

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

Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
May 19, 2005

The Board of Trustees of the Southmost Union Junior College District convened in open session May 19, 2005 at 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, Mr. David Oliveira, Ms. 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.

**Regular Meeting**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gonzalez at 5:37 p.m.

**Announcements**

- Dr. John Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs, introduced Mr. Antonio Caldwell, Manager of the Barnes and Noble Bookstore. Mr. Caldwell thanked the Board and the community for the warm welcome to the campus. The Board congratulated Mr. Caldwell on his appointment.
- Dr. Roberto Robles introduced two students from the Center for Civic Engagement that played an instrumental role during Kids Voting. Ms. Lisa Yingling and Mr. Jason Moody were presented by Dr. Robles with a certificate for their outstanding work. Dr. Joe Zavaletta, Director for the Center for Civic Engagement, narrated a video of Kids Voting events. The Board thanked Ms. Yingling and Mr. Moody for their work to teach children to exercise their right to vote.
- Dr. García announced that Senate Bill 1452, which creates a Math and Science Academy at UTB/TSC has been approved by the Education Committee of the House of Representatives. Dr. García thanked everyone involved in the creation and submission of the bill including: Dr. José Martín Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Dr. Tony Zavaleta and Dr. Carl Stockton.

**1 Resolution****Consideration and possible action on  
Resolution Honoring Ms. Mary Rose Cardenas  
For her Years of service To the Board**

Chairman Gonzalez announced that during Spring Commencement Ms. Cardenas announced that she would be stepping down from the Board. He stated that it was with great sadness that the Board accepts Ms. Cardenas' resignation.

A video of Ms. Cardenas' history on the Board of Trustees was presented. Each Trustee expressed their admiration and gratitude towards Ms. Cardenas for her leadership and accomplishments for higher education in the Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Gonzalez read the resolution honoring Ms. Cardenas for her years of service. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

**A motion was made by the Board of Trustees to adopt a Resolution Honoring Ms. Mary Rose Cardenas for her Years of service to the Board as presented; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"**

**The Board adjourned at 6:57 p.m.**

**The Board reconvened in regular session at 7:15 p.m.**

**2 Approval of minutes of previous meetings****Consideration and possible action on Minutes of  
Regular Meeting April 21, 2005**

**A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2005 as presented; seconded by Mr. Campirano; motion carried unanimously.**

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

There were no speakers.

#### **4 Board Briefing**

##### **Report on Ford Foundation Assignment**

Dr. García presented an overview of her recent trip to Peru on behalf of the Ford Foundation. Dr. García stated that the mission of the Ford Foundation is to be a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation and advance human achievement.

Dr. García reported that during her visit to Peru she visited rural elementary schools that have received aid from the Ford Foundation. The Board thanked Dr. García for representing UTB/TSC on this assignment and for her participation on the Ford Foundation Board.

#### **5 Bond Projects**

##### **Consideration and Possible Action on Management and Oversight Plan for Bond Projects**

Ms. Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Construction, made a presentation regarding the proposed management and oversight plan for the bond projects. Ms. Mendez reported that the bond projects would follow a very similar management plan as other construction projects on campus.

One of the new aspects of the plan is the creation of a Board Bond Advisory Committee (BBAC) for each project. The role of the BBAC is to oversee bond projects by providing input and reviewing recommendations from the President, Executive Council and the Campus Advisory Committee (CAC) regarding architect selection, programming, schematic design, substantial completion, and final acceptance. Each BBAC would be composed of one Trustee, the Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs, one Dean, one staff, one faculty, one student and two community members.

Dr. García asked the Board for their comments and suggestions on the proposed plan.

#### **6 Business Affairs Partnership Committee**

Mr. Campirano reported that the Business Affairs Partnership Committee met on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Committee reviewed the following:

##### **Consideration and possible action on SUJCD Bank Depository Contract Renewal**

Mr. Campirano reported that according to District Policy, the Board will select a depository bank bi-annually on or before its June meeting on odd years for the following biennium. He stated the District began its current agreement with Lone Star National Bank in May 2002. Following a public bid process, in May 2003 the Board renewed the contract with Lone Star through August 2005 with an option to renew for two additional years.

Mr. Campirano reported that Lone Star National Bank is proposing competitive interest rates for both our checking and savings accounts. The proposed rates are 3.15% for checking deposits under \$20 million and 3.3% for deposits over \$20 million and savings rates of 3.4% and 3.55%, respectively. In addition, he stated that staff reports that Lone Star National Bank has provided excellent service.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to renew the SUJCD Bank Depository Contract with Lone Star National Bank for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 and request bids at the end of the two years; seconded by Ms. Breedlove motion carried. Exhibit "B"**

**Mr. Oliveira requested that the minutes state that he abstained from discussing and voting since he sits on the Board for Lone Star National Bank.**

#### **Consideration and possible action on SUJCD Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005**

Mr. Campirano reported that budget amendment #05-007 adjusts the budget for expenses related to construction of the new parking lot on University Boulevard by moving \$300,000 from Property Acquisitions and \$250,000 from Renewals and Replacements Fund Balance; thus increasing Parking Lot Repair and additions by \$550,000

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve SUJCD Budget Amendment #05-007 for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as presented; seconded by Mr. Oliveira motion carried. Exhibit "C"**

Mr. Campirano reported that budget amendment #05-008 adjusts the budget for expenses related to the maintenance and operation of Canon del Novillo Property by moving \$30,000 from Condominiums to Canon del Novillo.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve SUJCD Budget Amendment #05-008 for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as presented; seconded by Mr. Oliveira; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "D"**

Mr. Campirano reported that budget amendment #05-009 adjusts the budget for expenses related to the renovation of the Cueto Building by moving \$21,000 from

Consulting Fees; \$20,000 from Property Site Work and \$50,000 from Property Acquisitions, thus increasing the Cueto Building budget by \$91,000.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve SUJCD Budget Amendment #05-009 for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as presented; seconded by Mr. Oliveira; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "E"**

Mr. Campirano also reported that Dr. Wayne Moore, Special Assistant to the President for New Construction, provided the committee an update on the construction of the Education Building Complex.

