

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 15, 2005

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session December 15, 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, Mr. David Oliveira, Dr. Roberto Robles and Mr. Roman “Dino” Esparza. Absent was Ms. Dolly Zimmerman. 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 5:35 p.m.

1 Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2005, as presented; seconded by Mr. Esparza; motion carried unanimously.

2 Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

3 Board Briefing

Sahyadris: Mountains of the Monsoon

Mr. Larry Lof, Director of Rancho del Cielo Biological Station, introduced Mr. Sandesh Kadur, a UTB/TSC graduate, to make a presentation regarding his work in film and photography of India's Western Ghats.

Mr. Kadur narrated the story of how he developed the documentary film called *Sahyadris: Mountains of the Monsoon* about India's beauty and vanishing heritage. He stated that the documentary was broadcast on the Discovery Channel and has won many awards and recognitions. Mr. Kadur also stated that while filming the documentary he took photographs of the region which were recently published in a book called *Sahyadris: India's Western Ghats – A Vanishing Heritage*.

Mr. Kadur gave each of the board members a DVD copy of the documentary.

4 Business Affairs Partnership Committee

Mr. Campirano reported that the Business Affairs Partnership Committee met on December 8 and discussed the following items:

Consideration and possible action on TSC District Annual Financial Report and Audit for Period Ending August 31, 2005

Dr. Ronnau reported that as a public institution the District is held to high standards for the way in which it manages and accounts for the public's money. He stated that we are fortunate to have very competent and professional staff in the Comptroller's Office that insures those standards are met. In addition, the Trustees have directed that the District be audited annually by an outside and independent firm. Dr. Ronnau reported that the District has just completed that process for fiscal year 2005. The process requires many hours of labor over several months. This year's financial review and audit was conducted by the firm of Long Chilton.

Dr. Ronnau reported that the importance to the District of these annual financial reviews and audits cannot be overstated. Through this process, a professional and independent auditor reviews every aspect of how the District conducts its business. As a result, the community can be assured that the District's business is being conducted in an above board manner and in keeping with recognized business standards. Dr. Ronnau stated that staff is very pleased and proud to report that the District has again earned an Unqualified Opinion. What is more, there were no findings in the audit and no management letter.

Dr. Ronnau thanked Ms. Melba Sanchez, the District Comptroller, and her staff for all that they do throughout the year that allows the District to earn these high marks. He also thanked Ms. Rosemary Martinez and her staff in the UTB Business Affairs Division for their cooperation and assistance.

Dr. Ronnau stated that Mr. Juan Mendoza, the lead auditor from Long Chilton, was in attendance representing the firm.

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to accept the SUJCD Annual Financial Report and Audit for Period Ending August 31, 2005 as presented; seconded by Mr. Oliveira; motion carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"

Consideration and possible action on Partnership Concordance Policy: Tuition and Fees

Mr. Campirano reported that Ms. Rosemary Martinez, Vice President for Business Affairs, made a presentation regarding the tuition and fees proposal for fiscal years 2006-2008. The proposed tuition and fee increases will allow UTB/TSC to continue to meet its academic goals of increasing student success, developing programs, and acquiring faculty.

Mr. Campirano introduced Ms. Rosemary Martinez and Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland to make a presentation on the tuition and fees proposal. Ms. Martinez stated that all components were asked to develop a tuition and fee policy for 2007-2008. She stated that a 20-member committee made up of faculty, students and staff was formed to develop the policy. Ms. Martinez reported that the committee met during the month of November to discuss key issues and develop the policy. Presentations were made to the Academic Senate, Staff Senate and the Student Government Association. In addition, three public hearings were held to gather input from the campus.

Mr. Campirano stated that as per our Partnership Concordance Policy, these fees will be assessed to TSC students at the same rate as UTB students. **Exhibit "B"**

5 Bond Projects

Bond Projects Update

Dr. Ronnau reported that thanks to the resources provided by the bond issue, there are seven building projects in the planning stage. These projects will help the community university meet the needs of its growing enrollment in music education, early childhood development, kinesiology education, biomedical research, libraries, classrooms, and parking. Dr. Ronnau stated that while everyone is eager to break ground for all the projects, some of the most important work actually occurs during the planning stage and before the ground breaking. He stated that the programs for most of the projects are at least 75 percent complete. Dr. Ronnau explained that the

programming stage determines what actually goes into the buildings; for example, the number of classrooms and labs and their sizes.

