

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

Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
March 22, 2005

The Board of Trustees of the Southmost Union Junior College District convened in open session March 22, 2005, 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall, Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Mr. Chester Gonzalez, Chairman, Ms. 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 5:30p.m.

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

**Contract** and Resolution for Purchase of  
Fort Brown Villa II, Unit 1B,  
Brownsville, Texas

**The Board convened in Executive Session at 5:35 p.m.**

**The Board reconvened in regular session at 5:45 p.m.**

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

**Consideration and possible action on**  
**Contract and Resolution for Purchase of Fort Brown Villa II,**  
**Unit 1B, Brownsville, Texas**

**A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve the Contract and Resolution for Purchase of Fort Brown Villa II, Unit 1B, Brownsville, Texas in the amount of \$38,000; seconded by Mr. Campirano as presented; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "A"**

**3 Approval of minutes of previous meetings**

**Consideration and possible action on Minutes of  
Regular Meeting February 17, 2005**

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2005 as presented; seconded by Ms. Cardenas; motion carried unanimously.**

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

There were no speakers.

**5 Board Briefing**

**Fine Arts Program Update**

Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Dr. Sue Zanne Urbis, Chair of Fine Arts Department, to update the Board on Fine Arts accomplishments and events. Dr. Urbis reported a 100% pass rate on the Fine Arts Exit Exam. She also reported that the first Masters degree in Music Education will be awarded during Spring Commencement. Dr. Urbis provided the Board with an information packet of the department's upcoming events including fundraisers and institutional recruitment tours.

The Board congratulated Dr. Urbis and the faculty and staff of the Fine Arts Department for their continued success.

**6 Academic Affairs Partnership Committee**

**Report**

Dr. José Martín, Provost, reported that the Academic Affairs Partnership Committee met on February 24, 2005.

**Consideration and Possible action on  
Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree**

Dr. Martín introduced Dr. Carl Stockton, Dean of the School of Education, to make a presentation on the proposed degree.

Dr. Stockton stated that the Associate of Arts in Teaching is a specialized academic associate degree designed to transfer in its entirety to a baccalaureate program that allows for teacher certification.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried. Exhibit “B”**

Dr. Stockton stated that the degree will be forwarded to the Coordinating Board for approval.

Dr Martín also reported that the Academic Affairs Partnership Committee heard reports from the Physics Department and Enrollment Management. Dr. Mario Diaz and Dr. Richard Price made a presentation on the World Year of Physics. 2005 has been declared the World Year of Physics (WYP2005). Physics societies around the world are preparing for a major program of celebration and outreach. UTB/TSC will recognize the WYP2005 by hosting the Gravitational Wave and Astronomy Workshop on December 14-17, 2005. Physicists from all over the world are expected to come to Brownsville to participate in this event.

Dr. Martín also reported that Ms. Linda Fossen and Dr. Mirnal Mughd made a presentation on Enrollment projections and updates leading to 20,000 students by 2010. Dr. Mughd also made a presentation on a simplified model for “closing the gaps’ in college participation.

## **7 Student Union**

### **Student Union Refunding Report**

Dr. John Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs, reported that at the February meeting the Board authorized staff to refinance the Student Union Bonds with the condition that four parameters be met. These parameters pertained to interest rate, maturity date, present value savings and principal amount. Dr. Ronnau reported that the refinancing has been successfully completed and met all four parameters. The District was able to secure an interest rate of 4.34%. The refinancing will provide a savings of 4.95% or \$351,595 over the life of the debt. Dr. Ronnau thanked Ms. Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs and First Southwest Company for their help in the refinancing process.

**8 Technical Training Center****Consideration and possible action on  
Final Payment for the Praxedis Orive, Jr.  
Technical Training Center**

Dr. Ronnau reported that the space for the Machine Shop at the International Technical, Education and Commerce Campus (ITECC) is substantially complete. He stated that the completion of the Machine Shop consolidates all UTB/TSC technical programs at the Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center. Dr. Ronnau recommended that the staff be authorized to make final payment of approximately \$55,000 to Roth Construction for construction of Machine Shop space upon completion of punch list items.

**A motion was made by Ms. Cardenas to authorize staff to make final payment to Roth Construction in the amount of \$55,000 for the Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center upon completion of punch list items as presented; seconded by Dr. Robles motion carried. Exhibit "C"**

**9 Budget Amendment****Consideration and possible action on  
SUJCD Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2004-2005**

Dr. Ronnau stated that Budget Amendment #05-005 moves \$7,000 from unused salaries to dues and memberships to cover additional expenses for fiscal year 2005.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve Budget Amendments #05-005 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "D"**

Dr. Ronnau stated that Budget Amendment #05-006 adjusts for expenses on Campus Improvements previously budgeted in FY 2004.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to accept Budget Amendments #05-006 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "E"**

**10 Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Committee****Report**

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Committee (IEPC) met on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Members present were Dr. John Ronnau, Mr. Bill Harris, Ms. Bebe Crooks, Mr. Michael Camarillo and Ms. Shannon Milum. Also present were Mr. Chester Gonzalez, Dr. Jose Martín, Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Ms. Linda Fossen, Ms. Cindy Lerma, Dr. Luis Colom, Dr. Marilyn Woods, Dr. Mrinal Mudgh, Dr. Hilda Silva and Mr. T.J. Phillips.

