



Board of Trustees

Adela G. Garza
Chair

Ruben Herrera, J.D.
Vice Chair

Tony Zavaleta, Ph.D.
Secretary

J.J. De Leon, M.Ed.

Art Rendon, M.Ed.

Eva Alejandro

Delia Saenz

TSC President

Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

August 22, 2019

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on August 22, 2019, at 5:40 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, and Mr. J.J. De Leon, Jr. Absent were Mr. Art Rendon and Ms. Eva Alejandro. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College.

1. Call to Order

Madam Chair Adela Garza called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Tony 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:

Mr. Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 27, 2019. Ms. Alejandro seconded the motion and the motion carried with six votes and one absence.

5. President's Report

Introduction of New Chief of Staff and Board Liaison

President Rodriguez began his report by introducing the new Chief of Staff and Board Liaison, Ms. Nina Young. Ms. Young has over 20 years of administrative experience with a wide range of skills and expertise. Most recently, she served as Assistant Provost & Chief of Staff for the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at UTRGV. Dr. Rodriguez thanked her for saying yes to TSC.

Texas Monthly

TSC hosted the sold-out Texas Monthly LIVE performance at the TSC Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, July 9th. The community was treated to a live issue of the magazine that was reimagined for the theatre audience. An after-party was held, giving theatre guests the opportunity to mix and mingle with the Texas Monthly editors, storytellers, and special guests. This was the first time that the magazine held the event in the Rio Grande Valley. They were very appreciative and impressed with the TSC campus, facilities, our hospitality, and they expressed interest in returning next year.

Fall 2019 Enrollment Update

Dr. Rodriguez reported preliminary enrollment numbers for fall 2019. TSC registered 7,360 students. 4,545 were on campus students and 2,815 dual credit, with upward trend continuing. Since the last update, there have been special registration events and extended hours Monday through Thursday, and Saturdays to better serve our students. Saturday the 24th will be the last in a series of Scorpion Saturdays held in the last month with registration open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dr. Rodriguez indicated that TSC is also boosting advertising campaigns across the board to assist with enrollment efforts.

TSC will host its annual Scorpion Success Orientation for all first time college students and their parents on Saturday, August 24th. Currently 1,200 participants have RSVP'd. Due to the increased participation from last year, there will be two orientation sessions on Saturday. The first session is from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the second, from 3 to 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Rodriguez indicated the fall semester would begin Monday, August 26th and he would continue to provide the board updates regarding the fall registration process.

Soccer Club

The President continued his report announcing that this fall, the TSC Men's Soccer Club will begin its second season in the Texas Collegiate Soccer League. The Scorpions Soccer Club will participate in the Men's South Conference after having won the Developmental Conference title last year.

As a token of appreciation for the continued support from the Board of Trustees, each trustee was presented with a signed TSC soccer ball from last season's championship team.

Dr. Rodriguez indicated that all home games will be played at 3 p.m. on Saturdays at Scorpion Field behind the Recreation Center. The schedule includes three home games and four away. The team's home opener is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th against Trinity University. The team will be coached by Mario Zamora who coaches the Brownsville Pace Vikings and is a former Scorpions soccer player himself. Over the past five seasons, Mr. Zamora has rebuilt the Pace soccer program. His teams have reached the playoffs four out of the past five seasons, and the Vikings are three-time regional finalists. He holds a Professional "A" Soccer License from the Mexican Soccer Federation and an "E" Youth Soccer License from the United States Soccer Federation.

The core of TSC's 2019 Men's Soccer Club was present at the meeting along with Coach Zamora, and Dr. Rodriguez asked them to stand to be recognized. Following the recognition, a picture was taken of the team with the board members.

TSC Classes at HCISD

Dr. Rodriguez reported that TSC is partnering with the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District to begin offering academic classes and a welding course at two Harlingen CISD high school campuses in September. The five academic courses and one technical course will be offered in the evenings and on Saturdays in an effort to make college education more convenient and accommodate the adult learner's busy schedule so that they may advance their career opportunities. Students will complete a full semester of instruction in 12 weeks and earn full college credit for each course successfully completed. Information Sessions are scheduled on August 22nd and August 31st at the HCISD Administration Board Room.

21st Century

Dr. Rodriguez reported that TSC continues to strengthen its relationship with the community, hosting the Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers' Parent Council Meeting on July 11th at the TSC Performing Arts Center Gold Hall. Texas 21st Century is in partnership with the Brownsville Independent School District and the TEA Afterschool Centers on Education.