Dr. Ronnau reported that final reviews of the programs for each facility will be conducted with their respective Campus Advisory Committee (CAC) early in the New Year. He stated that meetings of the Board Bond Advisory Committees (BBAC) will also be conducted in January. Dr. Ronnau thanked all the CAC and BBAC members for their participation in the planning of the bond construction projects.

Dr. Ronnau introduced Ms. Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Construction, to provide us an update on the architect selection process. Ms. Mendez reported that proposals for architectural firms to participate in the design of the bond projects were received on December 14. A total of 26 responses were received from architectural firms from all over the state of Texas. Ms. Mendez reported that on average about 15 firms asked to be considered for each of the five groups of construction projects.

Staff will evaluate the responses over the coming weeks. Once a short list of 3 to 5 architects for each project is identified, they will be invited for interviews. Ms. Mendez stated that a recommendation for architects for all of the bond construction projects will be presented to the Board in February.

6 President's Report

Dr. García reported the following:

- UTB/TSC is hosting the 10th Annual Gravitational Wave Data Analysis Workshop on December 14 to 17. International scientists from around the world will come to our campus to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of Albert Einstein's "Miraculous Year". The workshop allows physicists to discuss and analyze what progress has been made in the discovery of gravitational waves. The university was chosen to host the workshop by the Scientific Organization Committee during their 2004 conference in Annecy, France. Brownsville is only the fourth U.S. city to host this conference. Dr. García congratulated all the faculty, staff and students of the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology on a successful conference.
- Dr. Macari, Dean of the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology has been inducted into the National Academy of Science of Mexico. This honor will open additional doors for collaboration with Mexican higher education institutions such as the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Instituto Tecnológico de Matamoros, the Universidad de Guanajuato, el Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

- Provost, Dr. José G. Martín, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between UTB/TSC and NASA Goddard on Monday, December 8th. The agreement allows for IPA (Inter Personnel Act) type of assignments at UTB/TSC for their senior scientists or short-term assignments for less senior ones and for our students to work or do their dissertation at Goddard. It also serves as an umbrella for future grants. Six of their researchers will be initiating the process to become adjunct faculty in our Physics program. They will also be available to direct research for our students.
- The 8th Annual Kids at the Movies Event served approximately 1,000 community kids who were able for the first time to watch a movie at the theater. The KAM (Kids at the Movies) Community Committee involves faculty and students of the UTB/TSC Emergency Medical Technology and Nursing programs, representatives of the Brownsville Independent School District, representatives from several area hospitals and other general community members. Dr. Eldon Nelson has served as the chair of that committee for five years.
- 100 percent of the 19 students who graduated in August from the UTB/TSC Vocational Nursing program passed the NCLEX exam. Also, the ‘pinning’ ceremony was held on Tuesday, December 13 for the largest Vocational Nursing Program ever. Forty-two students will graduate this semester.
- Dr. David Pearson, Professor of Sociology in the Behavioral Sciences department, will appear in “Secrets of the Black Box: Flight 007,” a History Channel documentary. The documentary will be broadcast on Thursday, December 22, at 8:00 p.m. The documentary explores the evidence of what happened to Flight 007. The a civilian passenger plane was shot down in the early morning of September 1, 1983 by the Soviet military alleging that it was a spy plane. Dr. Pearson is also the host of Society Under Fire, which is broadcast on Public Radio KMBH-FM 88.9 (Harlingen) and KHID-FM 88.1(McAllen).
- The Winter Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 17, 10 a.m., on the lawn behind the Student Union. Approximately 1,155 students are candidates for graduation. This year, three students will receive the very first degrees in Communication and the very first master’s degrees in mathematics will be awarded. Dr. David W. Nuñez, the 2005 Distinguished Alumnus recipient for Texas Southmost College, will deliver the Commencement address.

7 Proposed Meeting Dates

Board of Trustees Meetings:

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Thursday, March 23, 2006

Thursday, April 13, 2006

8 Announcements

- Dr. Garcia introduced members of the UTB/TSC Chess Team, Erick Vallarino, Timur Gareev, Antonio Espino, Victor A. Flores and Vicente A. Flores. The team finished First at the National K-12- Collegiate Chess Championship in Houston the weekend of December 2-4th. The team also won the Texas Collegiate Chess Tournament, which was held November 19-20th in Fort Worth.
- Mr. Gonzalez reported that Mr. Manuel Hernandez, a community member and activist for good government practices, passed away last month.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 7:20 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 December 15, 2005 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 Mary G. Hernandez, Senior Administrative Associate. 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.