

Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

February 16, 2006

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session February 16, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall, Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Mr. Chester Gonzalez, Chair, Ms. Rosemary Breedlove, Vice Chair, Mr. Eduardo A. Campirano, Secretary, Ms. Dolly Zimmerman, 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 Executive Session As provided by Government Code, Chapter 551
Consideration and possible action

Real Estate

Contract and Resolution for Purchase of
Lot 3, Block 16, Colonia Alta Vista,
Brownsville, Texas

Discussion and Possible Action on Lot 1,
Block 1, Lots 1-9, Block 2 and Lots 1-10,
Block 4, University Park, Brownsville, Texas

Discussion and Possible Action on Los
Tomates Banco #122, 84.15 Acres,
Brownsville, Texas

Discussion and Possible Action on Abs 6 –
J Y Trevino Share 6 E 8.7240 Acres,
Brownsville Texas

The Board convened in Executive Session at 5:41 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:15 p.m.

2 Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

**Consideration and possible action on
Contract and Resolution for Purchase of
Lot 1, Block 13, Colonia Alta Vista, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the contract and resolution for the purchase of Lot 1, Block 13, Colonia Alta Vista, Brownsville, Texas as presented; seconded by Mr. Campirano motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"

**Discussion and possible action on
Lot 1, Block 1, Lots 1-9, Block 2 and Lots 1-10,
Block 4 University, Brownsville, Texas**

No action was taken.

**Discussion and Possible Action on
Los Tomates Banco #122, 84.15 Acres**

No action was taken.

**Discussion and possible action on
Abs 6 – JY Trevino Share 6 # 8.7240 Acres**

No action was taken.

3 Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

**Consideration and possible action on
Minutes of Regular Meeting January 18, 2006**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 18, 2006, as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously.

4 Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

5 Board Briefing

The National Audubon Society Board of Directors

Dr. Juliet V. García presented an overview of her participation as a member of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. She stated that the legacy of the National Audubon Society is to protect wildlife that has long served as a barometer for the overall health of our environment and of our own quality of life and health.

Dr. García stated that UTB/TSC has a long standing commitment to environmental studies and preservation. Rancho Del Cielo and the SPI Center are some of the facilities that are currently used for this purpose. In addition, she stated that the UTB/TSC was recently approved to offer a bachelors degree in environmental studies.

6 Student Affairs Partnership Committee

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the Student Affairs Partnership Committee convened on January 30, 2006. Members present were Dr. Hilda Silva, Dr. Roberto Robles, Ms. Karen Fuss-Sommer, Ms. Minnie Lucio, Mr. Michael Camarillo and Ms. Virginia Ukoli.

Ms. Zimmerman reported that Mr. Dan Huntley, Athletic Director, provided the committee with an overview of the athletic programs at UTB/TSC. He reported that UTB/TSC has officially been accepted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and into the Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC). Ms. Zimmerman stated that this semester will be the last time that UTB/TSC will be participating in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) with its baseball program. Beginning in Fall 2006 UTB/TSC's volleyball, baseball and men and women's golf teams will participate in the NAIA and the RRAC.

Ms. Zimmerman also reported the approval of a \$2.00 increase to the Student Service Fee. She stated that the fee is earmarked for the growth of the athletic program at UTB/TSC. The added revenues from the Student Service Fee will be used to convert the golf coach position from part-time to full-time, hire an athletic trainer (which is required by the NAIA), add a Sports Information Director and two additional sports programs.

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the committee discussed options for increasing the number of athletics programs on campus. She stated that soccer is one probable

program addition. Ms. Zimmerman reported that Mr. Huntley was asked to prepare a proposal for an on-campus soccer facility for the committee's consideration.

She stated that the committee will meet once a month to continue to discuss the athletic program and other areas within the Division of Student Affairs.

