

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE
Southmost Union Junior College District

Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of the Board of Trustees
February 17, 2005

The Board of Trustees of the Southmost Union Junior College District convened in open session February 17, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Mr. Chester Gonzalez, Chairman, Rosemary Breedlove, Vice Chair, Mr. Eduardo A. Campirano, Secretary, 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 Gonzalez at 5:38 p.m.

1 Resolution

**Consideration and possible action on
Resolution in Memory of Mr. Anthony John “Tony” Carnesi, Jr.**

Chairman Gonzalez read the resolution honoring the life and contributions of the late Mr. Anthony John “Tony” Carnesi, Jr. Family members present were Ms. Wilma Carnesi and her two daughters Jacquelyn and Andrea, Ms. Phyllis Young and her husband Curtis, Ms. Margaret Van Nonstrand and Ms. Dorothy Carnesi. The Trustees expressed their condolences to his family. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to adopt the Resolution in Memory of Mr. Anthony John “Tony” Carnesi, Jr., as presented; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit “A”

2 Board Briefing**Mexican Consulate Offices at ITECC
by Consul Juan Carlos Foncerrada Berumen**

Consul Juan Carlos Foncerrada Berumen thanked the Board for their support in bringing the Mexican Consulate Offices to ITECC. He stated that he and his staff are very pleased with their new facility. Consul Foncerrada also acknowledged Dr. John Ronnau, Ms. Veronica Mendez, Dr. Tony Zavaleta and Dean Jim Holt for their assistance. He announced that a grand opening for the new offices will be scheduled soon.

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

Surrender of Agreement with
Sanfour, Inc.
Discussion on 20 Hectares in Novillo
Canyon
Contract and Resolution for Purchase of
Lots 13 and 14, Block 13, Colonia Alta
Vista Addition, Brownsville, Texas

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 7:40 p.m.

4 Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session**Consideration and possible action on
Surrender of Agreement with Sanfour, Inc.**

A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to approve the Surrender of Agreement with Sanfour, Inc. as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "B"

**Consideration and possible action on
20 Hectares in Novillo Canyon**

Dr. Ronnau requested a motion to authorize staff to conduct the transfer of the property to Mr. Ford Locket, Jr. or his designee. He also stated that Mr. Locket plans to make a donation of \$100,000 to Texas Southmost College to be used for education outreach programs in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve. The lodge will continue to be

used for conservation and educational purposes. UTB/TSC students and former member of the Novillo Canyon Lodge will be assured continued access to the property.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to authorize staff to conduct the transfer of 20 hectares in Novillo Canyon to Ford Locket, Jr. as proposed by Dr. Ronnau; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman as presented; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "C"

**Consideration and possible action on
Contract and Resolution for Purchase of
Fort Brown Villas Phase II, Unit 5B, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the Contract and Resolution for Purchase of Fort Brown Villa Phase II, Unit 5B in the amount of \$38,000; seconded by Dr. Robles as presented; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "D"

**Consideration and possible action on
Contract and Resolution for Purchase of Lots 13 and 14,
Block 13, Colonia Alta Vista Addition, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the Contract and Resolution for Purchase of Lots 13 and 14, Block 13, Colonia Alta Vista Addition, Brownsville, Texas in the amount of \$34,000 each; seconded by Dr. Robles as presented; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "E"

5 Approval of minutes of previous meetings

**Consideration and possible action on
Regular Meeting January 20, 2005**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2005 as presented; seconded by Ms. Cardenas; motion carried unanimously.

6 Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

7 Board Briefing

Student Health Services

Dr. Hilda Silva, Vice President for Student Affairs, introduced Dr. Mari Fuentes-Martin, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, to make a presentation to the Board regarding Student Health Services. Dr. Fuentes-Martin stated that the goal of Student Health Services is to be a recognized leader in the field of college health, committed to meeting the changing needs of the campus community. Student Health Services promotes wellness, encourages healthy lifestyles and personal responsibility to enhance students' capacity for reaching academic and personal goals.

