

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

Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
**November 20, 2003**

The Board of Trustees of the Southmost Union Junior College District convened in open session, November 25, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Chairman Chester Gonzalez, Vice Chair Rosemary Breedlove, Mary Rose Cardenas, Dolly Zimmerman and Dr. Roberto Robles. Absent Secretary Eduardo A. Campirano and David Oliveira. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. Garcia President of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

**Regular Meeting**

**Call to Order**

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

**1      Executive Session** as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.072.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.

**Real Estate**

**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 5:55 p.m.

**2 Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session****Real Estate**

**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

**No action was taken.**

**3 Approval of minutes of previous meeting****Regular Meeting October 23, 2003**

**A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2003; seconded by Dr. Robles; motion carried.**

**4 Speakers to Agenda Items & Public Discussion**

**There were no speakers.**

**5 Board Briefing****UTB/TSC Futures Commission**

Chairman Gonzalez stated that the UTB/TSC Futures Commission held its inaugural meeting this past Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 210 participants from Brownsville, Harlingen, San Benito, Rio Hondo, Los Fresnos, South Padre Island, Port Isabel, Rancho Viejo and Baytown attended the meeting.

The Futures Commission was formed to provide input in developing a plan that will prepare UTB/TSC for 2020. Six task forces met individually and discussed a plan of action for the next meetings.

?? Academic Programs task force will address regional priorities and focus on adding new degree programs for the growing student population. This task force will also focus on the role of high tech and occupational industries and will examine ways to keep education accessible.

The task force will be staffed by Dr. José Martín, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Task Force facilitators are Ms. Ethel Cantu, Associate Professor in Behavioral Sciences and President of the Academic Senate and Dr. Rose Marie Gowan, a physician from Brownsville.

- ?? The Campus Planning Task Force will focus on facilities planning and the expansion of the current Master Plan. The Campus Planning Task Force will help us imagine a campus that will accommodate 20,000 students and connect the ITEC campus and student housing to the main campus.

The Campus Planning Task Force will be staffed by Dr. John Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs. Task force facilitators are Dr. Diamond Freeberg, Associate Professor in Behavioral Sciences and Mr. Jim Greene, President of South Padre Bank.

- ?? The Fund and Friend Raising Task Force members are our ambassadors to the future and our link to the past. From the perspective of students, a university is known for its graduates and for the students that it can attract. We are proud of our graduates and TSC Distinguished Alumni who have excelled in their professional careers. Their task force will develop a plan to increase awareness of UTB/TSC in the community.

The Friend and Fund Raising Task Force will be staffed by Dr. Bill Strong, Vice President of Institutional Advancement. The task force facilitators are Dr. Reynaldo Ramirez, Associate Professor and Interim Chair of Curriculum and Instruction and Mr. Randy Whittington, a community member from Harlingen and member of the UTB/TSC Development Board.

- ?? Every year over the past decade, a smaller and smaller amount of the state's budget has been targeted for higher education. This is occurring at the same time that more and more students are arriving at the front doors of our colleges and universities demanding access and quality programs. The Financing Task Force will examine alternate funding mechanisms to insure that our need to grow is matched with sufficient funding. They will develop strategies for increasing revenue during tough times by using our current revenue more efficiently.

The Financing Task Force will be staffed by Ms. Rosemary Martinez, Vice President for Business Affairs. The task force facilitators are Ms. Karen Stowe, Assistant Director of Testing, and Mr. John Reed, Senior Vice President of Coastal Bank in Brownsville.

- ?? Last year, UTB/TSC opened The Village at Fort Brown, a residence hall for students at our university. Now in just its second semester of operation we have reached capacity. With students now living on campus, the entire notion of student life changes. The Student Life Task Force will examine what student housing should look like in the future and what student life activities should be enhanced.

The Student Life Task Force will be staffed by Dr. Hilda Silva, Vice President for Student Affairs. The Task Force facilitators are Ms. Alma Garcia, Director of the GEAR-UP program and Joseph Graham, attorney in Brownsville and former president of the TSC Student Government.

- ?? The Workforce Training and Continuing Education Task Force will dream about what the International Technology Education and Commerce Campus (ITECC) can become

years from now. As the Task Force addresses all the intriguing possibilities, it will be staffed by Dr. Tony Zavaleta, Vice President for External Affairs.

The Task Force facilitators are Dr. David Pearson, Associate Professor for Behavioral Science, Mr. Frank Field, President and CEO of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce.

### **Workforce Training Program**

Dr. Antonio Zavaleta, Vice President for External Affairs, made a presentation on the recent completion of a 15-month training program geared to assisting the dislocated workers of the former Levis factory. Dr. Zavaleta reported that the program graduated 515 students in Administrative Support, Child Care, Computer Support, Micro Enterprises, Nurse Assistance and Medical Assistance.