7 Business Affairs Partnership Committee

Mr. Campirano reported that the Business Affairs Partnership Committee met on February 6, 2006 and discussed the following items:

Consideration and possible action on Resolution Granting Certain Tax Exemptions to Certain Historic Sites Under the 2006 Heritage Plan

Mr. Campirano reported that the District has participated in the City of Brownsville's Heritage Plan since its inception in 1986. This resolution is in keeping with the District's commitment to the preservation of historic properties in the area. He stated that the amount of tax forgone would be approximately \$4,800, which is about \$480 more than last year due solely to property valuations. Mr. Campirano reported that two new properties are being added to the list, the Webb-Millar Drugstore and the UTB/TSC Cotton Compress. Mr. Campirano stated that Mr. Joe Gavito, Heritage Officer for the City of Brownsville, was present in case there were any questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to adopt the Resolution Granting Certain Tax Exemptions to Certain Historic Sites Under the 2006 Heritage Plan as presented; seconded by Dr. Robles and Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "B"

Consideration and possible action on Resolution Authorizing District Staff to Participate in the Local Government Purchasing Cooperative

Mr. Campirano reported that at its January 2006 meeting, the Board approved a policy update which allows the District to participate in group purchasing programs. He stated that in order to use the BuyBoard, which is one of these programs, the Board needs to approve a resolution authorizing staff to enter into an interlocal agreement. He stated that Group Purchasing Programs allows staff to identify qualified vendors of goods and services, reduce the number of steps in the bidding process and reduce the cost of goods and services.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the Resolution Authorizing District Staff to Participate in the Local Government Purchasing Cooperative as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "C"

**Consideration and possible action on
Bid for Renovation of Property Located at
Neutra Subdivision, Lots 2 and 4, Block 1, Brownsville, Texas**

Mr. Campirano reported that this is a contract for the first phase of the renovation of the Neutra House. The contract is with Jamail Construction, the firm recommended by Mr. Larry Lof for this project. Mr. Campirano stated that the firm has local offices in Weslaco. He reported that the contract amount is \$181,195. Mr. Campirano stated that this is the same firm that restored the Texas State Capitol. He explained that this will be the first time that we are availing ourselves the use of the BuyBoard for a contractor.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the contract with Jamail Construction for Phase One of the renovation of the Neutra House in the amount of \$181,195 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "D"

**Consideration and possible action on
Ratification of Contract for ITECC Thermal Plant**

Mr. Campirano explained that this is the contract for phase two of the Thermal Plant renovation. Phase two includes reinforcing the roof, moving the cooling tower temporarily located on the ground to the roof, renovating the thermal plant and adding a new chiller. He reminded the board that they authorized contract negotiations with REC Industries in the amount of \$2,949,000 at their previous meeting. Mr. Campirano reported that the amount of the contract remains the same.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the ratification of the contract with REC Industries in the amount of \$2,949,000 for the Phase Two of the Thermal Plant Upgrades as presented; seconded by Mr. Esparza; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "E"

8 Bond Projects Update

Dr. John Ronnau, Vice President for Administration and Partnership Affairs, explained that there are three parts to this item: an overview of the process used to develop the program for each facility in the bond program and for selection of each project architect, a review of each program and the recommendation of architectural firms.

He reminded the Board that the \$68 million bond issue approved by the voters in November 2004 will make possible the construction of seven projects: Music

Education, Kinesiology, General Purpose Classrooms, East Library and Oliveira Library Renovations, Center for Early Childhood Studies, Biomedical Research and Outreach and ITEC Campus renovations. Dr. Ronnau reviewed the proposed location for each of the projects and stated that the final location will be determined by the best use of the sites. Dr. Ronnau stated that representatives from all key stakeholder groups were included in the programming process including facilities maintenance, information resources, faculty, staff, disability services, security, media and Distance Education Services. Dr. Ronnau stated that the Campus Advisory Committees (CAC) considered their input and formulated a recommendation to the Board Bond Advisory Committee (BBAC). The role of the BBAC is to oversee the bond projects by providing input and reviewing recommendations from the President, Executive Council and the CAC regarding architect selection, programming and schematic design, substantial completion and final acceptance. Dr. Ronnau reviewed the composition of the BBAC which includes a trustee, dean, faculty, staff, student and community members.

