

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE
Southmost Union Junior College District

Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 26, 2004

The Board of Trustees of the Southmost Union Junior College District convened in open session August 26, 2004 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, Secretary Eduardo A. Campirano, Ms. Mary Rose Cardenas, Ms. Dolly Zimmerman, Mr. David Oliveira and Dr. Roberto Robles. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. García, 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 5:50 p.m.

1 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

**Consideration and possible action on
Regular Meeting June 24, 2004**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2004 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously.

2 Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

The following people addressed the Board regarding the proposed Bond Election:

Dr. Sylvia Atkinson	Dr. Alma Garcia	Ms. Norma Ramos
Mr. Dagoberto Barrera	Hon. Judge Gilberto Hinojosa	Mr. Mark Robinson
Mr. Michael Camarillo	Mr. Jessie Lucio	Hon. Mayor Eddie Treviño
Dr. Ethel Cantu	Dr. Zelma Mata	Dr. Sue Zanne Urbis
Mr. Mario Diaz	Ms. Emma Miller	
Ms. Amanda Fuhro	Ms. Diana Muñoz	

3 Resolution

Consideration and possible action on Resolution calling a bond election; providing for the Conduct and the giving of notice of said election; and ordering other matters related thereto

Dr. Garcia made a presentation to the board regarding the rationale for a bond election. She reminded the Board that two years ago this September, we asked voters in the TSC district to support a bond that addressed needs ranging from workforce training to more classrooms. Many in the community supported our effort. Unfortunately, others did not and that bond failed by 207 votes. Among the reasons that a bond initiative is needed now are the following:

- The rapid growth of this region, the need for a skilled and educated workforce, and the need for more teachers, nurses and other professionals convinced administration that it was our responsibility to do all we could to grow this university to meet these crucial needs.
- The needs have increased in part because UTB/TSC has been working with more than 16,000 students in Brownsville, Los Fresnos, Port Isabel, Harlingen, San Benito, and Rio Hondo. These students are being prepared to attend college, so we must prepare space for them when they get here.
- We have added an additional 2,000 students since the last bond election. There could have been more but for the lack of space and faculty. Even though we have added more than 60 faculty members we remain above average in the number of courses taught and the number of students per faculty member.

Dr. Garcia briefed the Board on the results from the Futures Commission which included almost 300 community and campus delegates. The participants spent six months studying the needs of our region now and through 2010. They helped us envision what the university must become in order to meet the community needs.

The Futures Commission concluded that if we are to act as a more powerful economic development engine for the region, UTB/TSC must provide more degree programs, more faculty, a better library, more research, more classrooms and more training.

Thereofere tonight, we are asking that the Board consider holding a Bond election for \$68 million on November 2, 2004. The resources from the bond would provide support for UTB/TSC in the following areas:

- Classrooms and parking
- Child Development Center for teaching and research
- Workforce Training
- Library
- Health education, outreach and research

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the message is loud and clear that there is a need for more facilities so that the committee university can meet the demands for higher education. He told the trustees that it is their responsibility to take the lead in responding to the need. He said that the only way to be prepared to provide education opportunities to the students that are coming to UTB/TSC is by acting now to order this bond election.

Mr. Oliveira stated that initially he had reservations regarding the proposed bond issue; however, after hearing all the speakers he realized that the community will support the bond issue.

Mr. Campirano requested further explanation on the impact of the bond issue for property owners. Ann Burger Entrekin, from First Southwest Company, the District's Financial Consultant, responded that the average homeowner in Brownsville would see their taxes raised by \$22.00 per year.

Mrs. Cardenas stated that the only way for the region to improve is by providing educational opportunities and the bond issue would be a step in the right direction.

Dr. Robles stated that he is comfortable with the amount of the proposed bond issue because all the items that would be funded by the bond are necessary to accommodate the growth of the university.

A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to approve a resolution calling a bond election; providing for the conduct and the giving of notice of said election; and ordering other matters related thereto; seconded by Mr. Oliveira; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"

4 Tax Rate

Consideration and possible action on SUJCD 2004 Ad Valorem Tax Rate

Dr. John Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs, reported that every year the District must adopt its tax rate. After preparing the necessary calculations, staff recommends that the Board approve a motion that a Maintenance and Operation tax rate of \$0.111825 and a debt tax rate of \$0.016957 cents for a total tax rate of \$0.128782 cents per \$100 valuation be placed on the agenda for adoption at the September 16, 2004 Board of Trustees meeting. The proposed rate would result in a decrease in the District's tax rate.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles that the Board propose a Maintenance & Operation tax rate of \$0.111825, and the debt tax rate of \$0.016957, for a total tax rate of \$0.128782 per \$100 valuation be placed on the agenda for adoption at the September 16, 2004 Board of Trustees Meeting; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried.