Dr. Zavelta, introduced Mr. Jim Holt, Dean for Workforce Training and Continuing Education. Mr. Holt made a presentation on the 15-month integrated program, which offers Internship, Job Search, English as Second Language (ESL ), Technical Training and Basic Skills GED.

Mr. Holt stated that in the future they would like to assist eligible students with further improvement of Basic Skills, ESL and GED.

Mr. Holt introduced Mr. Hector Quintanilla, Director for Business and Industry Training. Mr. Quintanilla stated that this was a successful program that will only grow and improve.

Mr. Gonzalez congratulated Dr. Zavaleta, Dean Holt and their staff on the success of their program.

## **6 Budget Amendment**

### **Consideration and possible action on SUJCD Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2002-2003**

Dr. John Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs, stated that Budget Amendment #03-023 is to (1) adjust revenue for tuition paid by students in the amount of \$470,441, (2) adjust expenses for tuition in the amount of \$538,303 paid by TSC to UTB and (3) adjusts expenses for tuition differential paid to UTB in the amount of \$21,330.

**A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to adopt the SUJCD Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 #03-023 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"**

## **7 Physical Facilities Subcommittee**

Dr. Robles reported that the Physical Facilities Subcommittee met today, November 20, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. The following items were discussed:

**Consideration and possible action on  
Architectural Services for Expansion of UTB/TSC Campus Master Plan**

Dr. Ronnau narrated the process that was followed to select an architectural firm to recommend to the Board. He reported that a committee composed of staff and Board members recommended two firms, 3D International and Dover Kohl to be considered by Dr. García. Upon review of the firm's qualifications, Dr. García recommended 3D International.

**A motion was made by Dr. Robles to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with 3D International Architects for Architectural Services for Expansion of UTB/TSC Campus Master Plan; seconded by Ms. Cardenas; motion carried. Exhibit "B"**

Mr. Andres Andujar, Executive Officer of the Central/South Texas Group at 3D International, thanked the Board for the opportunity to work on the expansion of the Master Plan.

**Consideration and possible action on  
Change Order for The Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center**

Dr. Wayne Moore, Special Assistant to the President for New Construction, explained that a Change Order to add Drafting Labs and faculty offices to the scope of work for the Technical Training Center is needed for in the amount of \$227,119.

**A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve Change Order No. 1 adding \$227,119 to The Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center contract with Roth Construction as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried. Exhibit "C"**

**8 Academic Affairs Partnership Committee**

**Report**

Dr. Robles reported that the Academic Affairs Partnership Committee (AAPC) met on Thursday, November 6, 2003.

Dr. Robles stated that the new members of the AAPC are Ms. Ethel Cantu, Academic Senate President; Valarie Gamez, Staff Senate Member; and Hugo Perez, Student Government Association Member.

Dr. Robles reported the following:

?? Mr. T.J. Phillips, Dean of Development and General Education, discussed the new Texas Success Initiative, which replaces the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) test. Institutions now have more autonomy in assessing the college-readiness of students.

- ?? Dr. Peter Gawenda, Special Assistant to the Provost for Applied Technology, and Dr. Eldon Nelson, Dean of Life and Health Sciences, presented an update on the Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) degree. More than 100 students are enrolled in the BAT program, and more than 100 are in a pre-enrolled phase. Forty students are in the Health Sciences Track.
- ?? Dr. Jose Martin, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced that the Coordinating Board has approved the Masters of Science in Biology. He also reported that the Master of Science in Physics, Master of Accountancy, Master of Public Policy and Management, and the Bachelor in Communication are awaiting approval by either the Coordinating Board or UT System.
- ?? Dr. Rey Ramirez, Interim Chair of Curriculum/Instruction, presented the State Board for Educators Certification Test Pass Rates for completion year 2002. UTB/TSC's scored an impressive 92 and 91 percent.
- ?? Dr. Martin gave a brief update on grant funding. He said that in the last four years, UTB/TSC has had a 2000% growth in sponsored program dollars, and that this year the amount has doubled from last year. Grants for UTB/TSC now total between \$35 million and \$36 million.
- ?? Ms. Linda Fossen, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Planning announced that enrollment has increased about seven percent for the fall 2003 semester. The official headcount is 10,604.
- ?? Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, announced that Academic Affairs Partnership Committee (AAPC) members would be receiving information soon about The Futures Commission. The Futures Commission will provide opportunity for people from the campus and the greater community to jointly envision what UTB/TSC's future should be in the year 2020.

## **9 Student Affairs Partnership Committee**

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the Student Affairs Partnership Committee met on November 12, 2003.

Mr. Vince Solis, Director of Student Activities and Resident Life, reported that as part of the plan to expand the recreational facilities at UTB/TSC, Dr. Hilda Silva, Dr. Zelma Mata and himself visited Texas A & M Commerce, UT-Tyler, Baylor University, Texas A & M College Station and Palo Alto Community College to observe their facilities.