Dr. Ronnau introduced Ms. Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Construction, to describe the project management team and present an overview of the programming process. Ms. Mendez reported that the Project Management Team is composed of herself, Broaddus and Associates, and other consultants.

Ms. Mendez explained that the programming process includes the following steps: Kick-Off meeting, Interviews, Mission and Space Summary Development, Budget Allocation, Draft Program Review, Bond Program Budget and Scope of Work Session, BBAC and CAC Final Review and Recommendation meetings. Ms. Mendez introduced Ms. Diana Gonzalez from Broaddus and Associates to present an overview of the components for each program document. Ms. Gonzalez stated that each program includes the following sections: Acknowledgements, Executive Summary and Project Goals, Adjacency Requirements, Site and Utilities Studies, and Budget and Cost. Ms. Gonzalez described the total square feet and some of the program elements for each of the projects.

**Consideration and possible action on
Approval of Program for
Biomedical Research and Outreach Center**

Ms. Breedlove reported that the BBAC met on February 6 to review the proposed program for the Biomedical Research and Outreach Center. In attendance were the BBAC members, Executive Council and Construction Office staff. She stated that the CAC, which is composed of Dr. Emir Macari, Dr. Emilio Garrido-Zanabria, Dr. Michael Lehker, Dr. Gerson Peltz, Dr. Danielle Provenzano, Dr. Masoud Zarei, Ms. Anne Rentfro and Mr. Larry Lof, made an excellent case to address the ever growing research needs of the campus. Ms. Breedlove stated that the recommended program allows for creation of laboratories and an outreach component where our researchers will be educating the community about the most common health problems in our area.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve the Program for the Biomedical Research and Outreach Center as presented; seconded by Mr. Oliveira; motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration and possible action for
Architect Selection for the
Biomedical Research and Outreach Building**

Ms. Breedlove reported that the BBAC interviewed two highly qualified firms for this project. Each firm provided insight into the trends of modern research facilities. Ms. Breedlove stated that the firm of Kell Muñoz was recommended by the BBAC as the best value respondent for the institution. She stated that as designers for the Life and Health Sciences project, Kell Muñoz has intimate knowledge of the facility and extensive expertise in state-of-the art laboratories and animal facilities.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to select Kell Muñoz Architects as Architects for the Biomedical Research and Outreach Building as presented; seconded by Mr. Campirano; motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration and possible action on
Approval of Program for the
Center for Early Childhood Studies**

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the BBAC met on January 30 to interview several architects and forward a selection to the Board of Trustees. She stated that the committee reviewed the contents of the program as recommended by the CAC members for this project. The CAC members are: Ms. Marisela Nava, Ms. Vejoya Viren, Ms. Veronica Carlan, Mr. Jim Holt, Dr. Carl Stockton, Dr. Renee Rubin and Mr. John Sutterby. They were acknowledged for their time and input dedicated to developing the program for the facility. Ms. Zimmerman stated that the program will allow doubling the student enrollment for the childcare facility and concentrating on research for children of ages 3 to 5.

A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to approve the program for the Center for Early Childhood Studies as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration and possible action on
Architect Selection for the
Center for Early Childhood Studies Program**

Ms. Zimmerman stated that the committee interviewed 3 architectural firms. She mentioned that the committee deliberated for some time as the firms were highly qualified. Ms. Zimmerman reported that the committee recommends selecting Wells

Janousek of Houston. Wells Janousek described themselves as specialists for children's spaces and presented a design that would be a great place for research and learning.

