

**Southmost Union Junior College District
TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE**

Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of the Board of Trustees
October 23, 2003

Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Southmost Union Junior College District convened in open session October 23, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Chester Gonzalez, Chair, Rosemary Breedlove, Vice Chair, Eduardo A. Campirano, Secretary, Mary Rose Cardenas, David Oliveira, Dolly Zimmerman and Dr. Roberto Robles. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. García, President of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chester Gonzalez at 5:41 p.m.

Chair Gonzalez introduced Mr. Kevin Alford, Chair of the Brownsville Shines Committee, and Mr. Frank Fields, Executive Director of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Fields and Mr. Alford presented the Brownsville Shines Beautification Award to the Board to recognize the newest parking lot built behind the Life and Health Sciences Building. Mr. Alford stated that the purpose of the Brownsville Shines Committee is to promote beautification within the business community by recognizing and rewarding businesses on a monthly basis with the Brownsville Shines Beautification Award.

Chair Gonzalez accepted the award and thanked Dr. John Ronnau, Dr. Wayne Moore, the Physical Plant department and Mr. Scott Pajeski, Landscape Architect, for their efforts in beautifying our campus.

Dr. García thanked Mr. Alford for the award and the Beautification Committee support for the enhancements to University Boulevard.

1 Executive Session as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.071-551.076, 551.082-551.084

The Board convened in Executive Session at 5:50 p.m.

as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.075, 551.076, 551.082, 551.083, 551.084

Real Estate Acquisition

Discussion on a condominium in Fort Brown Villa I, Brownsville, Texas

Discussion on a property consisting of approximately 18.104 acres located in Bayview, Texas

Discussion on Lots 1-12, Block T; Lots 1-5, Block 309; and Lots 1-6, Block 316, Original Townsite Addition to the City of Brownsville, Texas

The Board convened in Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

2 Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

Real Estate Acquisition

**Consideration and possible action on
Condominium in Fort Brown Villa I, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to approve the Contract for the acquisition of a Condominium in Fort Brown Villa I, Brownsville, Texas, seconded by Mrs. Breedlove; motion carried. Exhibit "A"

A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to approve the Resolution for the acquisition of a Condominium in Fort Brown Villa I, Brownsville, Texas, and authorize Dr. John P. Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Administration and Partnership Affairs, to execute all documents relating to such sale and purchase, including without limitation Settlement Statements and the like; seconded by Dr. Robles; motion carried. Exhibit "B"

**Consideration and possible action on
Property consisting of approximately 18.104 acres
located in Bayview, Texas**

Dr. Ronnau stated that the District was presented with an opportunity to acquire the property known as the CP&L training center in Bayview, Texas. If purchased, this property would be used as a center for master teaching. The property is approximately 18.104 acres in size and includes a cottage, classrooms and several guest rooms.

Mrs. Breedlove stated that this acquisition was an excellent opportunity for the District to meet the need for a center for master teaching in the region. She also thanked Mr. H. E. Butt, of HEB Grocery Stores, for his generous contribution of \$1 million towards the acquisition of the property.

Mr. Campirano stated that although he recognizes the need for a center for master teaching, he believes that the University already has the means to offer this training in its existing facilities.

A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to approve the Ernest Money contract for the acquisition of approximately 18.104 acres located in Bayview, Texas; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried with one vote against by Mr. Campirano. Exhibit "C"

Dr. Sylvia Peña, Dean of School of Education, thanked the Board of Trustees for pursuing the opportunity to acquire this property. Dr. Peña stated that teacher preparation is essential to the mission of this institution and a critical need for the region.

**Consideration and possible action on
Lots 1-12, Block T; Lots 1-5, Block 309; and Lots 1-6, Block 316,
Original Townsite Addition to the City of Brownsville, Texas**

Dr. Ronnau stated that Duffey Plaza, acquired by the District in the year 2000, has fulfilled the need for which it was purchased by providing a home for our Workforce Training and Continuing Education programs. However, these programs will be moved to the ITEC Campus in the near future.

Dr. Ronnau stated that the City of Brownsville has made an offer to the District for the purchase of Duffey Plaza in the amount of \$1.5 million minus the cost of repair for the elevator and escalator. Staff recommended the sale of Duffey Plaza to the City of Brownsville for \$1.5 million as is.

