MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT

February 14, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at the Oso Creek Campus, Culinary Arts Building, Tres Grace Community Room, 7002 Yorktown Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas with the following present:

From the Board:

Ms. Carol Scott, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Dr. Anantha Babbili, Mr. Carl Crull, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Mr. Bill Kelly, Mr. David Loeb, and Dr. Laurie Turner.

From the College:

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Ms. Lenora Keas, Executive Vice President and COO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; Mr. Ali Kolahdouz, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Dr. Jonda Halcomb, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Tammy McDonald, Vice President of Administration and Human Resources; Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Vice President for Student Affairs; Ms. Cheryl Sanders, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Mr. John Strybos, Vice President and Chief Physical Facilities Officer; Ms. Mary McQueen, Vice President of Advancement and Government Relations; Ms. Delia Perez, Director of CEO Office and Board Relations, and other staff and faculty.

CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM CALL

Chair Scott called the meeting to order with a quorum present. She requested a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Del Mar College Vision Statement.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – The public was given the opportunity to provide public comments (both general and specific to any agenda item).

There were no public comments made for this meeting.

RECOGNITIONS:

Ashley Leiva, DMC Trucking Graduate, named 2022 National Transition Truck Driving for Excellence Award Winner in Washington, D.C. in December 2022

Ms. Keas introduced Dan Korus, Dean of Corporate Services and Workforce Development, Lynette Cervantes, Director of Transportation Services Program, and Ashley Leiva, graduate of Del Mar College Transportation Training Services program. Ms. Leiva won the 2022 National Transition Truck Driving for Excellence award in Washington D.C. Ms. Leiva provided words of appreciation. Chair Scott recognized Ms. Leiva and her accomplishments. • Del Mar College faculty and staff, in collaboration with the Del Mar's General Counsel, hosted their 1st Annual Free Speech Day on October 20, 2022.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb (*Goal 4: Learning Environments*)

Dr. Halcomb provided information regarding the Freedom of Speech event that took place on October 20, 2022. The event included the importance of free speech and- the role of the First Amendment in the classroom, on campus, and beyond by Del Mar College's General Counsel, Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr.; round table discussion on free speech with the Foghorn News Editor-in-Chief, Ana Aldridge and local journalists, Ana Tamez, Tom Whitehurst, and Professor of Journalism Robert Muilenburg; and a panel discussion with faculty including Dr. Jim Klein, Craig Brashears, and Dr. Paul Gottemoller of Del Mar College, and Southern Methodist University's Senior Research Fellow Dr. Michael Phillips to discuss a wide range of topics from the importance of academic freedom to First Amendment protections in the faculty role in shared governance. Dr. Halcomb acknowledged everyone involved including the planning team who made the event a success. Dale Anderson thanked all the participants. Chair Scott recognized the Freedom of Speech event and congratulated their success.

Chair Scott changed the order of the Agenda and asked Dr. Jonda Halcomb to introduce the Professor Emeritus recommendation.

4. Discussion and possible action related to recommendation of Professor Emeritus status to Elizabeth Flores, Professor of Political Science.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb (Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Halcomb presented Professor Elizabeth Flores to the Board for consideration of Professor Emeritus. She stated Professor Flores has provided 43 years of service to the College which include Professor of Political Science, Interim Chair of the Center for Ethnic Studies, and Cultural Development, and as Program Coordinator for Mexican American Studies. During her tenure, Professor Flores demonstrated commitment, distinguished leadership, and notable dedication to the students, the College, and the community. Dr. Halcomb read a resolution in honor of Professor Flores, and recommended the Board approve her Professor Emeritus status. Chair Scott expressed the Board's gratitude to Professor Flores. Professor Flores provided words of appreciation and gratefulness.

