



TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE and TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

November 19, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on November 19, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall, The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College. Board members present were David Oliveira, Chair; Eduardo A. Campirano, Vice Chair; Dr. Roberto Robles, Secretary; Chester Gonzalez; Adela G. Garza; and René Torres. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. García, President of The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College. Board member Rosemary Breedlove was absent.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Oliveira at 5:35 p.m.

1. Announcement

Dr. David Pearson, Vice President for Partnership Affairs, announced that Texas Southmost College received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the second year in a row. Dr. Pearson introduced Melba Sanchez, Assistant Vice President for Finance. Ms. Sanchez noted that the way the Board conducts business, which has been with the highest ethical standards, was why TSC was able to earn this recognition. Ms. Sanchez recognized the efforts of employees of the TSC Finance Office, including Nancy Saldaña, Rosa Rodriguez, Zoila Vasquez, Claudia Cortina, Orlando Ruiz, and Julieta Ontiveros, and accounting personnel at the Physical Plant, Sylvia Hernandez and Edgar Velador. Ms. Sanchez also thanked the UTB Business Affairs Division, which is led by Rosemary Martinez, and Long Chilton, with its partners Carlos Barrera and Juan Mendoza.

Dr. Pearson announced that UTB/TSC was recognized by the Professional Grounds Management Society for having some of the best-maintained grounds in the country. UTB/TSC was the Grand Award Winner in the Urban University category. Dr. Pearson noted that the focus that UTB/TSC places on open spaces, use of native plants, layering of plants, and use of plants to soften hardscapes and connect areas, has been encouraged by the university's landscape master plan and adopted with great success by Physical Plant's grounds crew. He introduced Allen Peakes, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Services, who congratulated Larry Neuburg, the Superintendent for Grounds Maintenance, and all of the grounds crew members for their efforts and attention to detail. Mr. Peakes noted that previous winners of this award include the Smithsonian, Disneyland, the Texas State Capitol, Duke University, the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library, Cal Tech, and The University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Peakes then introduced Mr. Neuburg, who recognized grounds crew leaders Juan Morales, Albert Ruiz, and Rafael Ruiz. Mr. Neuburg said the dedication of the crew leaders and grounds crew is why the campus is so beautiful. He also thanked Cheryl Taylor from News and Information for an article she wrote about the university's landscaping and Job Benavidez and Andrew Keese from the Office of the Vice President for Partnership Affairs for their help in submitting the application for the award.

Chairman Oliveira announced that *Time* magazine had listed Dr. García as one of the Top 10 university presidents in the country. Mr. Oliveira said it is good that the rest of country is now learning what we in this community already know about Dr. García. He said Dr. García has always commanded a lot of respect in Austin, but now that she has earned this prestigious recognition, she will command it even more since no one else in the state made it on the list. Dr. García replied that it was a great privilege and surprise to get the recognition. She said her honor was made possible because of the quality and effort of the people at the university. She said her recognition is actually the university's honor.

2. Acceptance of Gift and Resolution

Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Resolution Naming The Arts Center Box E the "Richard & Elka Jaross Box"

Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, announced the acceptance of a gift from Elka and Richard Jaross. She read a short biography of the couple, who have been advocates of education, theater, and music in the community. Dr. Ragland thanked the couple for their generous donation.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to adopt the resolution naming The Arts Center Box E the "Richard & Elka Jaross Box," as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "A"*

3. Resolutions

Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Resolution Honoring Service and Contributions of William H. Cunningham

Chairman Oliveira said Dr. William Cunningham served as Chancellor of the UT System at a critical juncture for UTB/TSC, and was important in helping UTB/TSC gain four-year status and entering into a 99-year agreement between UTB and TSC. Chairman Oliveira then read the resolution honoring Dr. Cunningham for his service and thanked him for his many contributions to education in the state and to UTB/TSC.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to adopt the resolution honoring Dr. Cunningham for his service as Chancellor of the UT System as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "B"*

Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of a Resolution in Support the Big Read Program

Dean of Instructional Support Doug Ferrier introduced John Hawthorne, Assistant Director of the Oliveira Library. Mr. Hawthorne, who is leading the university's Big Read program, said this year's featured book is *Fahrenheit 451*. He said the program promotes reading throughout the UTB/TSC service area, including Matamoros. Mr. Hawthorne then introduced U.S. Consul General to Matamoros Michael Barkin, who said he was impressed with the university's efforts. Chairman Oliveira read the resolution supporting the Big Read program.

A motion was made by Ms. Garza supporting the Big Read program, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "C"*

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Consideration and Possible Action on Minutes of Regular Meeting on September 30, 2009

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 30, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously.

