



# TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

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## **Board of Trustees**

*Francisco G. Rendon*  
Chair

*Adela G. Garza*  
Vice Chair

*Trey Mendez*  
Secretary

*Robert A. Lozano, M.D., Ph.D.*

*Reynaldo García, DDS*

*René Torres*

*Ramon Champion Hinojosa*

## **TSC President**

*Lily F. Tercero, Ph.D.*

## **Texas Southmost College District**

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

**August 16, 2012**

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on August 16, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Francisco G. Rendon, Chair; Adela G. Garza, Vice Chair; Trey Mendez, Secretary; René Torres; Ramon Hinojosa and Dr. Reynaldo García. Also present was Dr. Lily F. Tercero, President of Texas Southmost College. Board member absent was Dr. Robert Lozano.

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rendon at 5:40 p.m.

#### **2. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

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

Dagoberto Barrera, a Brownsville resident, commented on the tax rate.

#### **4. Mission Statement**

Chairman Rendon read the existing mission for Texas Southmost College District as follows:

“Texas Southmost College is a comprehensive open admissions public community college whose mission comports with Texas Statute Subchapter A, Section 130.

Texas Southmost College offers programs leading to certificates of completion and associate degrees, developmental education to prepare students for college-level work, occupational and technical programs to prepare students for immediate employment, academic courses of study to develop the core skills, understandings, and knowledge appropriate for baccalaureate programs, and continuing education, counseling, guidance, adult literacy and personal enrichment.

Texas Southmost College advances economic and social development, enhances the quality of life, encourages respect for the environment, cultivates personal enrichment, and expands knowledge in service to its community. It convenes the cultures of its community and fosters an appreciation for the unique heritage of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It provides academic leadership in the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic life of the region it serves.

Texas Southmost College places excellence in teaching and learning at the core of its commitments. It seeks to help students at all levels develop the skills which will sustain life-long learning while respecting the dignity of each learner and the needs of the entire community.”

## **5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

### **Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 19, 2012**

**A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 19, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Garza and carried unanimously.**

## **6. Executive Session as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.072.**

**The Board convened in Executive Session at 5:38 p.m.**

**The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:09 p.m.**

## **7. Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session**

### **Consultation with Attorney on the Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Section 551.072, Texas Government Code**

No discussion or action was taken.

## 8. TSC District Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Chairman Rendon called on Mr. Chet Lewis, Vice President for Finance and Administration to present the item. Mr. Lewis presented to the Board the first reading of the District Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. He reported the budget priorities identified for this budget: Transition, Partnership with UTB, Infrastructure Maintenance needs, Insurance Coverage, and Student Scholarships.

Mr. Lewis reported that the budget includes establishment of new departments. As we move forward, positions will be added that are needed for accreditation reasons, for development of programs, and to address technology issues. Discussions are continuing regarding the interim operating agreements and services currently provided by UTB, and funding adjustments will be made as decisions are made regarding these items. Any adjustments will be brought forward as a budget amendment during Fiscal Year 2013.

Mr. Lewis noted that the Partnership documents are still in effect and partnership-related items have been segregated within this fiscal year's budget. Those items include state appropriations, and the tuition and fees required to be remitted to UTB for services. There are changes in the amounts of the tuition and fees, which are a byproduct of changes made by UTB regarding how enrollment data is being recorded and reported to the State. Discussions have been held and will continue to be held with State Legislators, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Legislative Budget Board regarding how these changes in student enrollment reporting may affect TSC during the upcoming biennium funding cycle. Adjustments may be made to these items during Fiscal Year 2013, based on these discussions.

Mr. Lewis noted that the Infrastructure and Maintenance budgets have been adjusted. He also reminded the Board that all TSC buildings are currently being covered by insurance that is provided for in the budget and that the budget includes amounts for student scholarships.

Mr. Lewis provided a historical overview of TSC's Tax Rate. The rate has been relatively steady for a number of years; however, there was a slight increase in fiscal year 2004-2005 due to the \$68 million bond issuance.

Mr. Lewis stated that this fiscal year's budget is based on the effective tax rate, which is slightly lower than the current tax rate. The current rate is 16.4026. The effective rate is 16.2935. A balanced budget is being presented based on the effective tax rate. He stated that if the Board wished to adopt a different tax rate, their decision would need to be made at this meeting; otherwise, the Board would proceed to adopt the effective tax rate after the second reading of the budget. If the Board adopts the effective tax rate, a homeowner of a \$100,000 thousand dollar home would be paying about \$1.00 less than they currently pay.

Mr. Lewis completed his review of the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget. He stated that the second reading of the budget and the Board's adoption of the tax rate would occur at the August 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### **9. Representation on TSC Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors**

Chairman Rendon reported that the TSC Foundation Board of Directors includes representation from TSC. Given the Board elections that were held in May, he recommended that the following individuals represent TSC: Dr. Lily Tercero, current CEO/President of TSC; Mr. Francisco Rendon, current TSC Board Chair; Mrs. Adela Garza, current TSC Board Vice-Chair; and Mr. René Torres representing TSC in the immediate past chair position, given that TSC does not currently have an immediate past chair.

**A motion was made by Dr. García to approve the individuals to serve on the TSC Foundation Board of Directors as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinojosa and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Rendon asked Dr. Tercero to notify the TSC Foundation, Inc. of these changes.

