

# **Texas Southmost College District**

## **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

January 18, 2006

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session January 18, 2006 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, Mr. David Oliveira, Dr. Roberto Robles and Mr. Roman "Dino" Esparza. 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 5:40 p.m.

#### **1 Resolution**

##### **Consideration and possible action on Resolution Naming the George Truan Sculpture Garden**

Mr. Gonzalez read the resolution naming the George Truan Sculpture Garden. Mr. Truan taught at UTB/TSC for 18 years, from 1974 until his untimely death in 1992. He also served as Chair of the Art Department. He was admired for his commitment to art, to his students, and the Hispanic culture. The future sculpture garden is located between the Cavalry Hall and the South Wing of the Rusteberg Building. Ms. Bitty Truan, widow of George Truan, was present to accept the resolution. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

**2 Executive Session** as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551

**Real Estate**

**Contract** and Resolution for Purchase of Lot 3, Block 16, Colonia Alta Vista, Brownsville, Texas  
**Contract** and Resolution for Purchase of Fort Brown Villas II, Unit 2E, Brownsville, Texas  
**QuitClaim** Deed for Tracks 1, 2 ,3, and 4 out of Share 19 of the Spiritu Santo Grant  
**Acceptance** of Real Estate Gift for Property Located at G C I C, Block 47, Lot 13E Tract 4, Acres 4.7589, Willacy County

**The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.**

**The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:20 p.m.**

**3 Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session**

**Consideration and possible action on  
Contract and Resolution for Purchase of  
Lot 3, Block 16, Colonia Alta Vista, Brownsville, Texas**

**A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the contract and resolution for the purchase of Lot 3, Block 16, Colonia Alta Vista, Brownsville, Texas as presented; seconded by Mr. Esparza; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit “A”**

**Consideration and possible action on  
Contract and Resolution for Purchase of  
Fort Brown Villas II, Unit 2E, Brownsville, Texas**

**A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to approve the contract and resolution for the purchase of Fort Brown Villas II, Unit 2E, Brownsville, Texas as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit “B”**

**Consideration and possible action on  
Contract and Resolution for Quitclaim Deed for  
Tracks 1, 2, 3 and 4 out of Share 19 of the Spiritu Santo Grant**

**A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to authorize the President or her designee to execute all necessary documents for the Quitclaim Deed for Tracks 1, 2, 3 and 4 out of Share 19 of the Spiritu Santo Grant as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried. Mr. Campirano did not participate in the discussion or voting for this item. Exhibit “C”**

**Consideration and possible action on  
Acceptance of Real Estate Gift for Property Located at G C I C,  
Block 47 Lot 13 # Tract 4, Acres 4.7589, Willacy County**

**A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to authorize the President or her designee to execute all necessary documents for the acceptance of the gift of Real Estate located at G C I C, block 47, lot 13E tract 4, acres 4.7589, Willacy County as presented; seconded by Mr. Robles; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "D"**

**4 Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

**Consideration and possible action on  
Minutes of Regular Meeting December 15, 2005**

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2005 as presented; seconded by Dr. Robles; motion carried unanimously.**

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

There were no speakers.

**6 Board Briefing**

**Certified Public Management**

Dr. Charles Dameron, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, introduced Dr. Charles Chapman, Associate Professor of Social Sciences, Dr. Adrian Petrescue, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences, and Mr. Ben Reyna, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, to make a presentation on the Certified Public Management Program. Dr. Petrescue reported that the Texas Certified Public Manager (CPM) Curriculum is a sequence of seven courses offered over a 14-21 month period. Each of the seven courses meets 1-3 days per month. The CPM program consists of seven tracks: personnel administration, managing for quality, organizational communication, public finance, productivity and program evaluation, information systems for managers and applied projects practicum. Dr. Petrescue stated that each track is organized to include seminars, workshops and field based projects. The program is designed to enhance the skills and abilities that participants need to deal with "real world" problems and situations. Dr. Petrescue stated that participation in Texas CPM program provides participants with eligibility for membership in the Texas Society of Certified Public Managers. CPM participants are also provided a one-year membership in the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA).

## **7 Business Affairs Partnership Committee**

Mr. Campirano reported that the Business Affairs Partnership Committee met on January 10 and discussed the following items:

### **Consideration and possible action on Bid for Abatement of Vacant Buildings**

Mr. Campirano reported that three bids were received for abatement of vacant buildings with the lowest bid from Bio-Tech Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$84,564.50. He stated that the Capital Improvements account will cover the cost for abatement of the Ramada and the Wellness Recreation Complex account will cover the cost for abatement of the USDA buildings.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to accept the low bid from Bio-Tech Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$84,564.50 for abatement of the former Ramada buildings and the former USDA buildings as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "E"**

