



Texas Southmost College District

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

August 28, 2008

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on August 28, 2008, at 5:00 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, Dr. Roberto Robles, Mr. David Oliveira, Mr. René Torres and Ms. Adela G. Garza. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. Garcia, President of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gonzalez at 5:01 p.m.

1. Public Hearing on Proposed 2008 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Texas Southmost College District

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Public Hearing is an opportunity for taxpayers to express their views on the District's proposed tax rate. He called on Ms. Melba Sanchez, Assistant Vice President for Finance to give a brief explanation. She reported to the Board that staff is proposing a maintenance and operation tax rate of \$0.111423 and a debt tax rate of \$0.049666 for a total tax rate of \$0.161089 per \$100 valuation. Ms. Sanchez announced that the next Public Hearing is scheduled for will be September 8, 2008. The board will adopt a tax rate at the regular meeting scheduled for September 18, 2008.

Community members Dagoberto Barrera and Alex Resendez addressed the Board regarding the proposed 2008 tax rate. There were no other speakers.

2. Executive Session

as provided by Government
Code, Chapter 551.072,74

Real Estate

- Utility** Easement to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board for the ITEC Campus
- Contract** and resolution for purchase of Lot 4, Block 9, Colonia Alta Vista, Subdivision, Brownsville, Texas
- Contract** and resolution for purchase of Lots 4, 5, 6, & 7, Block 5, Paredes Track Addition, Brownsville, Texas
- Contract** and resolution for purchase of Lot 9 & 10, Block 12, Colonia Alta Vista Subdivision, Brownsville, Texas

Personnel Matters

Election of Officers of the Board

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 8:05 p.m.

Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

Utility easement to the Brownsville Public Utilities for the ITEC Campus

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve an additional easement to the Brownsville Public Utility Board for the ITEC Campus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "A"*

Contract and resolution for purchase of Lot 4, Block 9, Colonia Alta Vista Subdivision, Brownsville, Texas

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the earnest money contract and resolution for the acquisition of Lot 4, Block 9, Colonia Alta Vista Subdivision, in the amount of \$35,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oliveira and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "B"*

**Contract and resolution for purchase of
Lot 4, 5, 6, & 7, Block 5, Paredes Track Addition, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Mr. Torres to approve the earnest money contract and resolution for the acquisition of Lot 4, 5, 6, & 7, Block 5, Paredes Track Addition in the amount of \$225,900. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "C"*

**Contract and resolution for purchase of
Lot 9 & 10, Block 12, Colonia Alta Vista, Brownsville, Texas**

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the earnest money contract and resolution for the acquisition of Lot 9 & 10, Block 12, Colonia Alta Vista in the amount of \$30,000 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "D"*

**Consideration and possible
action on Election of Officers to the Board**

Mr. Gonzalez reminded the Board that the bylaws stipulate that the Board hold an election of officers after each Board of Trustee election. Mr. Gonzalez opened the floor for nominations. Mrs. Breedlove made a nomination for the slate of officers as follows: David Oliveira as Chair, Eduardo A. Campirano as Vice Chair, and Dr. Roberto Robles as Secretary.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve nominations for each position as follows: David Oliveira, Chair; Eduardo A. Campirano, Vice Chair, and Dr. Roberto Robles, Secretary; the motion carried unanimously. *Exhibit "E"*

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

**Consideration and possible action on
Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 25, 2008**

A motion was made by Mr. Torres to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 25, 2008. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously.

**Consideration and possible action on
Minutes of Special Meeting on August 5, 2008**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on August 5, 2008. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously.

**Consideration and possible action on
Minutes of Special Meeting on August 15, 2008**

A motion was made by Mr. Campirano to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on August 15, 2008. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously.

4. Acceptance of Gift and Resolution

Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, announced the acceptance of a gift for Teaching Studio D of the Arts Center from the Tipton Family. She presented a brief biography of the donors, recognizing them as strong advocates for the Arts Center and for their dedicated support of our students.

Mr. Gonzalez read the resolution honoring the Tipton family and presented the resolution and a framed portrait of the building to Mr. and Mrs. James Tipton. Mr. Tipton thanked the Board on behalf of the Tipton family for the opportunity to make this important donation.