Vibrant Lecture Series

In addition, TSC hosted the Vibrant Lecture Series: NewSpace Brownsville at the SET-B Lecture Hall on July 11th, featuring notable speakers from NASA, Boeing/Lockheed and the Founder and Director of the Silicon Valley Space Center. The event was in partnership with the City of Brownsville, the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation, the Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport and Expanding Frontiers.

Summer Camps

TSC also hosted four Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer Camps this summer, with over 450 middle school and high school students from the Brownsville and Rio Hondo school districts participating. Each Scorpion Summer Camp was a weeklong program designed to give students an authentic college experience and the opportunity to explore multiple STEM-related programs of study. The Scorpion Summer Camp allowed students to engage in exciting and interactive activities, and explore workshops in coding, biotechnology, cybersecurity, public speaking, SAT prep and health professions.

TACC Summer Meeting

Dr. Rodriguez shared that he attended the Texas Association of Community Colleges Summer Meeting in Austin July 17th through the 20th. The meeting discussions included analysis and reflections on the 86th Legislative Session, Texas Pathways, Higher Education Policy and the recent passage of several senate bills.

Executive Cabinet Retreat

The Executive Cabinet participated in a day-and-a-half retreat on July 23rd and 24th. Dr. Don Cameron facilitated the retreat and provided insight on ways to improve work productivity, teamwork and communication.

Learning to Lead

Dr. Rodriguez reported that thirty-three students from high schools across the Rio Grande Valley became certified student leaders on July 26 as part of the Texas Southmost College Learning to Lead program. The program started in the summer of 2017 and aims to develop high school juniors and seniors leadership skills, help them network in the community, and create service-oriented leaders. Students participated in various workshops addressing team communication, ethical leadership, financial literacy, public speaking, and conflict resolution, among others during the five-week program.

TAMUK President Campus Tour

Texas A&M-Kingsville President, Dr. Mark Hussey, visited Texas Southmost College on July 29th for a campus tour and to discuss common goals to expand the region's educational opportunities. Dr. Rodriguez stated that he provided Dr. Hussey a personal tour of the campus and introduced him to the programs TSC offers as a comprehensive community college. During the visit, they discussed the talent of the students of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and possibilities for expanding existing partnerships to benefit students.

86th Legislative Luncheon

Dr. Rodriguez also attended the 86th Legislative Session update luncheon on August 1st at the Brownsville Events Center where our local and state representatives discussed the 86th Legislative Session and the issues that impact our communities.

Engineering Academy Orientation

The Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy at Texas Southmost College welcomed the third cohort of engineering academy students to the TSC Main Campus on August 14th for an orientation that immersed them in Scorpion and Aggie culture. The new engineering students were provided an overview of the academy and had the opportunity to meet and hear from faculty and second-year engineering students during panel discussions.

TWC Skills Development Summit

During the week of August 14th-15th Dr. Rodriguez attended the Skills Development Fund Summit with College and Workforce Partners in Austin hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission Office of Employer Initiatives.

Civilian Response to Active Shooter

In partnership with the Brownsville Police Department, TSC hosted the Civilian Response to Active Shooter, a lecture-based training, on August 16th at the SET-B Lecture Hall. The training was for business leaders and managers from Brownsville and throughout the Rio Grande Valley. The training was a proactive measure to inform and educate the community and provide insight as to what measures to take in case of an incident such as those that took place in El Paso and Dayton.

Port Mansfield Tour

On August 17th, the President's Office provided a tour to Port Mansfield for Trustees J.J. De Leon Jr., Eva Alejandro and Delia Saenz.

Liberty the Dog

Dr. Rodriguez introduced Dr. Kile to talk about Liberty, the South Padre Island Fire Department's Arson Dog. Dr. Kile introduced Ms. Ashley Bowen who presented information regarding Liberty's training and responsibilities and thanked the Board of Trustees for ongoing support received from TSC for the accelerants used by the fire department in training Liberty to perform his duties in arson investigations. Ms. Bowen presented a plaque to the board and a picture was taken of Liberty, Ms. Bowne and the Board of Trustees

Fall Convocation

On August 18th, a dinner/meet-and-greet was held with Fall Convocation keynote speaker, Dr. John Roueche. The dinner was an opportunity for Dr. Roueche to meet with members of our Board of Trustees, Executive Cabinet and staff. The following day, Dr. Roueche spoke to TSC faculty and staff at Convocation about excellence, and shared his knowledge and experience in serving our students. Dr. Roueche was impressed with our hospitality and professionalism, the beauty of our campus, the quality of our facilities, as well as with the overall experience at this year's Convocation. The Fall Convocation included presentations on SACSCOC, the Quality Enhancement Plan, the Scorpion Futuro Fund, GEM Awards, and Finance, Safety and IT updates.