### **Concordance Policy: Compulsory and Incidental Fees**

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the Committee heard presentations from each of the invited guests on specific fees associated with their respective areas. She invited Dr. Garcia to update the Board on the proposed fee changes. A complete proposal for fees is attached to the minutes.

Dr. García introduced Mr. Edward Camarillo, President of the Student Government, to give the highlights of the presentation he made to the Board of Regents in Austin regarding tuition increases.

Ms. Zimmerman stated that since these fees are automatically adopted by TSC as provided in the Concordance Policy, no action was necessary from the Board.

**No action was taken.**

## **10 Construction Report**

Dr. Ronnau narrated a video of current construction on campus. He reported that the International Innovation Center also known as the Business Incubator is near completion and a final walk-through is scheduled for November 23, 2003. He also reported the following:

- ?? The Workforce Training and Continuing Education is taking shape as new hallways are being constructed.
- ?? A 20-ton chiller was replaced at the Oliveira Library.
- ?? As part of the Stillman Hall courtyard remodeling a new surface has been applied to the patio and new railing was installed.
- ?? Progress continues on University Boulevard.

Dr. Moore narrated a video of construction of the Education and Business Complex and The Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center. He reported that the foundation work at the Education and Business Complex has started. He also reported that the Technical Training Center's infrastructure work has also been completed, along with the open wall inspections and ceiling grid installation.

## **11 President's Report**

*Dr. García reported the following*

- ?? The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommended funding for the following Nursing Proposals:

Nursing Student Development and Enrichment Project (\$37,100) and the Developing Future Nurses Project (\$48,000). Students will also participate in a seminar to learn about the history of nursing, professional nursing and ethics.

- ?? The first recipient of the Lee Kirkpatrick Memorial Scholarship is Ms. Janie Ureña, a junior majoring in accounting at UTB/TSC. Ms. Ureña is a full time student who attends evening classes so she can work during the day at a Brownville law office. The scholarship was named after Lee Kirkpatrick, a longtime banker and dedicated civic leader who was involved in many different projects from providing affordable housing to education.

- ?? “A Night of Mariachi Music and More” and “La Noche de La Guitarra” will feature music students performing popular songs in two fundraising concerts. The funds raised from the concert will benefit the needs of music students from student scholarships, music, equipments and travel for students to attend conferences.
- ?? The UTB/TSC campus will be the site of a community lecture and reception to honor the Honorable Antonio “Tony” Garza, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Student Union.
- ?? On Tuesday, November 25, at 8:00 p.m., Olga Kern, the 2001 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition gold-medalist, appears in Brownsville for the inaugural performance of UTB/TSC’s new Steinway Series. The performance will be at 8 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Science and Engineering Technology Building.

The Steinway Series will continue throughout the year with performances by UTB/TSC award winning professor Richard Urbis and a third concert with university music students in recital.

## 12 Proposed Meeting Dates

### **Board of Trustees Meetings:**

December 18, 2003  
January 22, 2004  
February 26, 2004  
March 25, 2004  
April 29, 2004  
May 20, 2004  
June 24, 2004

### **Partnership Committee Meetings:**

AAPC – February 5, 2004  
BAPC – December 11, 2003  
IEPC – December 16, 2003

### **Partnership Advisory Committee**

February 11, 2004

Mr. Gonzalez asked Board members to make a note of the proposed Board meeting dates.

## 13 Announcements

- ?? Ms. Rosemary Martinez, Vice President for Business Affairs, introduced Ms. Veronica Rocha, the new Store Manager for the UTB/TSC Bookstore. Ms. Rocha is a native of Brownsville and a graduate Homer Hanna High School. Ms. Rocha attended UTB/TSC where she received a Bachelors degree in Business. While attending UTB/TSC she was

on the Dean's list and was an active member of the Alpha Kappa Psi National Honor Society. Ms. Rocha will begin working with UTB/TSC Bookstore on December 1, 2003.

Ms. Rocha thanked the Board and UTB/TSC Bookstore for giving her the opportunity to work on the UTB/TSC campus.

?? Ms. Martinez also announced that Mr. Danny Paz, Transitional Manager for Barnes & Noble, has accepted the position of Assistant Store Manager. Mr. Paz is a graduate of Laredo Community College where he was employed for 5 years.

Mr. Paz stated that he was excited about working at the UTB/TSC Bookstore.

?? Dr. García introduced Dr. Sylvia Peña, Dean for School of Education, to brief the Board on the pass rates for the ExCET/TEExES exam. She reported that our initial pass rate through November is 92%. The combined passing rate for the last two years is 90%. The majority of the test areas are showing a 100% passing rate for the initial test period.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 7:40 p.m.

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

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

**NOTE:** The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on November 20, 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. Videotaping 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.