### **Consideration and possible action on Bid for Exterior Light Fixtures**

Mr. Campirano reported that this proposal would add 72 additional light fixtures along existing sidewalks at Eidman, Music Building, Gorgas parking lot and Cavalry Building. He stated that funds will come from the Capital Improvements Projects account. Bids were also submitted by Dealers Electrical Supply Co. and Bush Supply Company.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to accept the low bid from Consolidated Electric Distributors in the amount of \$114,000 for Exterior Light Fixtures as presented; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "F"**

### **Consideration and possible action on Bid for ITECC Thermal Plant**

Mr. Campirano reported that this bid is for Phase II of the ITECC thermal plant upgrades. The scope of work includes modifications to the thermal plant and roof area, installation of a new 1,000 ton chiller, a new cooling tower and relocation of the cooling tower installed under Phase I of the project. He stated that competitive sealed bids were submitted by American Contracting, Roth Construction, Spaw Glass, R.E.C. Industries, Skanska, and D. Wilson. The bids were evaluated by TSC staff, Physical Plant, Broaddus staff and an engineering consultant based on established criteria.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to select R.E.C. Industries in the amount of \$2,949,000 as General Contractor for the ITECC Thermal Plant Upgrades, Phase II and to authorize the President or her designee to negotiate a contract as presented; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "G"**

**Consideration and possible action on  
First Reading Board Policies: V.F.5-Level of Approval**

Mr. Campirano reported that this amendment is an update to an existing Board policy which is now outdated due to terminology changes at the state level. The revised policy would allow the District to participate in State of Texas Group Purchasing Programs. He stated that Group Purchasing Programs help identify qualified vendors of goods and services, reduce the number of steps in the bidding process and reduce the cost of goods and services. Mr. Campirano explained that according to the Board Policies, a policy may be approved at the first reading by unanimous vote of the entire Board.

**A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the amendment to Board Policies: V.F.5 – Level of Approval as presented; seconded by Mr. Oliveira; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "H"**

**8 District Elections**

**Consideration and possible action on  
Appointment of Agent for District Elections: May 13, 2006**

Dr. Ronnau stated that according to Election Code 31.123, the Board must appoint a staff member to perform the duties of the Secretary of the Board to conduct elections if the Secretary does not keep office hours at the District. He stated that the duties of the Agent include: receiving applications for place on the ballot, campaign finance reports and election results. Dr. Ronnau explained that as has been common practice, staff recommends that the naming agent be the Assistant VPAPA.

**A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to approve the appointment of Mr. Julio A. Ledezma, Assistant Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs as Agent for the District Election on May 13, 2006 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "I"**

**9 Bond Projects Update**

Ms. Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Construction, provided an update on the selection of architects for the bond projects. She reported that 26 architectural

firms expressed an interest in the bond construction projects. An evaluation committee comprised of Dr. Jose Martín, Dr. John Ronnau, Dr. Wayne Moore, Mr. Gilbert Gallegos, Ms. Diana Bravo-Gonzalez and Ms. Mendez, evaluated and ranked each proposal according to established criteria. Ms. Mendez stated that based on the results of the evaluation and review by President García, the following groups have been invited to participate in the interview process:

**Center for Early Childhood Studies**

Alvidrez Architecture  
Hermes Architects  
Wells, Janousek Architects

**Biomedical Research and Outreach**

Kell Muñoz Architects  
P&W Architects

**Music Education Project**

Studio Red Architects  
Kell Muñoz Architects  
Lake Flato Architects  
Richter Architects

**East Library and Classroom Buildings**

Kirksey Architects  
Alvidrez Architecture  
Kell Muñoz Architects  
Page, Southerland, Page Architects  
Hermes Architects

Ms. Mendez stated that the Board Bond Advisory Committees (BBACs) and Executive Council will conduct the interviews. Ms. Mendez also reported that the BBACs will review the programs for each of the projects. Recommendations on the programs and architects for each project will be presented to the Board at the February Board meeting.

**10 First Quarter Financial and Investment Report**

The First Quarter Financial and Investment Reports for TSC were presented by Ms. Melba Sanchez, TSC District Comptroller. The report was for informational purposes only and required no action.

**11 Construction Report**

*Dr. Ronnau reported the following:*

- Landscaping has begun on what will be the George Truan Sculpture Garden. The palms recently installed are the first ones to be planted on campus from the donation of Mr. Lloyd Horn. There will also be a water feature, shade trees, benches and space for students to display their artwork.
- The former Automotive Technology shops in Rusterberg are being renovated to provide new space for our Visual Arts programs. Students will be doing woodwork and metal work in this space.

- M2 is being renovated by Physical Plant for the Engineering Technology Department. Machines from the MO and SETB labs were relocated to the M2 building.
- The M1 building is being renovated by Mr. Larry Lof and his crew for the Biology Department. The new furniture has already begun to arrive and is now being installed.