A motion was made by Ms. Zimmerman to approve the selection of Wells Janousek as Architects for the Center for Early Childhood Studies as presented; seconded by Dr. Robles; motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration and possible action on
Approval of Program for the
Music Education and Fine Arts Complex**

Dr. Robles reported that the BBAC met on February 10 to review the program for the Music Education facility. He stated that the meeting was well attended and included Mrs. Mary Rose Cardenas former TSC Trustee. Dr. Robles stated that this program addresses the most critical needs for the Music Department and the BBAC recommends approval.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the program for the Music Education and Fine Arts Complex as presented; seconded by Mr. Campirano; motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration and possible action on
Architect Selection for the
Music and Education and Fine Arts Complex**

Dr. Robles reported that the BBAC recommends Studio Red architects for the Music Project. He stated that Studio Red architects are specialists in performing arts facilities. They have a world renowned acoustician as part of their team, as well as many years of experience working together in representative projects.

A Motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the selection of Studio Red as Architects for the Music and Education and Fine Arts Complex building as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration and possible action on
Approval of Program for Classrooms Buildings**

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the BBAC met on February 2 to review the facility program. Mr. Gonzalez reported that the CAC presented a program that allows us to serve approximately 1,200 students per day as well as providing for faculty offices. He stated that the location of the projects allows for easy access to parking. He also mentioned that the program addresses the current need for general purpose classrooms that accommodate over 100 students each classroom.

Mr. Gonzalez also recognized and thanked the Classroom CAC members for their participation in this important process. The Classroom CAC members are Mr. Jay Philips, Ms. Bobbette Morgan, Mr. Bill Davis, Mr. Taeil Ki, Ms. Karen Fuss-Sommer, Ms. Pat Celaya, Ms. Arlene Ready, Mr. Richard Camargo, Ms. Emma Miller and Mr. Julio Ledezma. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the committee representatives are from various schools and colleges and that they did an excellent job in maximizing the instructional spaces under this project.

Consideration and possible action on Approval of Program for Library Projects

Mr. Oliveira reported that the BBAC met on February 7 to review the program for the new East Library and to review the preliminary program for the renovations to the Oliveira Library.

Mr. Oliveira stated that the BBAC reviewed the program as proposed by the CAC. The East Library will provide all essential functions of a library in the professional zone. He stated that the project is intended to follow the model of the “library of the future” where students can study and interact openly and comfortably. Mr. Oliveira stated that the program calls for architects to plan ahead for expansion as this will be a building that will need to be expanded in the future.

Mr. Oliveira thanked the CAC members for its visionary concept for the library.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve the program for the Library Projects as presented; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried unanimously.

9 District Elections

Consideration and possible action on Authorization to Enter Into Negotiation to Contract with Cameron County Elections Administrator to Conduct Election Services

Mr. Julio Ledezma, the District’s Agent for the Election, asked for authorization for the District to enter into contract negotiations with the Cameron County Election Administrator, Mr. Roger Ortiz, to conduct the District’s election. He reported that the District will have an election on May 13 for three positions Place 1, for a two year unexpired term, and Places 6 and 7, for six year terms. The estimated cost for the election is \$66,000.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to authorize staff to enter into negotiations to contract with Cameron County Elections Administrator to conduct election services for the May 13 election as presented; seconded by Mr. Oliveira; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit “F”

**Consideration and possible action on
Resolution to hold Joint Elections**

Mr. Ledezma reported that in the interest of cost containment, whenever possible, the university seeks to share the cost of conducting the District's elections with other entities. Mr. Ledezma was informed by the Election Administrator that at this time there are two other entities holding elections which are also interested in sharing costs. They are the City of Brownsville and Brownsville Independent School District. He stated that the University will continue to seek out other partners with which to share costs. Election costs include judges, staff, equipment (laptops, cellular phones, etc.), ballots, supplies and the counting machines for each polling place.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve the Resolution to Hold Joint Elections as presented; seconded by Ms. Zimmerman; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "G"