Regent Adame made a motion to adopt the Resolution to present Professor Elizabeth Flores with Professor Emeritus status. Regent Crull seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

REGENT'S REPORT:

• Community College Day at the Capitol, January 26, 2023 (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott reported that she along with Regent Averyt, Mary McQueen, Dr. Escamilla and approximately 30 Del Mar College students attended the Community College Day at the Texas State Capitol on January 26, 2023. Along with participating in the day's events, they meet with Senator LaMantia. Chair Scott thanked Del Mar College Student Services for their hard work in facilitating participation to this event.

• ACCT National Legislative Summit, Washington, D.C., February 5-8, 2023 (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott stated she and Regent Turner attended the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. Dr. Turner provided comments regarding her experience meeting other Regents, Texas legislature representatives, and other higher education teams. Chair Scott stated they had good discussions with Congressman Michael Cloud, Senator John Cornyn, and Senator Ted Cruz. Chair Scott also reported that she placed her name for nomination of the Western Region Director for the ACCT Board of Directors, and if elected would serve a three-year term.

STAFF REPORTS:

• Update on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Strategic Plan: "Building Talent Strong Texas".....Dr. Natalie Villarreal (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Villarreal provided a brief history of the state's education strategy and its goals. Initially, the four major areas focused on are participation, success, excellence, and research. She reviewed previous state initiatives and introduced the new strategic plan for higher education called "Building a Talent Strong Texas." which was adopted in February 2022. The three goals for Building a Talent Strong Texas are attainment, credentials of value, and research. By expanding attainment to include all working age Texans, they can increase employment opportunities and income for individuals, create a deeper talent pool for employers, and align skills with the jobs the workforce demands. Credentials from Texas institutions of higher education must propel graduates into successful careers that equip them for continued learning and greater earning potential, with low or manageable debt. Texas must be a leading state in generating knowledge through basic and applied research and translating it to innovations, discoveries, and economic development. This requires close partnership among key stakeholders to drive Texas' economy. Dr. Villarreal discussed how the College was going to integrate Building a Talent Strong Texas with the College's strategic plan. The framework of the Del Mar College strategic plan is going to use the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) framework. Dr. Villarreal reviewed the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan 18-month timeline and the considerations the Strategic Planning Committee will evaluate including the state's New Strategic Plan: Building a Talent Strong Texas; Board of Regents Visionary Workshop; Internal and External Stakeholder Engagement; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; 88th Texas Legislature Session; COVID-19 Recovery; Effective Teaching and Learning; and Strategic Enrollment Management.

Dr. Villarreal and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

• Legislative Update......Ms. Mary McQueen (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Ms. McQueen provided an update regarding the Texas Legislature and the impact on the College. She stated the 88th Texas State Legislature began January 10, 2023. The primary focus is supporting the Texas Commission on Community College Finance (TXCCCF) recommendations, which include three main goals, and is moving to "outcome based" funding. House Bill One and Senate Bill One is an appropriations bill that has \$650 million requested from the Texas Commission on Community College Finance for additional funding for community colleges for the three initiatives. Ms. McQueen discussed bills she is tracking. She will continue to keep the Board of Regents updated.

Chair Scott provided commentary on the committee assignments.

Ms. McQueen responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.....Dr. Mark Escamilla (Goal 4: Learning Environments)

• Board Notification: Racial Profiling Report Submitted to TCOLE (Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Escamilla introduced Ms. Tammy McDonald who provided a report on the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) regarding racial profiling. She stated as required under TCOLE, law enforcement agencies are required to file racial profiling reports once a year. Del Mar College filed a Full Exemption Racial Profiling Report since it does not make traffic stops as a routine part of duties.

• TACC Quarterly Meeting, January 25, 2023 (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy) Dr. Escamilla reported that she attended the quarterly meeting of the Texas Association of Community Colleges which has a new CEO, Mr. Ray Martinez. One of the changes made is meetings during the Texas legislative session will now take place once a month.

PENDING BUSINESS:

Status Report on Requested Information (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

CONSENT AGENDA

Notice to the Public

The following items are of a routine or administrative nature. The Board of Regents has been furnished with background and support material on each item, and/or it has been discussed at a previous meeting. All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless requested by a Board member or a citizen, in which event the item(s) will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in their normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon. The remaining items will be adopted by one vote.

