



Texas Southmost College

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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 19, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on September 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Ms. Delia Saenz, Vice Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Secretary, Ms. Alejandra Aldrete, Mr. Edgar Garcia, and Mr. Eduard Camarillo. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent was Dr. Tony Zavaleta.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Garza at 5:30 p.m. She called role and confirmed a quorum.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Vice Chair Saenz led the United States Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

Chair Garza asked if there were any speakers signed up for public comment. There were no public speakers.

4. Chairwoman's Report

Chair Garza presented the following items:

RGV Women's Chamber Event

Chair Garza participated in the RGV Women's Chamber of Commerce Night of Valor at the Edinburg Conference Center earlier in the month. She said the event was a beautiful 9/11 remembrance ceremony that honored the heroic first responders from that day, as well as remembered the legacy of the victims. She extended her thanks to Chief Border Patrol Agent Gloria Chavez for inviting her to attend the event.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Members of the Scorpion Community Celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with the Mexican Consulate, which hosted a celebration of Mexican Independence, held at the TSC Performing Arts Center. Chair Garza said the performances were incredible, and she thanked Secretary Lopez Harris, Trustees Camarillo and Garcia, and President Rodríguez for representing the college at the event.

Sting Day

TSC hosted Sting Day on August 24th at the TSC REK Center where Scorpions and their families enjoyed food, games, and activities. She said the hot and humid weather was challenging, but she looks forward to an even better event next year.

5. President's report**Bridging Education and Business Roundtable**

President Rodríguez participated in the Bridging Education and Business Roundtable, serving on a panel with representatives from South Texas College and Texas State Technical College. The event, held in Weslaco, was moderated by the Executive Director of Texas Association of Business, Glenn Hamer, and CEO of the RGV Partnership, Daniel Silva. Participating business leaders learned about the future impact of House Bill 8 and had the opportunity to share their challenges on maintaining a competitive workforce.

Employee Recognition

Dr. Emma Miller, Dean of Business, Engineering, Architecture, and Technology, has been active in presenting to community members. For example, she was a presenter at the Brownsville Police Department's Women's Inclusion Conference. Her session, which was also streamed in Spanish to female police officers in Mexico, focused on leadership, and she provided information on the programs TSC offers, including customized workforce training.

Respiratory Care accreditation

TSC's Respiratory Care program has been granted reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. The program met or exceeded all thresholds for success on each of the required outcome measures for the previous year. President Rodríguez congratulated Isidro Ramirez, Respiratory Care Program Director, faculty member Alberto Vasquez, as well as the adjunct faculty, for their exceptional work in preparing the next generation of health professionals.

Substitute Teacher Course

Back by popular demand, the Workforce Training and Continuing Education Department offered our Substitute Teacher Course in September. The course was developed in collaboration with secondary school partners, who have had a great need for effective substitute teachers. Participants in the course took part in a two-day interactive curriculum focused on classroom management. President Rodríguez thanked Mr. Richard Mesquias and his team for continuing to ensure TSCs help meet the workforce needs in the communities it serves.

National Day of Service and Remembrance

TSC held its National Day of Service and Remembrance event on Wednesday, September 11th. The community event featured the Rivera Color Guard presenting the colors and Brownsville Fire Chief Jarrett Sheldon serving as the keynote speaker. President Rodríguez thanked the Student Services Division for hosting the event, Mr. Villarreal for presenting the welcoming remarks, and Vice Chair Saenz and Trustee Camarillo for their participation in the event.

Soccer Update

TSC hosted home matches for the men's and women's soccer teams on September 13th and 14th. The excitement of attending live collegiate sporting events is just sensational. Our Scorpions give it their all, and

they are going up against some really experienced teams. He thanked Coach Mario Zamora and all of the employees who support the student athletes. He thanked Chair Garza and Trustee Camarillo for coming out to support the student athletes. Dr. Rodríguez also announced that the Scorpions will play Jacksonville College on Tuesday, September 24, and invited the community to participate in the tailgate party preceding the matches.

Game Room Ribbon Cutting

TSC held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new game room in the Oliveira Student Services building on September 4th. The Game Room was a result of the collaboration between the Board of Trustees, students, and the many staff members who ushered the project to completion. This space invites students to gather and get to know each other, and it can be reserved for holding tournaments, club meetings, or other events. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza, Vice Chair Saenz, and Trustee Camarillo for participating in the event.

Student Services events

In addition to the Game Room event, the Student Services Division was hard at work hosting a number of events designed to engage students, including:

- Welcome week events, such as Dunk for Donuts and Popcorn and Pictures;
- Student Leadership recruitment luncheon;
- Flag Football league; and
- Piñata en el Paseo.

Video Presentation

President Rodríguez shared a video highlighting college activities since the last regular board meeting.

President Rodríguez thanked the Board of Trustees for their continued commitment and support to the college, as well as the entire campus community for the successful launch of a new academic year.

6. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meetings:

a. Regular Meeting – June 20, 2024

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 20, 2024. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion. Trustee Garcia, who was not yet a member of the Board when the June meeting was held, abstained. The motion passed by majority.

b. Special Meeting – August 12, 2024

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of August 12, 2024. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Public Hearing and Regular Meeting – August 29, 2024

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 29, 2024. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion. Trustee Garcia, who was not present at the meeting, abstained. The motion passed by majority.