**Consideration and possible action on
adoption of resolution naming The Arts Center Teaching Studio D
the Tipton Family Teaching Studio**

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to adopt the resolution naming The Arts Center Teaching Studio D the Tipton Family Teaching Studio as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Breedlove and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "F"*

5. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

No Speakers.

6. Board Briefing

Dr. David Pearson, Vice President for Partnership Affairs, gave a presentation on "Why Societies Succeed or Fail" featuring Dr. Jared Diamond prefatory to October's Distinguished Lecture Series.

7. Board Policy

Consideration and possible action on Second Reading of Board Policy VI-B: Tuition

Ms. Melba Sanchez, Assistant Vice President for Finance, stated that this was the second reading of the Board Policy V-D: Investment. Ms. Sanchez stated that this policy is reviewed yearly. Currently there are no changes to the policy being presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve the second reading of the Board Policy V-D: Investment as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. Exhibit "G"

8. Budget

Consideration and possible action on Second Reading of the TSC District Budget for Fiscal Year 2008- 2009

Ms. Sanchez stated that this was the second reading of the TSC District Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. She described the funding allocations that provide instructional services in partnership with UTB. She also discussed budget allocations for scholarships, capital improvements and deferred maintenance, insurance, fund reserves, property acquisition, and for the bond projects. She stated that the only changes made were that TSC lowered the amount of revenues coming in through taxes as a result of keeping the tax rate the same, and adjusted the capital improvements line of the budget.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to adopt the TSC District Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. Exhibit "H"

9. Renewal of Insurance Policy

Consideration and possible action on Renewal of General Liability, Educators, Legal, Crime, and Auto Insurance Policies

Ms. Sanchez reported that the TSC District renews its general liability, auto, crime, and educators' legal policies on an annual basis. She stated that Shepard Walton King has reviewed the policies and provided TSC with several options for the renewal of these policies. The option that is being presented to the Board offers a 15 percent premium reduction. The general liability policy is through Texas Political Subdivisions for a premium of \$19,619, crime policy for a premium of \$557, and automobile policy for a premium of \$5,863. Educators' legal liability policy is obtained through Diamond State Insurance Co. for a premium of \$13,200. Mrs. Sanchez also stated that the total amount of the insurance renewal premium reduction is \$6,589 less than the premium of the current policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to approve the Renewal of General Liability, Educators' Legal, Crime, and Auto Insurance Policy in the amount of \$39,239 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "I"*

10. Budget Amendments

Consideration and possible action on Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2008

Ms. Sanchez explained that the budget amendments for fiscal year 2007-2008 are necessary to cover anticipated expenditures through the end of the year. She stated budget amendment #08-004 to adjust revenue and expenditures in the General Fund, budget amendment #08-005 to adjust expenditures in the Auxiliary Fund, budget amendment #08-006 to adjust expenditures in the Campus Facilities Fund, budget amendment #08-007 to adjust expenditures in the Restricted Parking Fund, budget amendment #08-008 to adjust expenditures in the 2002 General Revenue Debt Service Fund, budget amendment #08-009 to adjust revenues in the Restricted Scholarship Fund, and budget amendment #08-010 to adjust revenues in the Restricted Insurance Fund. She reviewed in detail all the budget amendments.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve Budget Amendments #08-004, #08-005, #08-006, #08-007, #08-008, #08-009, and #08-010 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "J"*

11. Physical Facilities Committee

Report

Ms. Rosemary Breedlove reported that the Physical Facilities Committee met on August 27, 2008. The first item discussed was a change order to the contract with SpawGlass Contractors for the Incubator expansion project. She stated that Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Construction, reported that the

ITECC renovation project was broken down into several contracts for thermal plant expansion, roof repair, interior renovation, and site work, all within the \$17 million project allocation. The thermal plant expansion and the roof repairs have been completed. The interior renovation and site work are currently in progress under a contract with SpawGlass. Mr. James Holt, Dean of WTCE, explained that in July of 2007, the International Innovation Center submitted a grant proposal to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for expansion of the existing Small Business Incubator spaces. The proposal was successful and International Innovation Center was awarded a total of \$1.25 million for the Incubator expansion project. The local firm of Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. was asked to develop construction documents for the project. Several meetings were held during August 2007 - February 2008 to discuss and complete the design for the project. The final plan consists of 11,604 sq. ft. of flexible space. The renovation includes infrastructure upgrades to mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. In addition, the renovation will create an access from the Incubator lobby to the renovated space. Since SpawGlass is currently at the ITECC completing other renovation work, staff recommended seeking an estimate from them for the Incubator expansion project. The goal was to achieve savings by reducing mobilization, general conditions, and other costs by using pre-negotiated pricing with SpawGlass. The proposed cost for the incubator expansion is \$1,073,924.