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the IEPC was joined by special guest, Dr. Geri Malandra, Associate Vice Chancellor for Accountability and Institutional Improvement at UT System. The meeting focused upon discussion of “vital signs” for our community university. Ms. Zimmerman stated that Dr. Martin began the meeting with an overview of the concept of vital signs, which he explained as the most important indicators of success for our campus. Dr. Geri Malandra, a national leader in accountability, shared her thoughts and provided guidance on the subject. It was agreed that discussion of this important topic should continue in the IEPC and a wider campus group.

## **11 Construction Report**

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

- The Fort Brown Memorial Golf Course Clubhouse construction is on schedule. The Clubhouse will have a snack bar, meeting room, and retail space. The completion of this project is scheduled for May 2005.
- Roof repairs on North and South Halls have been completed. The Rusteberg Hall project is 80% complete. The next project is the Science, Engineering and Technology Building roof.
- The M-1 building is being converted into research labs for the Department of Biology. The project is being completed under the direction of Larry Lof with assistance from Physical Plant.
- UTB/TSC Physical Plant Parts and Tool Crib has been relocated to the building formerly occupied by Building Trades. The Tool Crib houses over 1 million items.
- The pedestrian bridge crossing the Lozano Banco Resaca connecting the Education and Business complex to the campus is underway. The wooden structure nicely complements the surrounding area. The bridge will meet ADA requirements. It will be well lighted and will have emergency phones at both ends.
- Progress at the Education and Business Complex continues. Iron work will be installed in several locations throughout the building’s arcades and balconies. The facility will be available for classes in Fall 2005.

## 12 President's Report

*Dr. García reported the following:*

- UTB/TSC celebrated the Woman's History Month. Dr. Carmen Tafolla, delivered her Lecture "Women Who Wear Many Hats" during Professional Women Speak on March 22, 2005.
- Dr. Daniel N. Riahi of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will present "Modeling Wind Forces" during the Spring Distinguished Lecture Series of the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology on Wednesday, March 23 in the Science, Engineering and Technology Building, 3rd floor, Conference Room.
- UTB/TSC will have the first International Neuroscience Symposium on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in El Gran Salon at the Student Union. This event is being sponsored by the College of Science, Mathematics & Technology Center of Biomedical Studies. Eight world-renowned speakers from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. will make presentations on new advances in molecular cellular mechanisms of brain function.
- UTB/TSC is inviting high school students and their parents to learn about the Dual Enrollment program on Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jacob Brown Auditorium. Staff from the Office of Admissions will answer questions on how students can earn college credit while still in high school. Information on financial aid will also be available. Currently, almost 900 students are in the Dual Enrollment program.
- The South Texas Chorale and UTB/TSC students in the Master Chorale and Wind Ensemble will perform, "Music: Mosaic of the Soul", on Thursday, March 31, 8 p.m., Jacob Brown Auditorium. Proceeds from the concert will benefit scholarships for UTB/TSC music students. The concert will be conducted by Dianne Brumley, the Artistic Director and Conductor of the South Texas Chorale and Director of the UTB/TSC Master Chorale, and Allan Clark, conductor of the UTB/TSC Wind Ensemble. Selections will include inspirational hymns and classical music.
- The UTB/TSC chess team won the Southwestern Collegiate Chess Championship. The team beat 13 other colleges and universities to win the tournament which was held on February 26-27 in Dallas. Team captain Erick Vallarino, along with team members Ricardo Acevedo, Victor Flores, Vincent Flores, Antonio "Tony" Espino and Luis Gomez represented UTB/TSC at the tournament. The campus community hosted a homecoming reception on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Free Speech Area, where the team excitedly told of their experiences at the tournament.

- Dr. Garcia introduced Mr. Vincent Solis, Assistant Vice President for Student Development. Mr. Solis reported that the Scorpion Body Shop, the new mini-recreational center, is now open. Mr. Solis narrated a video clip of students, faculty and staff using the new equipment in the center. Hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mr. Solis reported that the Body Shop currently has 560 members. He thanked all the departments that provided assistance to prepare the Body Shop for use.
- Dr. García asked Dr. Ronnau to introduce Mr. Abraham Hernandez who was recently appointed as Director of Physical Plant. The board congratulated Mr. Hernandez on his appointment.

### **13 Proposed Meeting Dates**

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

April 21, 2005

May 19, 2005

June 23, 2005

August 25, 2005

Mr. Gonzalez reviewed the dates with the Board.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 7:14 p.m.

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

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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 March 22, 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.