5. Board Briefing

Dr. Vince Solis, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, gave an update on Scorpion Athletics, which has won three Red River Athletic Conference championships, including women's and men's soccer and women's volleyball. Solis noted that women's soccer is 23-5-1 over the last three seasons against opponents in the Red River conference. In 2009, five players were named to the All-Conference First Team, including Defensive Player of the Year Jodie Hunter. Dr. Solis said the men's soccer team, which is ranked fourteenth nationally in the NAIA, is 30-0-0 over the last three seasons against Red River opponents. In 2009, seven players were named to the All-Conference First Team, including Defensive Player of the Year Brian Hardie and Newcomer of the Year Mario Perez. Solis said the volleyball team, which is ranked ninth in the nation, is 18-0-0 in conference play this year. Four of the players were named to the All-Conference First Team, including Player of the Year Arlene Ferriera, Setter of the Year Daianarah Bracero, Freshman of the Year Val Caboclo, and Newcomer of the Year Judy Boel.

Dr. Solis also noted that the three head coaches of the previously mentioned teams—Nik Barjaktarevic, women's soccer; Dan Balaguero, men's soccer; and Todd Lowery, women's volleyball—were all named Red River Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in their respective sports.

Dr. Luis Colom, Interim Vice President for Research, talked about the growth in research expenditures at the university. He said in 1991, the university only spent about \$19,000 on research. In 2002, that number topped the \$1 million mark. By 2009, research expenditures had surpassed \$6 million. He said since September 1, 2009, the university has received 14 new grants totaling more than \$13 million. Of that, \$11.5 million were research grants. Dr. Colom mentioned that the university received a \$5 million grant from NASA supporting the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy and a \$3 million grant from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities supporting the Center for Biomedical Research. The university is not resting on its accomplishments, though; since September 1, UTB/TSC has applied for more than \$14 million in additional grants.

Dr. Colom introduced Dr. Mikhail Bouniaev, Dean of the College of Science, Mathematics, and Technology, who emphasized the need for a proactive approach during tough economic times. Dr. Bouniaev said since August 1, 2009, the college has received \$4.44 million in new grants and has \$11.21 million in grants pending. Dr. Bouniaev introduced Dr. Jude Benavides, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Benavides provided an overview of Bahia Grande wetland restoration project. Because of grants, the university has been able to contribute to the restoration of this area, which has reduced the health hazards from dust storms and provided an important research laboratory for both faculty and students. Now a pending grant may allow for the widening of the channel into the Bahia Grande, which will begin the second major phase of its restoration and provide additional research opportunities.

6. Executive Session

as provided by Government
Code, Chapter 551.071, .072

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 8:15 p.m.

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

Contract and Resolution for Purchase of Lots 19 and 20, Block 12, Colonia Alta Vista Subdivision, Brownsville, Texas

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the contract and resolution for the purchase of Lots 19 and 20, Block 12, Colonia Alta Vista Subdivision, Brownsville, Texas, for \$80,000, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "D"*

Change Order and Related Documents in Connection with the Recreation, Education, and Kinesiology Center

A motion was made by Mr. Torres to table approval of the change order and related documents in connection with the Recreation,

Education, and Kinesiology Center. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "E"*

8. Physical Facilities Committee

Chairman Oliveira called on Mr. Gonzalez to give the report from the Physical Facilities Committee, which recommended:

Approval of Funding Allocation for Capital Projects

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the funding allocation for capital projects, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "F"*

Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price for Skanska USA for the Oliveira Library Renovation

Mr. Gonzalez said the guaranteed maximum price had been reviewed by the project managers and the architect. He explained that the library renovation was needed to provide a functional layout for student support services and to add to special collections, computer labs, and additional collection space.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the guaranteed maximum price of \$2,444,524 for Skanska USA for the Oliveira Library Renovation and to authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "G"*

Authorize the Funding of a Contract for the Athletic Zone Phase I Project

Mr. Gonzalez said the first phase of the Athletic Zone includes utilities, site grading, soccer field with irrigation, restrooms, storage facilities, and a parking lot.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez authorize the funding of a UTB contract for the Athletic Zone Phase I Project for \$1,511,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "H"*

**Approval of Job Order Contract
with Jamail & Smith Construction for
Miscellaneous Construction Items for the
Recreation, Education and Kinesiology Center**

Mr. Gonzalez said the contract is for the addition of two racquetball courts, the rework of a locker room stall, the addition of ADA benches in both locker rooms, and the rework of mirror walls in the multi-purpose room.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to approve the job order contract with Jamail & Smith Construction for \$257,275.21 for miscellaneous construction items for the Recreation, Education and Kinesiology Center and to authorize the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction to execute it. The motion was seconded by Mr. Campirano and carried unanimously.

Exhibit "I"

**Accept Substantial Completion the Construction
of the Center for Early Childhood Studies**

Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction, gave an overview of the completed facility.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to accept substantial completion of the construction of the Center for Early Childhood Studies from RGV Paint and Construction. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "J"*

**Accept Substantial Completion of
the Construction of the Arts Center**

Ms. Mendez gave a presentation of the completed project. She said students had come in recently to help with the acoustical testing of the facility.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez to accept substantial completion of the construction of The Arts Center from Skanska USA and to authorize the Assistant Vice President of Planning and Construction to close the project upon completion of the punch list items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "K"*

In additional to the above action items, Mr. Gonzalez spoke about the proposed mural for the University Boulevard Library. He said the university's master plan provides recommendations on the amount of open space, design elements for buildings, and pedestrian areas. It also emphasizes the