**Consideration and possible action on
Change Order to Contract with SpawGlass Contractors for
Incubator Expansion Project**

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve a change order in the amount of \$1,073,924 with SpawGlass Contractors as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oliveira and carried unanimously.

Exhibit "K"

**Consideration and possible action on
Change Order to Contract with Skanska for the Arts Center**

Ms. Breedlove reported that the next item discussed was a change order to the contract with Skanska USA for the Arts Center. The original plans for the project were modified after approval of the guaranteed maximum price for two reasons: 1) The City of Brownsville imposed additional requirements for the relocation of Taylor Avenue. In order to move the project forward, the project engineers designed upgrades to Taylor Avenue as per City of Brownsville requirements. The upgrades include a road 4 feet wider than originally designed to accommodate 18 parking meters and additional sidewalks, and the removal and relocation of some utilities. The cost associated with these required changes is estimated at \$147,862. 2) The existing sewer line to which the new building is to connect was found in a deteriorated condition not anticipated during design. In addition, a new sewer line was designed to service the new Arts Center, the Commandant's house, Building 23,

and the Fort Brown Memorial Center. The estimated cost for the new line is \$224,595. The total cost for both upgrades is \$372,457.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve a change order in the amount of \$372,457 with Skanska USA for the Arts Center as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously.

Exhibit "L"

**Consideration and possible action on
Change Order to the Contract with Design Build Solutions
for repair of the ITECC roof**

Ms. Breedlove reported that the final item discussed was the contract with Design Build Solutions for repair of the ITECC roof. Ms. Mendez explained that this item is to repair roof damage incurred by Hurricane Dolly. The high winds caused a stucco wall to fall over a portion of the newly repaired roof. In order to maintain the 30-year roof warranty, it is recommended that Design Build Solutions repair the damaged areas. The estimated cost is \$16,463. The cost has been reviewed and recommended by Broaddus and Associates, the project manager for the ITECC renovations.

A motion was made by Ms. Breedlove to approve a change order in the amount of \$16,463 with Design Build Solutions for the repair of the ITECC roof as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robles and carried unanimously. *Exhibit "M"*

12. Resolution

**Consideration and possible action on
Re-naming International Technology Education and
Commerce Campus (ITECC)**

Dr. Pearson stated that on March 6, 2002, Texas Southmost College purchased the old Amigoland Mall from Simon Properties. He reported the facility, initially called West Campus Complex, was to promote the technical workforce training and education of our region. It was also to serve as a community partner for economic development. He explained on December 2, 2002, the TSC Board renamed the West Campus Complex the International Technology Education and Commerce Campus (ITECC). He explained that during the recent Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaccreditation visit, both the ITECC location, apart from the main campus and its designation as a "campus" suggested to the SACS evaluators that ITECC constituted a separate branch campus. Dr. Pearson recommended a resolution to rename the ITECC the International Technology Education and Commerce Center.

Mr. Gonzalez read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Torres to approve re-naming the ITECC the International Technology Education and Commerce Center as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Garza and carried unanimously. Exhibit "N"

13. 3rd Quarter Financial Statements and Investment Reports

Ms. Sanchez reported on the 3rd Quarter Financial Statements and Investment Reports. She stated that these statements are for the fiscal year 2007-2008 and cover operations from September 2007 through May 2008. She reported that interest earned for the 3rd Quarter, totaling \$772,000, is generated through the TSC District checking, savings, and CD accounts with Texas State Bank and JP Morgan Chase. No action was necessary.

14. Construction Report

Dr. Pearson reported the following:

- Work is completed on the new parking areas on Jackson St. and 21st and 24th Street. He reported that the lots are being used almost to capacity.
- Construction continues in the Cavalry Building for the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy. The electric work is almost complete and the floors will be installed soon. The African mahogany front doors were built especially for the facility, with the transom windows at the top of the doors.
- The Newman Center demolition has been completed and work will continue in the months to come for the new headquarters for Campus Police.
- Construction continues on the Commissary Building, with the crews taking extraordinary care to maintain the historical character both on the outside and inside. Work is taking place on all three floors and the re-pointing of the bricks is almost complete.
- Renovation on the Commandant's Quarters continues. Installation of siding, that will be painted a light grey, is near completion. The dormer windows on the roof are replicated almost to perfection.