She also reported that health services for students, faculty and staff are now being provided at ITECC as well. Dr. Fuentes-Martin reported that the number of UTB/TSC clinic visits has increased by 50 percent from 1994 to 2004.

Ms. Breedlove congratulated Dr. Hilda Silva, Dr. Fuentes-Martin, and the Student Health Services staff for providing such great services to the campus.

8 Resolution

Consideration and possible action on Resolution Requesting the Creation and Submission of a Bill to Authorize the Funding and Construction of a Wellness, Recreation and Fitness Center

Dr. Ronnau reminded the Trustees that in March of 2004 the students voted by an overwhelming majority to assess a fee upon themselves in order to construct a recreation, wellness, and fitness facility. He stated that the proposed resolution authorizes the assessment of that fee. The initial fee, which would commence in Fall 2005, would be \$79 per student for each regular semester and \$39.50 for each summer session. He stated that assessment of the fee is contingent upon authorization by the State Legislature.

Mr. Michael C. Camarillo, President of the Student Government Association, stated that he was honored to represent the UTB/TSC student body during the referendum for the Wellness, Recreation and Fitness Center. He requested that the Board consider adopting the resolution in support of the Wellness, Recreation and Fitness Center since it is much needed on our campus.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to adopt the Resolution Requesting the Creation and Submission of a Bill to Authorize the Funding and Construction of a Wellness, Recreation and Fitness Center as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "G"

9 Tax Bonds

Consideration and possible action on Bond Projects Timeline

Dr. John Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs, reported that the proposed bond projects timeline was presented to several campus and community groups. He stated that the consensus was to pursue the “faster track” option. Ms. Cardenas stated that she attended almost all the gatherings where community input on the bond projects timeline was sought. She stated that the message was clear that the Board should pursue the “faster track” option.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the board’s decision to pursue an accelerated bond projects timeline is based on urgency of the need, construction cost inflation, interest rate changes and community consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to approve and pursue the “faster track” Timeline for Construction of the Bond Projects as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit “H”

Consideration and possible action on Consideration and Adoption of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of Southmost Union Junior College District Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2005; Entering Into a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; and Other Matters Related Thereto

Dr. Ronnau introduced Ms. Anne Burger-Entrekin, from First Southwest Company, the District’s Financial Advisor. Ms. Entrekin reported that as part of the process for the sale of bonds, the District received a site visit by Standard and Poor’s and Fitch Ratings. The District was awarded “A+” credit rating by Standard & Poor’s, which is an upgrade from the previous “A” rating awarded to the District. In their summary, Standard and Poor’s listed several factors for assigning the improved rating including “sound financial performance and position, and strong and committed management team and Board of Trustees”.

Fitch Ratings awarded the District an even higher rating of “AA”, which is the only “AA” rating awarded to a Cameron County taxing entity. Ms. Entrekin stated that these ratings provide an objective affirmation of the community university’s sound financial standing.

Ms. Entrekin explained that due to the timing of the board’s decision to sell the first issue of the \$68 million bond issue and historical low interest rate environment, the District secured a 4.1 percent interest rate on the first bond issue of \$20 million.

Dr. García thanked the Board of Trustees for making time to be present for the site visits. She also thanked the staff involved in the site visit process.

A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman Adopting an Order Authorizing the Issuance of Southmost Union Junior College District Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2005; Entering Into a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; and Other Matters Related Thereto as presented; seconded by Dr. Robles; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit “T”

10 Business Affairs Partnership Committee

Report

Mr. Campirano reported that the Business Affairs Partnership Committee reviewed the proposal for refinancing the Student Union bonds. Mr. Campirano called on Ms. Entrekin to explain the refunding option to the Board.