Scorpion Futuro Fund

Dr. Gisela Figueroa provided a brief presentation on the Scorpion Futuro Fund, which is a fundraising effort to provide TSC faculty and staff an opportunity to contribute to invest in TSC and its students by donating funds to be used for the benefit of the TSC community. Employees are able to contribute through payroll deduction or a one-time donation.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Rodriguez informed the trustees that a list of upcoming meeting and events was provided in their meeting binders.

Video Presentation –Year in Review

Dr. Rodriguez thanked all in attendance for helping to create a college environment that is caring and welcoming, and that provides a sense of belonging to our students and community. With the help of the Multimedia and Marketing Teams, a video was created and presented to the board highlighting the many events and activities held in the past year. Dr. Rodriguez thanked the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff for their efforts and continued support throughout this past year.

6. Budget/Finance Committee**a. Consideration and possible action on an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Brownsville Independent School District for the Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program**

Dr. Anjelica Fuentes addressed the board regarding an amendment to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant memorandum of understanding with Brownsville Independent School District. TSC is entering year two of three on the grant, which is a grant for \$1.5 million for three years. Each year, TSC provides funds for instructors and would like to increase the amount to \$175,000 to cover increased participation in the program. The program served over 6000 unique students this past year and met all metrics even with a late start, and it is expected to serve even more in the coming year.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to approve the amendment to the MOU with BISD for the Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Dr. Zavaleta and carried with six votes and one absence.

b. Consideration and possible action on agreement with City of Brownsville/Brownsville Metro to provide transportation services to Texas Southmost College Students to and from the College campus

Dr. Gisela Figueroa presented information regarding an agreement with Brownsville Metro to provide transportation for TSC students. TSC students would be able to ride the metro buses on any Brownsville routes including the route between ITEC and the main campus. There was a pilot program in the Spring semester that was very successful. In the spring, there were 7,500 individual rides and the services were provided only Monday through Thursday. The new agreement will include Fridays and Saturdays. TSC would pay a flat fee of \$50,000 per year.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to approve the agreement with City of Brownsville/Brownsville Metro in the amount of \$50,000 to provide transportation services to Texas Southmost College Students to and from the College campus for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 and authorize Dr. Rodriguez to execute the agreement. The motion was seconded by Dr. Zavaleta and carried with six votes and one absence.

c. Consideration and possible action on award of RFP 19-22 for “Tennis Courts Reconditioning”

Dr. Figueroa presented information regarding RFP 19-22 for reconditioning of the tennis courts. In the June board meeting, the board allocated funds collected from surplus property for some improvement projects. Scope of work included resurfacing of the tennis courts as well as possibly adding in basketball courts. Dr. Figueroa presented four options for the board to consider, option 1 for four tennis courts; option 2 for four basketball courts; option 3 for two tennis courts and two basketball courts; and option 4 for three tennis courts and one basketball court. The recommendation was to award project to Hellas construction based on the evaluation criteria reviewed by the committee. Project funding would be from the approved budget amendment for campus facilities improvements approved in June.

Mr. Herrera indicated that the committee discussed and recommended option four to have three tennis courts and one basketball court; however, indicated the board could recommend a different option. Mr. Rendon commented that the courts will a good idea for the students and Dr. Zavaleta inquired regarding the experience of the company in resurfacing tennis courts. Dr. Figueroa indicated this was reviewed by the committee and confirmed the company has the necessary experience.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to award RFP 19-22 for “Tennis Courts Reconditioning” to Hellas Construction, Inc. for \$40,405 for option four and \$5,000 of contingency to cover unforeseen events and authorize the President to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Saenz and carried with six votes and one absence.

d. Consideration and possible action on award of RFP 19-09 “Campus Security Services” and approval of a hybrid model for campus security services”

Mr. Jaime Salazar and Dr. Figueroa provided information regarding RFP 19-09 for Campus Security Services. The current contract expires on August 31, 2019. The scope of work included the same security services provided previously such as vandalism, facility & grounds, building key control, incident investigation and point of contact with Brownsville Police Department. Pricing tabulations were compared to current rates for existing services. American Surveillance rated the highest on price, references, past experience, warranty services and location within our district.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to award RFP 19-09 to American Surveillance, Inc. for the period of September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 and authorize Dr. Rodriguez to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Dr. Zavaleta and carried with six votes and one absence.