Ms. Mendez reported the following:

- The curbs at the ITEC Center have been poured to create an attractive entrance. The former sea of asphalt area will soon be a landscaped oasis for students and tenants. The new entry will house close to 200 mature trees, all of which were saved from the former Crooked Tree site on FM 802. Inside, the campus signature "Gorgas Arches" of millwork will grace the remodeled spaces. Another major infrastructure upgrade is to provide public restrooms.

- Construction continues at the REK Center. The brick masons continue work on the tower. The arcade will have stucco applied to some surfaces, and the interior arches define the social space were Pancho is generously donating some decorative brick work.
- Construction continues at the Center for Early Childhood Studies. RGV Paint and Construction has completed foundation preparation on the Resaca side of the property. The bulkhead is being extended another five feet, and work continues with installation of underground utilities and the forming of frames for the foundation.
- Construction at the New Library and Classroom building involves minor touches to be done to the place in steel and anchoring metal deck.
- Construction continues at the Arts Center. All 146 pilings have been drilled and poured. On August 28, 2008, at one in the morning, several areas of the foundation was poured.

15. President's Report

Dr. García reported the following:

- Dr. García introduced Dr. Charles Dameron, who in turn introduced Ethel Cantu, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Daniel Heimmermann, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Miguel Escotet, Dean of the School of Education, and Dr. Peter Gawenda, Interim Dean of the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology. She then introduced Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, who introduced Meloney Linder, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communication, and Laurie Howell, Director for Corporation & Foundation Relations.
- Dr. García stated that Lt. Virginia Maldonado-Maxwell, an associate master technical instructor and assistant director of the Vocational Nursing Program, is leaving for military duty. Ms. Maldonado-Maxwell has been a member of the UTB/TSC faculty for 11 years. She has served in the Navy Reserves almost twice as long, and will report for duty for the first time in 19 years. She will be stationed at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Virginia's colleagues at the School of Health Sciences hosted a sendoff last Friday. As students, faculty and staff surrounded her in the Healing Garden courtyard, there was standing room only. The sendoff included a flag presentation from UTB/TSC Professor Beatriz Van Olhen and a letter from U.S. Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz, who commended her for her selflessness and the sacrifices she is making to serve her country. Virginia says she will miss her students, but is proud to serve her university and country.
- Dr. García announced that UTB/TSC Dual Enrollment Program (DEP) has been named a national finalist in the 2008 Examples of *Excelencia*. A profile about the program will be featured in the 2008 edition of "What Works for Latino Students: Examples of *Excelencia* Compendium." The University will be

recognized at the *Celebracion de Excelencia* on September 23rd, 2008, in Houston. The DEP has truly become an “on-ramp” to college for South Texas students and their families. Since the inception of the program in 2000, it has provided dramatically increased access to college technical and academic classes for students. DEP is a cost effective way to meet the goals set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for their *Closing the Gaps* initiative. The program increases the participation, success, and academic excellence of high school students in South Texas. Students who take dual courses increase their college readiness and earn tuition-free credits that ease the financial burden of earning a college degree for themselves and their families. Once the dual students enroll in college they have a higher rate of college readiness, complete more credits, have a higher GPA, and are retained at a higher rate than their non-dual counterparts. She congratulated Linda Fossen, Associate Vice President for Enrollment and her staff: Cindy Lerma, Angie Coronado, and Dalyn Ruiz. She also congratulated academic advisor Edward Camarillo and his staff, as well as the deans, chairs and faculty who have been instrumental in making the DEP a great success.