A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to accept the offer of \$1,500,000 from the City of Brownsville for Lots 1-12, Block T; Lots 1-5, Block 309; and Lots 1-6, Block 316, Original Townsite Addition to the City of Brownsville, Texas; without the stipulation of less the repair costs for the elevator and escalator; seconded by Ms. Cardenas; motion carried with one vote against by Mr. Campirano. Exhibit "D"

3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Consideration and possible action on Regular Meeting September 18, 2003

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2003 as presented; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried.

4 Speakers to Agenda Items & Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

5 Board Briefing

Center for Civic Engagement Update

Dr. Jose Martin, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, introduced Mr. Joe Zaveletta, Jr., Interim Director for the Center for Civic Engagement.

Mr. Zavaletta narrated a presentation of the strategies that have been taken to help revitalize the Buena Vida neighborhood. This proud and historic neighborhood is also one of the poorest areas in Brownsville. He stated that the Center for Civic Engagement is offering service learning courses taught by UTB/TSC staff at the Buena Vida Learning Center.

Mr. Zavaletta introduced the staff of the Center for Civic Engagement: Father Armand Mathew, OMI, Claudia P. Rojas, Christy Buitureida, Susanna Canabal, Regina Linck, Guillermo Chapa, Alma Garcia, Jennifer Godfrey, Sandra Cruz, Claudia Ortiz, Nereida Ramirez, Isable Govea and Lisa Gonzalez. He thanked them for their work.

Mr. Zavaletta announced the opening of a wellness clinic for the Buena Vida Neighborhood headed by Dr. Selma Yznaga, Director of the UTB/TSC Counseling Clinic. He reported that Dr. Yznaga has recruited other certified counselors to volunteer one night a week to help families with parenting and wellness topics.

Father Mathew announced that the Center for Civic Engagement is in the process of bringing the Kids Voting USA Initiative to the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD). If successful, BISD would be the first school district in Texas to implement it. This kids voting initiative teaches young people about civic responsibilities.

Mr. Zavaletta thanked the Board for their support to the UTB/TSC Center for Civic Engagement.

Dr. García thanked the Center for Civic Engagement for doing a wonderfully job in helping the Buena Vida Neighborhood revitalize itself.

6 College Park Grant

College Park Resolution

Dr. Ronnau reported that Texas Southmost College in conjunction with the City of Brownsville is preparing an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife for a \$500,000 grant to establish a “College Park” on campus. Dr. Ronnau narrated an overview of the grant and the proposed Park. He added that as part of the application requirements, a resolution is needed to designate the land owned by Southmost Union Junior College District for the College Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to adopt a resolution designating land for the College Park; seconded by Mr. Oliveira; motion carried. Exhibit “E”

7 Business Affairs Partnership Committee

Consideration and possible action on Bid for Contractor for the ITECC Fire Alarm System

Dr. Ronnau reported that as part of the due diligence for the ITEC Campus, it was noted that a fire alarm system was needed to bring the facility up to required standards. Gomez Mendez Saenz Architects was contracted to develop the plans for the system and prepare bid documents for installation of the alarm system for all the spaces currently occupied or soon to be occupied.

Dr. Ronnau reported that one bid was received from Metro Electric in the amount of \$220,950. The bid was under the budgeted amount of \$350,000 for the alarm system.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to award the bid for Contractor for the ITECC Fire Alarm System from Metro Electric in the amount of \$220,950 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried. Exhibit “F”

Consideration and possible action on Bid for Brownsville Economic Development Council Offices at ITECC

Dr. Ronnau reported that the District staff has been working with the Brownsville Economic Development Council to design the space for their offices at the ITEC Campus. Approximately 4,000 sf. were identified at the former Wyatt’s cafeteria for this purpose.