#### **10. Report on Academic Programs**

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Robert Aguero, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services to give the report. Dr. Aguero reported that part of the work that has been conducted for the Health Profession programs includes the submission of various required documents for each programs' separate accreditation, which is above and beyond the accreditation necessary for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Dr. Aguero reported that the following programs are projected to be transferred to TSC by Fall 2013: Respiratory Care, Medical Laboratory Technology, Emergency Medical Science, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Radiologic Technology (X-Ray), and Vocational and Associate Degree Nursing. Each of these programs requires their own separate accreditation with individual accrediting agencies, but each basically follows a similar process.

Dr. Aguero also reported that there are new Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regulations that require all degree programs to have a minimum of 60 semester credit hours, unless, specific accreditation for a program calls for additional hours. As part of TSC's review process, almost every program of study (degree plan) is being reduced in the number of semester credit hours that will be required for graduation. The exceptions are the two nursing programs, which will remain without curriculum changes. As a result, students will now place more

focus on their area of study rather than on general education hours, thus strengthening and streamlining the programs.

Dr. Aguero expressed his appreciation to Dr. Eldon Nelson, Dr. Edna Garza-Escobedo and Dr. Marti Flores from UTB/TSC for being extremely collaborative and helpful in this process.

#### **11. Report on Strategic Planning Committee**

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. García to give the report regarding the College's Strategic Planning process. Dr. García reported that this important effort has involved extensive community input. He stated that this effort started when the college held a number of community summits and focus group sessions late last year.

In July, Dr. Tercero appointed a Strategic Planning Committee consisting community/business representatives, UTB/TSC faculty, and TSC Staff. The members of the Committee are as follows: Dr. Robert Aguero, Leslie Bingham, Angela Burton, Dino Chavez, Chris Coxon, Luis de la Garza, Dr. Marti Flores, Alma Garcia, Ygnacio Garza, Pat Hobbs, Chet Lewis, David Merrill, Ed Rivera, Jeff Roerig, Kim Sanchez, Dr. Laura Villarreal, Dr. Lily Tercero and Dr. Rey García.

The Committee held two day-long retreats. The first was held on Tuesday, August 7th, and the second was held on Monday, August 13th. Dr. Garcia reported that TSC is very fortunate that Educate Texas has partnered with TSC on this very important effort. He personally thanked Chris Coxon and Alma Garcia for their participation and support.

He noted that the group has worked diligently to produce an outstanding draft, which will be presented to the Board at their next meeting.

#### **12. Update on Transition Process**

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Lily F. Tercero, President, to give an update on the Transition Process. Dr. Tercero reported that an outstanding number of submissions have been received for the nine posted employment positions, locally and from across the State of Texas.

Dr. Tercero reported that the next step is to move forth with the development of a process to review the applications. The first step in the review process will be to ensure each candidate meets the minimum requirements. Each applicant will then be evaluated based on the job's defined criteria, an interview process will occur, a selection will be made, and the candidate will be notified. All positions that are currently advertised are critical to the operation of TSC.

Dr. Tercero introduced Mr. Elliot Kimbrough, Dynamic Campus Solutions, Inc. to give an update to the Board regarding technology issues. Mr. Kimbrough announced that Dynamic Campus had donated a new projector and four wireless microphones to supplement TSC's board room equipment. The new equipment is installed, tested and ready for tonight's meeting. Mr. Kimbrough reported that the new TSC website is now available for access by the community and students. Dynamic Campus is also in the process of establishing network access and deploying a new telephone service provider.

Dr. Tercero informed the Board that a Transition Task Force has been formed to assist with the transition. She explained that this task force will consist of two representatives from TSC, two representatives from UTB and Mr. Michael Putegnat, an employee of UT System. The task force will work with UTB and TSC managers, staff, key individuals, consultants, and subject matter experts to ensure that a seamless transition occurs as TSC moves to establish its operational units, and as UTB continues with its restructuring efforts. This work will begin with the areas of information technology, student admissions, registration and advising. This task force will report to both the President of Texas Southmost College and the President of The University of Texas at Brownsville.

### **13. Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2012**

#### **Consideration and Approval of Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2012**

Chairman Rendon called on Mr. Lewis to present the item. Mr. Lewis informed the Board that the proposed budget amendment increases the line on attorney fees to cover expenses through fiscal year 2012.

**A motion was made by Mr. Torres to approve Budget Amendment #12-005 for Fiscal Year 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinojosa and carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"**

### **14. Proposed Meeting Dates**

***Tuesday, August 28, 2012 – First  
Public Hearing – If Necessary/Special  
Board Meeting***  
***Friday, August 31, 2012 – Second  
Public Hearing – If Necessary/Special  
Board Meeting***  
***Thursday, September 13, 2011 –  
Special Board Meeting***

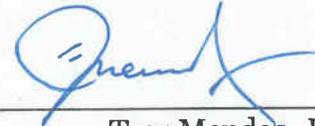
## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rendon at 7:25 p.m.



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Mr. Francisco G. Rendon  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



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Trey Mendez, J. D.  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

**NOTE:** The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on August 16, 2012, is on file at the District Office of the Texas Southmost College District. The master tape is on file at UTB/TSC Media Services. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Max E. Roca, Administrative Assistant. 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.