## 12 President's Report

*Dr. García reported the following:*

- Nelly Estrada, the current Under 20-years-old Female National Chess Champion of Mexico, was presented with a four-year chess scholarship to attend UTB/TSC beginning this spring. Estrada comes to Brownsville from the University of Ciudad Juarez and will be majoring in engineering. She has competed in 100 chess tournaments in Mexico and six international tournaments. As a chess team member, she will compete with the team at the Southwest Collegiate Championships February 4-5 in Houston, Texas.
- Mr. Orlando Bagwell, a producer of some of the most important films dealing with African-American history and culture, will be the keynote speaker at "An Evening of Celebration", the annual event that honors the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. The event will take place on Thursday, January 19, 6 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of the Science and Engineering Technology Building (SETB). Bagwell has produced films that have aired on public television including *Frederick Douglass--When the Lion Wrote History*, *Malcolm X--Make It Plain* and *Citizen King*. Earlier in the day, there will be a student lecture from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the SETB Lecture Hall.
- Ms. Mary Jane Shands and Dr. Elizabeth Heise's grant application to the Robert C. & Helen Kleberg Foundation was awarded this week. UTB/TSC received a check for \$95,750 that will be used to continue and expand the opportunity for community involvement in the Bahia Grande restoration project.
- UTB/TSC has been awarded a grant from the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. The grant proposal entitled "Project Start Smart-Start Early" will help high school students from low to moderate income households, first generation students or students from bilingual/bicultural families. The grant of \$144,555 includes funds for mentor wages, scholarships, transportation to events, posters, correspondence and postage. The grant will provide services to approximately 2,200 BISD Seniors, 4,000 parents and family members and 30 high school counselors.

- Dr. John Cook, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Communication Program, is the principal investigator of a \$10,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. This project, which is called “Difficult Dialogues”, is designed to foster a campus environment where sensitive subjects can be discussed in a spirit of open scholarly inquiry and intellectual rigor and with respect for different viewpoints.
- Students interested in applying to the UT Law School will have the opportunity to meet with Interim Dean, Steven Goode who will be on campus Tuesday, January 24 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the Cassia Room of the Education and Business Building. The UT Law School was founded in 1883 and is one of the oldest law schools in the nation. It has an enrollment of fourteen hundred Doctor of Jurisprudence degree candidates. It is also one of the nation's largest law schools.
- Singer Roberto Pulido will host a dance to benefit UTB/TSC music students. The dance will be held Tuesday, February 14, 8 p.m. to midnight at the Jacob Brown Auditorium. There will also be a silent auction in which Mr. Pulido will donate items made by himself including a golf putter and a fishing lure.
- Alumni from the 1970s Scorpion Baseball team will play at the annual alumni game on Saturday, January 21, 5 p.m. at the Scorpion Park. Admission is free and UTB/TSC Student Activities members will distribute giveaways such as water bottles and thunder sticks. The Scorpions kick off the regular season against Laredo Community College on January 28 and 29 at Scorpion Park. Admission to these games is free.
- The public is invited to submit names of deserving candidates for the Texas Southmost College Distinguished Alumnus Award. Since 1993 the college has been honoring one of its own with its highest honor, the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The deadline to submit a nomination is Wednesday, February 15. The Distinguished Alumnus recipient(s) will be recognized during the 2006 Spring Commencement ceremony.

### **13 Proposed Meeting Dates**

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

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Thursday, March 23, 2006

Thursday, April 13, 2006

Monday, May 22, 2006

### **14 Announcements**

- Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland is the new Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Dr. Ragland has been serving as Vice President for Academic Affairs since January 2005. She joined the university in 2001 as Associate Vice President of

Academic Affairs. As Vice President for Institutional Advancement, she will lead the departments of Development, News and Information, and Publications. Institutional Advancement supports scholarships, student initiatives, new programs and other university needs through fundraising, alumni activities and communications. Dr. Ragland will continue to serve as Vice President of Academic Affairs until her successor is named. A nationwide search will begin immediately to fill the position.

- Dr. García announced the following appointments: Mr. Jay Phillips, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Eli Peña, Director of Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Nanze-Davis, Director of the Science and Math Academy; and Mr. Douglas Stove, Housing Director.
- Ms. Rosemary Martínez, Vice President for Business Affairs, announced the partnership between UTB/TSC and the Pizza Hut located on International Boulevard. Pizza Hut will provide a reduced price menu for UTB/TSC students, faculty and staff. Pizza Hut will also set aside 20 percent of all sales on the first Tuesday of the month to go towards a scholarship for UTB/TSC students.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 8:30 p.m.

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Mr. Chester Gonzalez  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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Mr. Eduardo A. Campirano  
Secretary Board of Trustees

**NOTE:** The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on January 18, 2006 is on file at the District Office of the Texas Southmost College District. The master tape is on file at the UTB/TSC Media center. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Mari Montelongo, Administrative Secretary. 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.