**Consideration and possible action on
Notice and Order of Election**

Mr. Ledezma presented the Notice and Order of Election for the May 13 Election. He mentioned that the University is proposing 38 polling places for Election Day and 7 early voting sites. These are the same number of Election Day polling sites the University has used in previous elections.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve the Notice and Order of Election for the May 13, 2006 Election as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "H"

**Consideration and possible action on
Set Date and Time for Drawing for Place on Ballot**

Mr. Ledezma explained that staff is proposing to hold the drawing for a place on the ballot on March 14th at 3:00 p.m. at the Gorgas Tower on our campus.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the action to Set Date and Time for Drawing for Place on Ballot as presented; seconded by Mr. Esparza; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "I"

10 Construction Report

Dr. Ronnau reported that the grounds and construction crews are keeping very busy with several campus improvement and renovation projects. He provided an update on the following projects:

- The Physical Plant grounds crew is adding shade trees in several campus locations, including the walkway from Endowment Court to Eidman, between M1 and Cortez, Paseo and along SETB.
- Physical Plant has completed most of the renovation of M2, enough so that classes are now being offered in that space.
- The renovation of the Rusteberg building has been completed for visual arts. The sculpture classes are now meeting in this space.
- The former Rusteberg A/C shops are being renovated to house ITNet (Infrastructure Telecommunications Networks) Department.
- The M1 Building is being renovated by Larry Lof's crew. The Grand Opening will be in March 2006.

11 President's Report

Dr. García reported the following:

- Mr. Sandesh Kadur, a graduate of UTB/TSC with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology and co-author Dr. Kamal Bawa, a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, delivered a presentation at the Smithsonian National Museum in Washington D.C. on February 24, 2006. Their Topic was India's Western Ghats, a vanishing heritage.
- Nelly Estrada, the newest chess team member, recently won a tournament in Corpus Christi. She was showcased in "People Stories" a segment developed by Letty Fernandez and broadcasted on the local news channel.
- The UTB/TSC Chess team placed second overall in the Southwestern Collegiate Chess Championship in Houston on February 4-5. The team received 13 overall points. The University of Texas at Dallas received 15 overall points, thus earning a first place title.
- The University is one step closer to offering a doctorate degree in education. At their meeting on January 26, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board gave approval for the administration to move forward in its plans to implement a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Bilingual Education. The approval now allows the university to present a full doctoral proposal to the UT Board of Regents in either the spring or summer. If the Regents approve the proposal it would then go before the Coordinating Board for final approval. If final approval is given, the university could offer the new doctoral program as early as the fall of 2007.

- Dr. Howard A. Pearson, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at Yale University gave a speech on Thursday, February 23. His presentation was focused on “Iron’s Effects on Learning and Behavior: Iphyclus, Morbus Virgineo and the Strawberry Mansion Junior High School.” Dr. Pearson also met with pre-med students to share his thoughts on “The Rewards of a Career in Medicine”. Both lectures were open to the public.

12 Proposed Meeting Dates

Board of Trustees Meetings:
Thursday, March 2, 2006-Workshop
Thursday, March 23, 2006
Thursday, April 13, 2006
Monday, May 22, 2006
Thursday, June 22, 2006

13 Announcement

Mr. Gonzalez acknowledged Dr. García’s 20th Anniversary as President of TSC. He asked family and friends of Dr. García to join her to receive the Board’s recognition.

He stated that when the Board of Trustees of Texas Southmost College appointed Dr. García as President of TSC in 1986, the trustees made history because she became the first woman president of TSC and the first Mexican-American woman to be president of a college or university in the U.S.

He stated that due to Dr. Garcia’s 20 years of leadership, the landscape of higher education has changed in our community.

Adjournment

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

Mr. Chester Gonzalez
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Mr. Eduardo A. Campirano
Secretary Board of Trustees

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on February 16, 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.