**Consideration and possible action on
Set Date for Public Hearing**

Dr. Ronnau reported that since the proposed rate exceeds the effective rate, a public hearing must be held.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to set the date for the Public Hearing for September 7, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gorgas Conference Room; seconded by Ms. Cardenas; motion carried.

**Consideration and possible action on
Resolution Establishing an Ad Valorem Tax Freeze on
Residence Homestead of the Disabled and
of the Elderly and Their Spouses**

Dr. Ronnau reported that since the passage of Proposition 13 by the voters of the state of Texas, taxing entities have the option to effect an ad valorem tax freeze on homestead residence of homeowners 65 or older and of disabled homeowners and their spouses.

A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to approve Resolution Establishing an Ad Valorem Tax Freeze on Residence Homestead of the Disabled and of the Elderly and Their Spouses; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "B"

5 Board Briefing

Center for Biomedical Studies

Dr. Jose Martín, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Dr. Daniel Provenzano, Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences, to make a presentation regarding the Center for Biomedical Studies. Dr. Provenzano reported that the center's mission is to promote research and education specifically on health issues that affect the community, such as Breast Cancer, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Heart Disease and Aging and Diabetes. The center has faculty with extensive expertise in these health problems.

Dr. Povenzano stated that although the center is obtaining grants to support its research, they are running out of space because the Life and Health Sciences Building serves many programs and was not designed to accommodate research. He thanked the Board for its support and stated that he too supports the proposed bond issue because the funds would provide much needed research space.

6 Construction Projects**Consideration and possible action on
Substantial Completion of ITECC Fire Alarm System**

Dr. Ronnau reported that the centralized fire alarm system at ITECC has been completed and is operating; therefore staff recommends approval of substantial completion.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the Substantial Completion of the ITECC Fire Alarm System; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried. Exhibit "C"

**Consideration and possible action on
Substantial Completion for Praxedis Orive, Jr.
Technical Training Center Phase I**

Dr. Ronnau reported that the Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center is substantially complete and classes are being offered; therefore staff recommends approval of substantial completion.

A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to approve the Substantial Completion for Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center Phase I; seconded by Ms. Cardenas; motion carried. Exhibit "D"

7 Insurance Renewal**Consideration and possible action on
Educator's Liability and Automotive Insurance Policy Renewal**

Dr. Ronnau reported that the Educator's Liability and Automotive Insurance Policies are up for renewal. All coverages are in keeping with the District's needs, proposed by Shepard, Walton, King. He also stated that the premium amount is \$56,379, which is \$4,065 less than the previous year's premium.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve the Educator's Liability and Automotive Insurance Policy Renewal with Shepard Walton King in the amount of \$56,379 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried. Exhibit "E"

8 Budget Amendments**Consideration and possible action on
SUJCD Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2003-2004**

Dr. Ronnau reported that Budget Amendment #2004-008 under the Renewals and Replacements Fund is to increase \$50,000 in property acquisition for lots on East Jackson Street. Budget Amendment #2004-009 is to decrease several unused budgeted items in the General Fund by \$21,905 to cover additional expenses for insurance, commencement, and professional development.

A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to approve the SUJCD Budget Amendments #2004-008 and #2004-009 for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as presented; seconded by Dr. Robles; motion carried. Exhibit "F"

9 Organization of the Board

Consideration and possible action on Election of Officers of the Board of Trustees:

Chair

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to elect Mr. Chester Gonzalez as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to elect Ms. Rosemary Breedlove as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried unanimously.

Secretary

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to elect Mr. Eduardo A. Campirano as Secretary of the Board of Trustees; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried unanimously.

10 Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Committee

Report

Ms. Dolly Zimmerman reported that the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Committee met on August 17th. The committee welcomed Dr. Mrinal Mudgh, the new Director of Institutional Research and Planning.

The committee reviewed data for this year's report including eight indicators in the following areas: Graduate Success and UTB/TSC Impact on the Cultural and Economic Life of Community: indicators

The next meeting of the IEPC will be on Tuesday, September 14, 2004.