Mr. Herrera continued with the second tier of this agenda item calling on Dr. Figueroa to provide additional information. Dr. Figueroa explained the hybrid model for campus security, which would include off-duty officers to working on the college premises to increase security presence, ability to respond as a policy department and in case of an emergency, have campus familiarity. Mr. Herrera clarified that at the last board meeting the discussion was that TSC would have an MOU with the city of Brownsville with an office afforded to the Brownsville PD to have a mini station on campus. This concept has not materialized at this time, but may at some time in the future in a second phase of this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to approve the hybrid model schedule with off duty police officers. Dr. Zavaleta inquired whether the motion could be a separate item, which was not separate on the agenda.

After further consideration and consultation with Mr. Pena, a motion was made by Mr. Herrera to rescind the previous motion to award RFP 19-09 to American Surveillance, Inc. for period of September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 and authorize Dr. Rodriguez to execute the contract. The motion to rescind the previous motion was seconded by Dr. Zavaleta and carried with six votes and one absence.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to approve the hybrid model schedule with American Surveillance, Inc. and off-duty police officers for RFP 19-090 and authorize Dr. Rodriguez to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alejandro and carried with six votes and one absence.

e. Consideration and possible action on approval of furniture purchase for the Teaching and Learning Spaces Project

Dr. Figueroa provided information regarding the furniture purchase project. Project scope included furnishings for North and South building, Tandy, Oliveira Student Services Center, SETB & SETB Annex and Gorgas Suite. Updated furnishings would allow for active learning environments for students. Purchases would be made directly from 11 furniture manufacturers using purchasing cooperatives. The project would be funded with approved budget for the Teaching and Learning Spaces-Furniture and Media Upgrades project of \$7,506,609 which was included in the FY2018-2019 operating budget.

Mr. Herrera inquired about the purchases from eleven vendors. Dr. Figueroa confirmed that the eleven vendors would be used according to procurement contracts already established with the state. Mr. Herrera asked Mr. Pena whether this was acceptable and Mr. Pena clarified that this procurement process was authorized by statute.

Dr. Zavaleta asked whether the furnishings would decrease the capacity of the classrooms. Dr. Kile clarified that the furnishings would not change the capacity of the classroom for students.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to approve furniture purchase from the "Teaching and Learning Spaces-Furniture and Media Upgrades" project in the total amount of \$3,486,048 directly from the furniture manufacturers through purchasing cooperatives contracts as presented and authorize the President to execute the purchases. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alejandro and carried with six votes and one absence.

f. Third Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2019

Mr. Herrera called upon Dr. Figueroa to present an overview of the third quarter Investment Report for fiscal year 2019.

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

g. Report on the Monthly Financial Statements for the Month Ending July 31, 2019

Mr. Herrera called upon Dr. Figueroa to present an overview of the detailed Financial Statement for the month ending July 31, 2019.

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

7. Facilities Committee

a. Consideration and possible action on award of RFQ 19-17 for "Design Build Services for international, technology, Education and Commerce Center (ITECC) Technical Programs

Mr. Herrera explained there were discussions regarding the RFQ process versus the RFP process, but after consulting with legal counsel, he feels comfortable with proceeding with a RFQ process for this project. He called on Dr. Figueroa to provide information regarding RFQ 19-17. The project is part of the approved funding to recondition space in the ITEC building for TSC technical programs. The project involves build out for welding, HVAC, Criminal Justice, Industrial Mechanics & Maintenance and Plumbing, Pipefitting & Electrical teaching spaces in the ITEC building. Five firms submitted qualifications, with Davila Construction scoring highest on the evaluation. Based on RFQ evaluation criteria the review committee recommended awarding the project to Davila Construction.

Mr. Rendon asked the estimated cost of the project and Dr. Figueroa indicated that it would be about \$1,011,000. Mr. Herrera asked Mr. Pena once again to confirm the RFQ process complies with the procurement laws of the State of Texas. Mr. Pena referenced education & government code to confirm the legality of the process.

Mr. Herrera made a motion to award RFQ 19-17 for “Design Build Services for International, Technology, Education and Commerce Center (ITECC) Technical Programs” to Davila Construction and authorize the President to execute the contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Saenz and carried with six votes and one absence.

8. Academic Committee

- a. **Consideration and possible action on the approval of a new Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management (AAS.CM) degree.**

A motion was made by Dr. Zavaleta to approve the proposed new Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management (AAS. CM) degree to be implemented in Fall 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herrera.

