary Club at Brownsville Sunrise. Mr. Garcia introduced his fellow colleagues and stated that although they are not strangers to the institution, they hoped to leave a permanent mark with the college by presenting this initial endowment as the first of many going forward. Mr. Garcia explained that the funds were generated through the club's partnership with the college and events during Charro Days. He then presented a check in the amount of \$10,051.60 and stated it was left very open in the hopes that it will impact every student that crosses through the college regardless of nationality or GPA, etc.

Chair Garza expressed her thanks to the Rotary Club for this gift and a photo was taken with the Trustees. President Rodriguez also thanked Mr. Garcia and the Rotary Club for their contribution.

- **Amigo Fest**

President Rodriguez announced this year's Amigo Fest is scheduled to take place at the TSC Performing Arts Center on the evening of February 27<sup>th</sup>.

- **Video Presentation**

President Rodriguez concluded his report by sharing a video which highlighted several activities and events that occurred throughout the month.

Following the video, Chair Garza remarked that it is so much fun to see the student's enjoying themselves. She stated that the slogan, "This is your community college" is beginning to show because our students are happy here. She continued on and praised the efforts and outcome of the Law Enforcement Expo. Finally, she added that the college has not had a President like the one it has now. She then coined the phrase, "Es el Presidente de la gente", because everybody wants to speak with him when he attends events. She concluded by expressing how proud she was of President Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez.

President Rodriguez thanked Madam Chair and responded that it truly takes a team effort starting with the Board, faculty, staff, and students. It's a collaborative effort that creates the environment that we are building. It's an environment that is welcoming and provides a sense of belonging to our students and community.

In closing, President Rodriguez thanked everyone for their efforts in getting the Spring semester off to a great start.

## 6. **Budget and Finance Committee Report**

Vice Chair Herrera had not yet arrived; however, Secretary Zavaleta was prepared to make the report since he is the second member of this committee. Chair Garza called on Secretary Zavaleta to make the report.

### a. **Update on grants awarded to Texas Southmost College for the month of January 2020**

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

### b. **Consideration and possible action on Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Small Business Administration and Texas Southmost College**

A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to authorize President Rodriguez to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for a strategic alliance between the United States Small Business Administration and Texas Southmost College. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Leon and carried with four votes and three absences.

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

Secretary Zavaleta stated the recommendation for this item by the committee is to table it due to lack of approval by the City of Brownsville. President Rodriguez added that the City of Brownsville was not able to vote on this item during their meeting.

**A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to table this item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with four votes and three absences.**

- d. Consideration and possible action on amending the Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Southmost College Foundation, Inc. and Texas Southmost College**

**A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to authorize President Rodriguez to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Southmost College Foundation, Inc. and Texas Southmost College. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Leon and carried with four votes and three absences.**

- e. Consideration and possible action on award RFP 20-09 for "Property and Casualty Insurance"**

**A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to award RFP 20-09 for "Property and Casualty Insurance" to TASB Risk Management Fund in the amount of \$308,481 and authorize President Rodriguez to execute the purchase order contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with four votes and three absences.**

- f. Consideration and possible action on acceptance of the Declaration of Covenant and Transfer and Exchange of Restrictive Covenants from the United States Department of Education.**

**A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to authorize President Rodriguez to sign the Declaration of Covenant and Transfer and Exchange of Restrictive Covenants from the United States Department of Education. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Leon and carried with four votes and three absences.**

- g. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the Month Ending December 31, 2019**

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

- h. First Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2020**

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

\*Note: Item 7, Facilities Committee Report was put off for a later time during the meeting as Vice Chair Herrera had not yet arrived and the second member of the committee was absent. The meeting resumed with Item 8 on the agenda.

## **8. Academic Committee Report**

Chair Garza called on Secretary Zavaleta to give the report.

### **a. Consideration and possible action on a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Benchmark Pulmonary Center in Harlingen for Texas Southmost College Respiratory Care Program**

**A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Benchmark Pulmonary Center in Harlingen for Respiratory Care Program and authorize President Rodriguez to sign. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Leon and carried with four votes and three absences.**

### **b. Consideration and possible action on a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with TSC Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center in Brownsville for Texas Southmost College Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) and Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) programs**

**A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement with TSC Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center in Brownsville for Texas Southmost College Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) and Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) programs and authorize President Rodriguez to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Leon and carried with four votes and three absences.**

## **9. Policies Committee Report**

In Ms. Alejandro's absence, Secretary Zavaleta was prepared to make the report as the second member of this committee. Chair Garza called on Secretary Zavaleta to make the report.

### **a. Consideration and possible action on approval of local policies**

Dr. Zavaleta listed the policies which were discussed during the committee meeting under Section B, Local Governance, and Section D, Personnel.

**A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to approve the updates to the local policies as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with four votes and three absences.**

## 7. Facilities Committee Report

Chair Garza called on legal counsel, Mr. Frank Perez, for direction on Item 7 since neither committee member was present to present the report. Mr. Perez recommended to table any items that would require action from the Board. However, information items were OK to be presented.

### a. Parking Lots across Campus

**A motion was made by Secretary Zavaleta to table Facilities Committee Item 7a, Parking Lots across Campus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with four votes and three absences.**

### b. Facilities Project Updates

Chair Garza called on Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, to present the updates.

Dr. Figueroa began the updates presentation with the work that was being done to the ITEC Center Workforce Labs project. She stated that the welding program lab is scheduled to be done by the second week of March. The plumbing, pipefitting, and electrical program labs are scheduled to be done by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the industrial maintenance program lab has seen much progress and is scheduled to be completed by March 15<sup>th</sup>. The criminal justice lab has also progressed. Dr. Figueroa reported that all four spaces will be completed and fully operational by the end of March.

The next update was regarding the Roofing Renovations project. She provided a list of the buildings that have been included in this project and stated that the only building that has not been started is Set B. She explained that the renovation team is running a bit behind on this project due to weather but is on track to be completed by May of this year.

In addition, Dr. Figueroa updated the Board on the progress of the second floor of the Oliveira Student Services building. She presented photos and explained that work on the ceilings, painting, and framing have all begun in this space.

Moreover, the tennis courts, which now also include basketball courts have been resurfaced and completed. Several Trustees commented on how well done it was and how amazing it looked.

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

\*Note: Vice Chair Herrera arrived at 6:01 p.m.

**10. Executive Session**

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:49 p.m.

**11. 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 approve the salary schedule as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Herrera and carried with five votes and two absences.

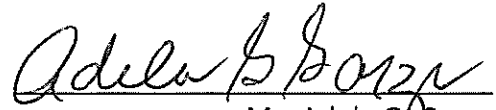
**12. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates**

- Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

**13. Adjournment**

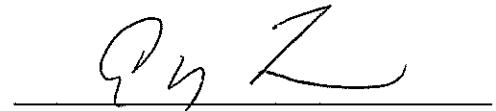
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice Chair Herrera. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with five votes and two absences. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.





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Ms. Adela G. Garza  
Chair, Board of Trustees



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

The video recording of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on February 20, 2020, is available on the TSC.EDU website. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Claudia L. Cortina, Interim Chief of Staff and Board Liaison. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996.