He reported that five bids were received for construction of the BEDC offices with the lowest bid from JDS construction in the amount of \$562,650. Dr. Ronnau reported that upon review of bids with the architect and the contractor several items were identified that could be deleted without harming the project, reducing its cost by \$23,207. Dr. Ronnau added that although the bid amount exceeds the budgeted amount for this project, the overall cost of projects at the ITEC Campus are still within budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to award bid for Brownsville Economic Development Council Offices at ITECC to JDS Construction in the amount of \$539,443 which includes alternate No. 1 as presented; seconded by Ms. Cardenas motion carried. Exhibit "G"

Consideration and possible action on SUJCD Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2002-2003

Dr. Ronnau reported that budget amendment #2003-021 for fiscal year 2002-2003 is to add \$27,840 for the Texas Public Education Grant Fund. He explained that TSC is required to set aside a percentage for every student that is enrolled. The additional funds are needed because the enrollment increase was more than was budgeted.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve SUJCD Budget Amendment 2003-021 to adjust the amount set aside for the Texas Public Education Grant in the amount of \$27,840 as presented; seconded by Mr. Campirano motion carried. Exhibit "H"

Mr. Oliveira reported that budget amendment #2003-022 is to add \$183,115 to Lease Income-Bookstore and to add \$22,435 to Telephone and Utilities-Bookstore.

Dr. Ronnau explained that due to the anticipated sale of the bookstore, income from lease payments was not included in the budget for fiscal year 2003-2004. However, the previous bookstore vendor paid the lease in fiscal year 2003-2004, therefore this revenue must be reported in the budget.

Mr. Oliveira also reported that in the same budget amendment there was an addition to Lease Income-Duffey Plaza in the amount of \$2,327 to adjust budget for lease income received and an addition to Duffey Plaza expenses in the same amount to adjust the budget for lease income due to UTB.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve Budget Amendment 2003-022 to add \$183,115 to Lease-Income Bookstore to adjust budget for lease income from the Bookstore; and to add \$22,435 to Telephone and Utilities-Bookstore to adjust budget for utility expenses at the Bookstore; and to add \$2,327 to Lease Income-Duffey Plaza to adjust budget for lease income from Duffey Plaza; and to add \$2,327 to Duffey Plaza to adjust budget for Duffey Plaza lease income due to UTB; as presented; seconded by Mr. Campirano; motion carried. Exhibit "I"

8 Student Affairs Partnership Committee

Report

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the Student Affairs Partnership Committee convened on September 24, 2003. Members present were Dr. Hilda Silva, Co-Chair, Lourdes Simmons-Carrasco, Minnie Lucio and Sergio Martinez, Jr. Guests attending were Vincent Solis, Student Activities/Housing Director and Mrs. Ethel Cantu, President Academic Senate.

Ms. Zimmerman also reported that Mr. Solis presented an update on student housing. He informed the committee that The Village is at 100% rental capacity. Ms. Zimmerman added that Dr. Silva presented a brief presentation on Student Service Fees and the distribution of those revenues.

No action was necessary

9 Institutional Effective Partnership Committee

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Committee (IEPC) met Tuesday, October 7, 2003. Members present were: Dr. John Ronnau, Mr. Bill Harris, Ms Sandra Rubio, Ms. Eva Bower and Mr. Edward Camarillo. Also present was Ms. Linda Fossen, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Planning.

Ms. Zimmerman reported that Ms. Fossen presented information on UTB/TSC enrollment and the student profile. The committee reviewed and approved data for Measure 2-Student Needs and Satisfaction. She reported that the next meeting of the IEPC will be on November 18, 2003.

No Action was necessary

10 Fourth Quarter Financial and Investment Report

Ms. Melba Sanchez, TSC District Comptroller, presented the Fourth Quarter Financial and Investment Report. The report was for informational purposes and required no action.

11 Construction Report

Dr. John Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs, reported that UTB/TSC has successfully partnered with the Beautification Committee and the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) for enhancements to University Boulevard. He noted that the BPUB Board agreed to fund the decorative lighting along University

Boulevard in the amount of \$185,000 and the Beatification Committee has pledged to fund the landscape along University Boulevard.

Dr. Ronnau narrated a video of the current construction of the International Innovation Center (Incubator) at the ITEC Campus. He reported that tile is being installed in the restrooms and paint finishes have been completed on the hallways. He also reported that air condition infrastructure is being installed in the Workforce Training and Continuing Education space.

Dr. Wayne Moore, Special Assistant to the President, narrated a video of construction of The Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center which is expected to be completed in May 2004. Dr. Moore reported that the Education and Business Complex construction has been delayed because of the recent rains; however, construction has resumed. Dr. Moore also added that ITECC and the Education and Business Complex were not included in the 2000 Master Plan update; therefore, the District is in the process of requesting proposals from architects to expand the Master Plan.