7. Consideration and possible action on resolution nominating a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Cameron Appraisal District

Chair Garza said TSC is grouped into the same category as school districts for representation on the Cameron Appraisal District board, and the school districts have a strong network, which is why a TSC candidate is difficult to get elected. She said representation is very important, and the college has been pursuing several strategies to secure representation on the appraisal district board.

Mr. Frank Perez, Legal Counsel, read the resolution, nominating Alejandra Aldrete as the candidate:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT EXPRESSING ITS NOMINATION(S) FOR APPRAISAL DISTRICT DIRECTORS FOR THE CAMERON APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for Texas Southmost College District are authorized to make nominations for each position to be filled in the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, these directors shall serve a term beginning January 1, 2025, and that all taxing entities associated with the Cameron Appraisal District are authorized to nominate up to five (5) individuals for said Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for Texas Southmost College District must submit the names of the nominee(s) by written resolution to the Chief Appraiser by **October 15, 2024**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT, THAT THE NAME(S):

is/are hereby nominated by the Board of Trustees for Texas Southmost College District to the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors.

FURTHERMORE, the Board of Trustees for Texas Southmost College District directs the Chief Appraiser to submit said nomination for consideration by all taxing entities within the Cameron Appraisal District in the upcoming district appointments.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Board Chair for Texas Southmost College

ATTEST:

Secretary

Chair Garza made a motion to appoint Trustee Aldrete for position eight of the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Finance Committee

Chair Garza called upon Vice Chair Saenz to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval for human resources applicant tracking software and annual contract for FY 2024-2025 and subsequent two years

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Ruben Vega, Associate Vice President of Human Resources, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Figueroa said the proposed item is for a three-year renewal of the software contract. Vice Chair Saenz thanked Dr. Figueroa for her negotiations to secure a lower contract price.

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve annual contract for human resources applicant tracking software from PeopleAdmin, Inc. (PowerSchool Group, LLC) through exempted purchase method for FY 2024-2025 and subsequent two years. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended July 31, 2024

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero presented the Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ending July 31, 2024.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

c. Grants Update

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. She reported out on the grants received during the month of August 2024.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

9. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

a. Facilities Update

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff; Mr. Ronald Robles, Director of Operations- Facilities; and Mr. Gerardo Mascorro, HVAC Supervisor, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Robles reported out on the status of dedicated chiller plant for the TSC REK Center and Child Care Center Unit 2. Chair Garza complemented Mr. Mascorro on the progress he is making on multiple projects.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

10. Academic Committee

Chair Garza presented the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Texas Southmost College for the Criminal Justice Academy Basic Peace Officer Certification Program and the City of Brownsville, Texas Police Department

Mr. Richard Mesquias, Vice President of External Relations and Workforce Development, and Dr. Angelica M. Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Workforce Training and Continuing Education, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Mesquias said the proposed MOU strengthens the partnership with the City of Brownsville Police Department and Texas Southmost College. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the vehicle available for student training.

Chair Garza made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Texas Southmost College for the Criminal Justice Academy Basic Peace Officer Certification Program and the City of Brownsville, Texas Police Department and authorize Dr. Rodríguez to execute the contract as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Texas Southmost College for Workforce Training and Continuing Education programs and Jubilee Brownsville

Mr. Richard Mesquias, Vice President of External Relations and Workforce Development, and Dr. Angelica M. Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Workforce Training and Continuing Education, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Mesquias said the proposed MOU allows for WTCE training to be offered to eligible Jubilee Brownsville students at the TSC ITEC center.

Chair Garza made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding between Texas Southmost College for Workforce Training and Jubilee Brownsville and authorize Dr. Rodríguez to execute the MOU as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11. Student Services Committee

Chair Garza called on Secretary Lopez Harris to present the report.

NOTE: Trustee Aldrete joined the meeting

a. Consideration and possible action to approve the addition of a men's and women's NJCAA Intercollegiate Cross Country team that will begin competition in Fall of 2025

Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development, and Dr. Armando Ponce, Executive Director of Athletics and Civility, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Ponce first provided an update on the TSC soccer program. He then reviewed the cross country implementation timeline and the projected budget. The board engaged in a brief discussion of cross country budget estimates for future years, as well as exploring the possibility of offering baseball in the future.

Secretary Lopez Harris made a motion to approve the proposed addition of an Intercollegiate Men's and Women's Cross Country team to start competition in Fall 2025. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:22 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:42 p.m.

13. Action on Executive Session Matters

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

No action was taken.

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

No action was taken.

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

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion that the Board of Trustees adopt the revisions to the FY2024-2025 salary schedule, as discussed in Executive Session. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

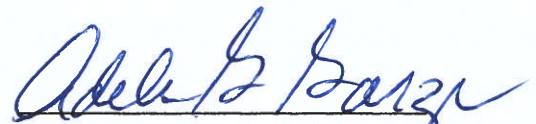
14. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, October 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

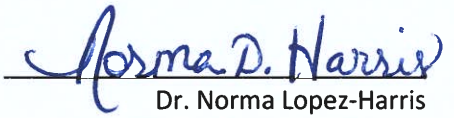
b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, November 21, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Trustee Camarillo made a motion adjourn. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



Ms. Adela Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees



Norma D. Harris

Dr. Norma Lopez-Harris
Secretary, Board of Trustees

The video recording of the Special Board of Trustees meeting held on September 19, 2024 is available on the TSC.EDU website. These minutes were prepared by Dr. Angela K. McCauley, Chief Institutional Editor and Special Projects. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996.