**Consideration and Possible action on
Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of “Southmost Union Junior College
District Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2005” Delegating the Authority
to Certain Members of the Board of Trustees and District Staff to Execute
Certain documents Related to the Sale of the Bonds, Entering Into an
Escrow agreement, a Bond Purchase Agreement, and a Paying Agent/Registrar
Agreement; and other Matters Related Thereto**

Ms. Entrekin presented a refinancing model for the Student Union Bonds. Under the proposed refinancing model, the principal and interest payment would be reduced by approximately \$23,000 per year for a total savings of approximately \$353,000 over the life of the debt. Ms. Entrekin explained that the proposed savings are after the cost of issuance and other related expenses. The proposed refunding option will not extend the original maturity date of 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of “Southmost Union Junior College District Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2005” Delegating the Authority to Certain Members of the Board of Trustees and District Staff to Execute Certain documents Related to the Sale of the Bonds, Entering Into an Escrow Agreement, a Bond Purchase Agreement, and a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; and other Matters Related Thereto Exhibit “J”

**Consideration and possible action on
Final Payment for ITECC Offices**

Dr. Ronnau reported that the renovation project at ITECC in the space that houses the Mexican Consulate has been completed satisfactorily and recommends approval of final payment.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve Final Payment for ITECC Offices in the amount of \$154,054 as presented; seconded by Ms. Cardenas; motion carried. Exhibit "K"

11 Construction Report

Dr. Ronnau narrated a video of current construction on campus. He reported the following:

- A section of the Paseo, between the Endowment Courtyard and Cavalry, received a facelift. The fence around the former Autobody and A/C areas of Rusteberg was removed and the area cleaned giving a spacious look to the Paseo.
- The Fort Brown Memorial Golf Course Clubhouse construction is on schedule. Metal roofing has been installed and work inside is progressing rapidly.

Dr. Wayne Moore, Special Assistant to the President for New Construction, reported the following:

- The Machine Shop space at ITECC is on schedule. He thanked Ms. Irma Cavazos, Office Supervisor at Physical Plant, for her assistance in coordinating the move of the Machine Shop Program to ITECC.
- Installation of roofing, stairway railing and hall arches at the Education and Business Complex is almost complete. Dr. Moore reported that the construction of the pedestrian bridge will begin in the coming weeks.

12 President's Report

Dr. García reported the following:

- Ms. Rosemary Martinez, Vice President for Business Affairs, introduced Mr. Bill Dodd, the new Purchasing Director. Vice President Martinez also announced the appointment of Mr. Peter Ruiz as the new Director of the Fort Brown Memorial Center. The Board welcomed Mr. Dodd and Mr. Ruiz to their new positions.
- Professor Ed Seidel, a renowned astrophysicist known for his research on black holes and high performance computing, will speak on February 18th at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room on the third floor of the Science, Engineering Technology Building.
- The UTB/TSC Chess Team competed in the Region VII Collegiate Chess Tournament on February 5th and 6th. UTB/TSC took the top six places of the competition. Team captain Erick Vallarino, Ricardo Acevedo, Victor Flores, Vincent Flores, Antonio "Tony" Espino and Luis Gomez represented the university at the tournament. Dr. García congratulated the UTB/TSC Chess Team,

their Coach Mr. Roman Dzindzichasvili and Mr. Vince Solis, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.

- UTB/TSC student, Napoleon Hernandez, received a \$200 prize from the American Physical Society (APS) for his presentation at the first Gulf Coast Gravity Conference.
- UTB/TSC will be the site for the 17th Annual Rio Grande Valley Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the Lecture Hall of the Science and Engineering Technology Building.
- The public is invited to submit names for candidates to the Texas Southmost College Distinguished Alumnus Award.
- UTB/TSC faculty members, George Lorio, Noe Palmenez and Nancy Slight will be featured in the “Studio Faculty Art Exhibition” Friday, March 11 at 6:30 pm in the Richardson Art Gallery. The faculty show will continue through April 1st.

13 Proposed Meeting Dates

Board of Trustees Meetings:

- March 22, 2005
- April 21, 2005
- May 19, 2005
- June 23, 2005

Mr. Gonzalez reviewed the dates with the Board.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 8:30 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 February 17, 2005, 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.