12 President's Report

Dr. García reported the following:

?? The Student Government Association hosted a program to honor students who have been called to active duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom. First Lt. Glen A. MacIsaac was taking an MBA class with Dr. Charles Lackey when he was deployed on short notice. To express his appreciation to Dr. Lackey for his assistance and cooperation, First Lt. MacIsaac sent him a flag that was flown during an air combat mission on April 11, 2003.

Dr. García introduced Dr. Charles Lackey, Dean of Graduate Studies, to read some emails sent from Iraq by First Lt. MacIsaac. Dr. Lackey donated the flag to the university in honor of First Lt. MacIsaac. The flag will be housed in the hunter room of the Library.

?? The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 10th at 11 a.m. at the South Hall Lawn. It will be hosted by Mr. David Rivera, Coordinator of the Veterans Upward Bound Program.

?? UTB/TSC was awarded the Minority Biomedical Research Grant for the Support of Continuous Research Excellence (SCORE) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This grant of over two million dollars will be awarded over a four-year period. This is the first grant that UTB/TSC has received directly from the NIH. Dr. Luis Colom, M.D. thanked Dr. García, Dr. Martin, Mr. Phillips, Dr. Nelson, Ms. Crooks and the Board of Trustees for their support with this grant.

?? Dr. Jose Martin, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced that UTB/TSC has been approved to offer a Masters in Biology.

?? There were nearly 800 high school and college students from across the Rio Grande Valley in the Jacob Brown Auditorium on Wednesday, October 15 to hear Dr. Gregory Stock, an international expert on human gene research and the lecturer for the fifth annual Distinguished Lecture Series. At the student lecture, students who wrote the winning essays in the Distinguished Lecture Series Essay Competition were also honored with certificates and a monetary award. The top three student essay winners were Ana Lagunez, Weslaco East High School; Whitney McCarthy, Rio Hondo High School; and Joseph Reza, San Benito High School.

Dr. Garcia thanked Ms. Breedlove, Dr. Bill Strong, Mr. Barry Horn and Ms. Gerry Fleuriet, Chair of the Lecture Series, and all their staff and volunteers for another successful lecture series.

Ms. Breedlove stated that this event was a team effort and thanked the community for its support and the staff for all its work.

Mr. Barry Horn, Director of Development, thanked Ms. Breedlove for her leadership and Ms. Fleuritet for her work as Chair of the Lecture Series.

?? On November 11th, the 2001 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition gold-medalist Olga Kern will play at the inaugural performance of UTB/TSC's new Steinway Series. The university created the Steinway Series this year to bring internationally recognized pianists to the Valley, showcase local musical talent and support the university's acquisition of a new \$85,000, 9-foot Steinway Concert Grand Piano. Along with the opportunity to enjoy internationally reknowned music in South Texas, patrons of the new series also will be supporting music education in the Rio Grande Valley.

?? Barnes & Noble will take over operations of the UTB/TSC bookstore on Monday, October 20, 2003. The grand opening is scheduled for January 17, 2004.

?? The Lady Scorpions Volleyball team is ranked 25th in the Nation with only four regular season matches remaining in this season. Dr. Garcia congratulated Coach Skippy Brown and the Lady Scorpions Volleyball Team for their success.

13 Proposed Meeting Dates

Board of Trustees Meetings:

November 20, 2003

December 18, 2003

Partnership Committee Meetings:

AAPC – November 6, 2003

BAPC – November 13, 2003

IEPC – November 18, 2003

14 Announcements

Mr. Campirano announced that Project Graduation Walk for Success will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Project Graduation Walk for Success participants are the incoming Freshmen Class attending Porter High School. These students have signed a covenant and pledge to graduate from High School within a specified period of time in exchange for a guaranteed \$4,000 Scholarship to the college of their choice.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Gonzalez at 9:25 p.m.

Chester Gonzalez
Chair, Board of Trustees
Southmost Union Junior College District

Edwardo A. Campirano
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Southmost Union Junior College District

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on October 23, 2003, is on file at the District Office of the Southmost Union Junior College District. The master tape is on file at the UTB/TSC Media center. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Alma G. Balderas-Solis. Video taping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996. They are aired on Channel KISD in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.