Dr. Zavaleta called upon Dr. Kile to present information regarding the Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management degree. The College already has a Level 1 program. This would add a second step to that degree program. An advisory council with representatives from Tri-gen, SpawGlass, Housing Authority of Brownsville, Vaughn Construction and Associated General Contractors-RGV Chapter had several meetings to discuss the program. Job demand and comparable programs in the area were considered in building the new program. The program would include 45 semester credit hours; added to core curriculum would total 60 credit hours for the program. Personnel is available for year one of the program, and in year two a new full-time instructor would be added. No additional physical resources would be required. Dr. Kile summarized the five-year budget for the program, including a six-year revenue projection.

Dr. Zavaleta explained that the legislature authorized the creation of a Bachelor of Science in Applied Technology degree. Although that has not materialized, he wanted to point out that the Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management, students would have a clear pathway to continue on to a bachelor's degree.

Mr. Rendon inquired about the projected number of students in the program and Dr. Kile indicated the projections were based on 15 students.

The motion carried with six votes and one absence.

b. Consideration and possible action on approval of application to offer a U.S. Department of Labor Registered Plumbing Apprentices Program

A motion was made by Dr. Zavaleta to approve the application to offer a U.S. Department of Labor Registered Plumbing Apprentices Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herrera and opened for discussion.

Mr. Herrera requested additional information concerned about the requirements in the Texas legislature for plumbers to be certified or registered. Dr. Fleishman explained that regional plumbers know that when LNG companies come to the region they will not have access to a qualified labor force. In anticipation of having to compete with higher paid labor market, they are asking the college to open this apprentices program. They will pay for the educational cost of the students while they go through the four-year program. Students will be employed full time as they complete the apprentices program and will exit the college debt free.

The motion carried with six votes and one absence.

c. Consideration to partner with the Secretaria de Seguridad Publica del estado de Tamaulipas to offer customized police training

A motion was made by Dr. Zavaleta approve the partnership with the Secretaria de Seguridad Publica del estado de Tamaulipas to offer customized police training, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with six votes and one absence.

9. Student Services Committee

a. Consideration and possible action on continued investment of resources for proposed Cafeteria Project or consideration and possible action on award of RFP 19-23 for "Cafeteria Concession"

Mr. Rendon made a motion to table the discussion since Mr. De Leon was not present. The motion was seconded Mrs. Saenz and carried with five votes in favor, one against and one absence.

Mr. Herrera commented that this item has been discussed for the last three years. He expressed concerns for the students expressing that this service needs to be provided for the students. Ms. Alejandro inquired about the survey that was conducted, but Mr. Rendon indicated Mr. De Leon was going to produce that information for the committee.

10. The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. and reconvened in Regular Session at 8:12 p.m.

11. Action on Executive Session Matters

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

b. Consultation with Attorney on Pending Real Estate Issues, Section 551.072 Texas Government Code

i. Discussion on update to UTRGV Lease Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to approve the amendment to the UTRGV Lease Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with six votes and one absence.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrera to authorize legal counsel to offer the fair rental value to the Willacy County Navigation District as discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with six votes and one absence.

c. Deliberation on Personnel Matters, Section 551.074 Texas Government Code

i. Self-Evaluation of the Board of Trustees

Mrs. Saenz reported that in compliance with SACSCOC requirements, the Board of Trustees conducted a self-evaluation.

ii. Consideration and possible action on Salary Schedule

A motion was made by Dr. Zavaleta to approve the salary schedule as discussed in Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried with six votes and one absence.

12. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

a. Special Board Meeting - Tuesday, August 27, 2019, 12:00 p.m. Noon

b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, September 19, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

c. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, October 24, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Zavaleta suggested we include a presentation about the new Nursing Program for one of the next meetings.

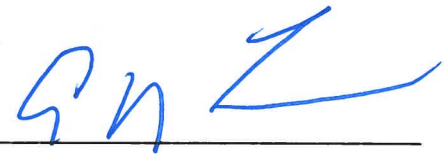
Mr. Herrera suggested we hold a meeting at the ITEC Center, however, due to lack of media and audio, Madam Chair suggested a tour instead. The October regular meeting will be preceded by an official tour of the ITEC Center beginning at 4:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Herrera. The motion was second by Mr. Rendon and carried with six votes in favor and one absence. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



Adela G. Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees



Dr. Tony Zavaleta
Secretary, Board of Trustees

The video recording of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on August 22, 2019, is available on the TSC.EDU website. These minutes were prepared by Nina Young, Chief of Staff & Board Liaison. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996.