- Dr. García announced that UTB/TSC received notice from UT System that we were awarded two \$25,000 Rising to the Challenge Scholarship grants. Many traditional scholarship programs are designed for young students just out of high school. However, at UTB/TSC 24% of the students are over the age of 26. Of those 9% (almost 2,000 students) are 36 years old and over. Many of these students rely on evening courses, while working full-time to meet financial and family obligations. With fewer opportunities for adult learners to access scholarships, the Rising to the Challenge funds will support students transitioning from a two-year program of study or two-year institution to a four-year program here at UTB/TSC. The scholarships will be need-based, and will be open to applicants who are full time undergraduates over the age of 26. They must have completed the requirements for Associate of Arts degree and have declared their intent for a Bachelor’s degree. The second scholarship is the Generation Proud Scholarship. This scholarship will help support first-generation adult learners pursuing a program of study at UTB/TSC. The funds will also be awarded on a need-based basis, and will be made available to undergraduate full-time students over the age of 26. She congratulated Linda Fossen, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Mari Chapa, Director of Financial Aid, and all the staff who worked diligently on these initiatives.
- Dr. García said we often talk about the high quality of our programs, and our Vocational Nursing Program continues to prove that our students are among the very best anywhere. Our nurse candidates must take a national licensure exam to be certified. The State of Texas requires that LVN programs maintain an 85% pass rate, and the state average is about 95%. Our program, led by Ms. Karen Fuss-Sommer, has achieved a 98% pass rate
- Dr. García said that the Study Abroad Office and the Modern Languages Department are pleased to announce the establishment of Reciprocal Exchange

Programs between UTB/TSC and the University of Barcelona (UAB) in Spain and the Sorbonne University in France. These programs allow our students to study at these universities and, in turn, allow students from the Sorbonne and UAB to study here on our campus. In fact, we will welcome one graduate student from the Sorbonne and another graduate student from UAB this fall, both of whom will join the Masters of Interdisciplinary Studies Program in Translation, Interpreting, and Intercultural Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. UTB/TSC students will be able to spend either one semester or a whole year at these institutions. The students will earn regular credit as if they were enrolled in courses here. UTB/TSC expects these academically rigorous programs to open up a world of intellectual and career opportunities for our students. The application process will be highly selective. Students interested in applying for the Reciprocal Exchange Programs should be of junior standing and have a 3.2 GPA. Students should contact the Study Abroad Office for more details. Dr. García congratulated Dr. Suzanne LaLonde, Assistant Professor of French, and Dr. José Dávila, Assistant Professor of Translation and Interpreting, for helping make these opportunities possible.

- Dr. García announced that close to 600 runners and walkers gathered at the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City on August 3, 2008 for the Keith A. Ferguson Memorial Run/Walk. The event benefits the Keith A. Ferguson Scholarship Fund for Criminal Justice here at UTB/TSC. Keith is the son of Sonia Cunningham, a member of our nursing faculty. He was a member of the elite New York Police Department Hercules Counter-Terrorism Team. In January 2004, he suffered a heart attack while responding to a fellow officer's call for back-up. While chasing a suspected illegal street vendor on foot, Ferguson collapsed and died. He was 38 years old. Within days of her son's funeral, an event that drew 10,000 mourners to a church in Manhattan, Cunningham had launched the scholarship fund in his honor. Today, the endowment is valued at over \$60,000, and more than a dozen students have been awarded scholarships. Two years ago, Cunningham gave herself a new goal of raising \$500,000 for the Keith A. Ferguson Endowed Chair for Criminal Justice, which would be the first endowed chair in the department. Dr. García congratulated Sonia on her great success in honoring her son's memory while reaching out to help students share his passion for a career in law enforcement.
- Dr. García announced that UTB/TSC Scorpion women's soccer team begins its season at 4 p.m. Sunday, August 31, 2008, at Morningside Park against Texas A&M International University. The women are back home Saturday, September 6th, against Oklahoma Baptist University.
- The UTB/TSC men's soccer team begins its season in Houston Friday, August 29, 2008, and Saturday, August 30, 2008. UTB/TSC Scorpions play against St. Thomas University Friday and then play against William Carey University Sunday. Their first home game will be Saturday, September 6, 2008, against Oklahoma Baptist.