## 7 SUJCD Policies

### **Consideration and possible action on Second Reading: Investment Policy**

Dr. Ronnau stated that the Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA) requires that the District's Investment Policy be reviewed annually. He stated that the proposed changes to the Investment Policy are needed to be consistent with the Act. The proposed changes pertained to Investment Officer training and the provisions for repurchase agreements.

**A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the amendment to the Investment Policy as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "F"**

## 8 Construction Report

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

- The construction of a 1,400 space parking lot on University Boulevard is underway. The construction is under the supervision of Ms. Veronica Mendez.
- Landscaping improvements along the Paseo and in the Endowment Courtyard, including an irrigation system, have been completed by Physical Plant.
- Construction continues for the Fort Brown Memorial Golf Course Club House. Completion scheduled for mid June.

Dr. Ronnau also reported that the old Auto Body Shop, located across the street from the bookstore, will be demolished by the end of May. The courtyard that will take its place will serve as the entry way for the Fine Arts Studios, now under renovation. He

also reported that site preparation has begun for the relocation of the Commandant's House which will be located at Gorgas and May Streets.

Dr. Wayne Moore provided an update on construction progress of the Education Business Complex. He invited the Board of Trustees to tour the new Complex at their convenience.

## 11 President's Report

*Dr. García reported the following:*

- UTB/TSC telephone numbers changed as of May 18<sup>th</sup>. The prefix UTB or 882 will precede most telephone numbers. The public can dial UTB-8200 (882-8200) and be in touch with the main switchboard, which will connect to every department at UTB/TSC. Departments located off-campus, such as ITECC, the Development Office, the Center for Civic Engagement, the Village at Fort Brown and the number for telephone registration will not change.
- Spring Commencement Ceremony was held Saturday, May 14 at the Student Union Veranda. 761 students received degrees and 414 actually participated in the ceremony. The keynote speaker was Rear Admiral José Luis Betancourt, Jr., Commander of the U.S. Navy Southwest Region and Distinguished Alumnus of Texas Southmost College.
- Rear Admiral José Luis Betancourt, Lt. Colonel David Wills Nuñez, and Mr. Welcome W. Wilson were honored at the Distinguished Alumnus Ceremony held on Friday, May 13. Dr. Manuel Medrano, recipient of the 2005 Chancellor's Outstanding Teaching Award, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony.
- The School of Education received several grants including a \$77,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the development of a Middle School Mathematics program under the direction of Dr. Paula Parson. Dr. Dukes and Dr. Telese received a \$79,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for professional development for Physics teachers. The Department of School Specialties was awarded a \$51,400 grant from the Hogg Foundation to be used for providing mental health services to members of the community. Dr. García congratulated Dean Carl Stockton and Dr. Olivia Rivas, Interim Chair of the Department of School Specialties, for the School's successful grant writing efforts.
- UTB/TSC's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program has completed the 2005 tax season. This program is sponsored by the IRS and the Business Technology Department. The faculty sponsors this year were Ms. Maggie Solis and Ms. Pat Celaya.

- UTB/TSC's Business Technology students in Dr. Janna Arney's Business Correspondence and Communication course completed a service learning project this semester. The students worked in cooperation with Ms. Angela Burton, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Joe Zavaletta. The purpose of the project was to expose the students to real-world writing tasks while working with community business leaders. The project required the students to draft interview questions, conduct interviews, and write an article for submission to the *Progress*, the Chamber's newsletter.
- The Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center received a Four Star Certification on their yearly assessment by the Texas Rising Star Provider in Cameron County. Dr. García congratulated Ms. Marisela Nava, Manager of the Early Childhood Center.
- The Collegian staff won 14 awards, including 5 first places, at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention in Dallas last weekend. The award recipients were Andrea Figueroa, who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Spanish news writing; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, news story and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in TV commercial design; Sonia Mejia who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in radio commercial, 1<sup>st</sup> place in in-depth reporting (for the series on the TSC bond election) 2<sup>nd</sup> in general column and Honorable Mention in opinion page design; José Borjón placed 1<sup>st</sup> in newspaper design; Bernardo Figueroa placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in sports action photo; David Martinez placed 1<sup>st</sup> in online newspaper. In Addition, Sonia Mejia, Andrea Figueroa, José Borjón, Hector Zamarripa and Damaris Gloria took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Special Section for the special issue the staff produced to report the results of the bond issue and presidential elections. Adrian Peña received 3<sup>rd</sup> place for headline. Hector Zamarripa received Honorable Mention for general column. *The Collegian* took Honorable Mention Overall.

Dr. García congratulated the Collegian staff and Azenett Cornejo, Coordinator of Student Publications.

- UTB/TSC placed first in the Skills USA (news) Anchor Competition. Skills USA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The national organization represents over 264,000 high school and college students and professional members enrolled in technical, skilled, and service occupations. The students will compete at the National level in Kansas City, Missouri in June.

## 12 Proposed Meeting Dates

### Board of Trustees Meetings:

June 30, 2005

August 25, 2005

September 15, 2005

Mr. Gonzalez reviewed the dates with the Board.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 8:42 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 May 19, 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.