11 Third Quarter Financial and Investment Reports

Ms. Melba Sanchez, TSC District Comptroller, presented the Third Quarter Financial and Investment Reports as information items.

12 Construction Report

Dr. Ronnau reported two improvement projects to the historical Fort Brown Buildings on Gorgas Hall, including the replacement of the Gorgas Hall Boardwalk and brick repointing. He also reported on the progress for the installation of 60 new light poles on campus, parking lot repairs and the retaining wall around the island on the Fort Brown Resaca.

In addition, he reported that Physical Plant constructed ramps and walkways for pedestrian crossings around campus.

Dr. Wayne Moore, Special Assistant to the President for New Construction, reported that the Auto Body facility and the Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center have been completed. He also reported on the progress at the Education and Business Complex.

Dr. Moore extended an invitation to the audience to visit the Education and Business Complex Construction site

13 President's Report

Dr. García asked Ms. Rosemary Martinez, Vice President for Business Affairs, to introduce Mr. Douglas Arney, the new Assistant Vice President for Business Affairs. Ms. Martinez announced that Mr. Arney previously served as the Director of Purchasing and Corporate Compliance Manager at UTB/TSC.

Mr. Arney thanked the Board of Trustees and Dr. García for the opportunity to continue being a part of the University. The Board of Trustees and Dr. García congratulated Mr. Arney on his new position.

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

Personnel

Evaluation of the UTB/TSC President

Real Estate

Contract for purchase and Resolution for Fort Brown Villas Condos Phase II, Unit 8 B, Brownsville, Texas

**Contract for purchase and Resolution
or Fort Brown Villas Condo Phase II, nit 6E,
Brownsville, Texas**

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 9:02 p.m.

15 Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

Personnel

Evaluation of the UTB/TSC President

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the Board discussed Dr. Juliet V. García's performance over the past year. He stated that this year Dr. García was presented an award for her 30 years of service with UTB/TSC. Mr. Gonzalez thanked Dr. García for her commitment and hard work year after year.

Ms. Cardenas congratulated Dr. García for her commitment and her leadership.

Ms. Zimmerman thanked Dr. García for her guidance over the years.

Ms. Breedlove congratulated Dr. García for a wonderful job as President. She stated that Dr. García is an extraordinary individual who achieves great things for higher education.

Mr. Oliveira congratulated Dr. García for her leadership and her service to the community.

Mr. Campirano congratulated Dr. García for being a great role model and leader for UTB/TSC.

Dr. Robles thanked Dr. García for taking the lead in community service.

Dr. García thanked the Board for their comments. She stated that she has a wonderful group working with her which makes her job doable. She thanked the Board for their excellence and professionalism.

Real Estate

**Consideration and possible action on
Contract for Purchase and Resolution for Fort Brown Villas
Condos Phase II, Unit 8B, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve the Contract for Purchase and Resolution for Fort Brown Villas Condos Phase II, Unit 8B, Brownsville, Texas, and authorize the President or her designee to sign all documents necessary or appropriate to close that sale; seconded by Mrs. Breedlove ; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "G"

**Consideration and possible action on
Contract for purchase and Resolution for Fort Brown Villas
Condos Phase II, Unit 6E, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve the Contract for Purchase and Resolution for Fort Brown Villas Condos Phase II, Unit 6E, Brownsville, Texas, and authorize the President or her designee to sign all documents necessary or appropriate to close that sale; seconded by Mrs. Breedlove ; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "H"

16 Proposed Meeting Dates

Board of Trustees Meetings:

September 16, 2004

October 14, 2004

November 11, 2004

December 16, 2004

**Partnership Committee
Meetings:**

BAPC – September 13, 2004

IEPC – September 14, 2004

Partnership Advisory Committee

October 18, 2004

17 Announcements

- Dr. García announced that Dr. Emir Jose Macari has been named Dean of the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology at UTB/TSC. Dr. García thanked Mr. Jay Phillips for serving as Interim Dean for the College on two separate occasions.
- Mr. Oliveira announced that Season Tickets are on sale for the 2004-2005 Arts and Entertainment Season.
- Dr. García reported that Patron of the Arts tickets are also on sale.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 9:14 p.m.

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

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

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on August 26, 2004, 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 B. Solis. 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.