- UTB/TSC women's volleyball team lost its first four matches at the South Padre Island Volleyball Challenge last week at Rivera High School. UTB/TSC had to move the tournament because the South Padre Island Convention Centre was damaged by Hurricane Dolly. UTB/TSC Scorpions are at Laredo September 5-6, 2008, and play their first match in the friendly confines of UTB/TSC Garza Gym Saturday, September 13, 2008, against St. Thomas University.
- Dr. García announced that the 2008-2009 UTB/TSC Arts & Entertainment Season begins at 8 p.m., Saturday, September 13, 2008, with a performance by the Havana NRG Orchestra of Dallas at Jacob Brown Auditorium. Patron of the Arts series kicks off its 24th season at the Science, Engineering & Technology Building Lecture Hall at 8 p.m., Saturday, September 20th, with performances by baritone Ricardo Delgado Herbert and pianist James Pulles.
- Dr. García stated that we are guided by our mission and philosophy statements that include words describing accessible, affordable education of high quality. They also include phrases that are important not just to our work on campus, but to our region, including participatory governance, stewardship, service and human dignity. One of our leaders on campus in social justice issues is Father Armand Matthew. This fall he has brought to us a proposal that I have urged the entire campus community to embrace. Four years ago, in another Presidential election year, UTB/TSC became a site for both early voting and as a regular precinct. UTB/TSC students were motivated and conducted voter registration drives. Our faculty talked about voting in their classrooms and people were encouraged to bring their family and friends to vote on campus during early voting. During that first year of voting on campus, in 2004, we had 3,270 people take part in early voting. Unfortunately, since then we have experienced a dramatic decline in voting. In some elections, we have had as few as 240 people vote on campus. During the 2008 primary election early voting period, we had a little surge just over 1000 votes cast but still this was only 1/3 of the number cast in that first election four years ago. Armand Matthew has raised the challenge of reaching 100% voter participation on campus. This means that every student, faculty and staff member eligible to vote will do so during the November election. UTB/TSC will be conducting voter registration drives. She said more than a dozen people sworn in as volunteer Deputy Registrars, and we expect more to do so within the next few days. Also, people are working on publicity regarding election dates and times. This effort is not about party or policy.
- Dr. García stated that Dr. Luis Colom, Professor for Biological Sciences was awarded with a new grant. The total award for the New SC1 is \$1,301,497 for a period of 4 years. The title of the award is, "*Pathophysiology of the septo-hippocampal glutamatergic system*". The agency is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The award will allow UTB/TSC to investigate the role of a group of neurons in Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease (AD) is an age-related progressive brain disorder that leads to memory loss, dementia and finally to death. Degeneration of septal neurons results in abnormal information processing in cortical circuits and the consequent brain dysfunction

associated with AD. Until recently, only two major neuronal populations (cholinergic and GABAergic), with subpopulations that project to the hippocampus, were believed to exist in the septal region. Our laboratory characterized a third major population of septal neurons that project to the hippocampus and uses glutamate as a neurotransmitter. The function of this projection and its vulnerability to AD remains largely unknown. Because glutamatergic synapses are involved in learning and memory processes and the septal region is affected in AD, the septal glutamatergic neuronal population is well posed to play a key role in the cognitive processes impaired by AD. The overall goal of our research is to understand the function of the normal septo-hippocampal glutamatergic system and its dysfunction in AD. The proposed experiments will give us insight into manipulating septal glutamatergic neurotransmission as a means of regulating information processing by hippocampal networks and restoring the AD-vulnerable cognitive processes they serve. UTB/TSC was also awarded a BRIDGE grant. The PI is the University of Utah. However, most of the money goes to our master students. The total award for the Bridge Grant is \$974,361 for a period of five years. The title of the award is, "*Utah – Texas Bridge to Biomedical Informatics Doctorate*". The agency is the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. This grant will support UTB/TSC master students from Biology, Physics, Computer Sciences and Mathematics that want to a Ph.D. in biomedical Informatics at the University of Utah. She congratulated Dr. Luis Colom.

16. Proposed Meeting Dates

Monday, September 8, 2008
Public Hearing 5:00 p.m. Tentative
Thursday, September 18, 2008
Thursday, October 30, 2008
Thursday, November 20, 2008
Thursday, December 18, 2008

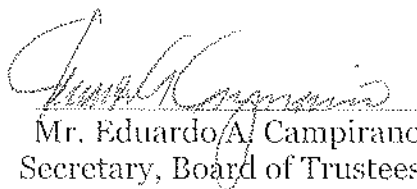
17. Announcements

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Oliveira at 8:20 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 August 28, 2008 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 Max E. Roza, Administrative Secretary. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996. They are aired on Channel KBSD in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.