CONSENT MOTIONS:

(At this point the Board will vote on all motions not removed for individual consideration.)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting, December 13, 2022 Called Meeting, January 31, 2023 (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)
- 2. Acceptance of Investments for December 2022 and January 2023 (Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)
- 3. Acceptance of Financials for December 2022 (Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Regent Crull made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Regent Adame seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the College's Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending November 30, 2022.....Mr. Raul Garcia (Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. David McElwain with Patterson & Associates, a Meeder Investment Management Company. He presented his report which included information regarding the College's investments, performance and current economic conditions affecting the investments.

Mr. McElwain stated the Consumer Price Index (CPI) peaked at 9.1% and the actual amount came in at 6.4%. The easing of inflation has given the central banks some breathing space. Mr. McElwain reviewed treasury yields and presented information regarding the College's portfolio. Mr. McElwain reviewed the College's Pooled Funds and stated the market value of the portfolio is a little over \$95 million and the market value is a little over \$95 million. The Series 2018 A Tax Bond funds book value for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, first quarter is \$22.9 million with earnings in the amount of \$31,948.00. The Series 2020 (A & B) Tax Bond funds book value for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, first quarter is \$21.1 million with earnings in the amount of \$25,778.00.

Mr. McElwain, and Mr. Raul Garcia responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Garza made a motion to approve the College's Quarterly Investment report as presented. Regent Loeb seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding the College's Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2022.....Mr. Raul Garcia *(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

Mr. Garcia stated that the College's financial condition is on solid footing based on the trending operating revenue and expenses. Total financial revenues of \$32.4 million for the quarter is on track relative to the planned budget. The subject quarter's revenue to budget rate of 30% is consistent with prior years. The College's operating expenses total \$24.8 million. Mr. Garcia continued with his review of the November 2022 balance sheet being well positioned to weather most business interruptions with a cash and investment position of \$60.6 million, and the College's risk reserve fund is valued at \$8.6 million.

The College's liquidity levels are sufficient to pay its current obligations valued at \$20 million as of November 2022.

Mr. Garcia responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Kelly made a motion to accept the College's Quarterly Financial report as presented. Regent Crull seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding a possible tuition rate change for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.....Mr. Raul Garcia (Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Dr. Escamilla provided opening remarks and introduced Mr. Garcia. Mr. Garcia reviewed the three major revenue streams of the College and stated that in comparison to our peer group, the College delivers the most affordable education with an average net price of \$5,617.00. Del Mar College students are saving as much as 65% on their cost of tuition and taking advantage of our hands-on student success services which include academic advising, and math and reading labs.

Mr. Garcia reviewed out-of-pocket expenses for a full-time student enrolled in 15 hours.

Ms. Sophia Jimenez, President of Student Government, addressed the Board regarding tuition changes. Ms. Jimenez provided her personal experience regarding her college career and the obstacles the College has helped her overcome. Ms. Jimenez also advised that in comparison to local universities, Del Mar College has many resources that are not offered elsewhere such as career development, resume help, clothes closet, emergency aid, and food pantry, and all at no cost to the students. She helps students understand the difference in tuition and resources compared to other universities. Ms. Jimenez thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

There was a robust conversation regarding out-of-pocket costs and financial aid among the Board of Regents, Mr. Garcia, Ms. Benavides-Dominguez, and Dr. Escamilla.

Mr. Garcia provided information regarding the College's fall tuition and fee rate change history. He provided information of three rate increase scenarios ranging from \$1 to \$3. For an in-district \$3 rate increase, a student will experience a rate increase of \$48.00. The \$3 increase will provide the College with \$405,000.00 to fund mission critical activities and minimize the loss of purchasing power caused by the current elevated inflation rate.

Mr. Garcia provided information regarding employee compensation history. The College's employee compensation accounts for 80% of operating costs and stated the beginning of

employee compensation funding has begun with the budget planning process which will continue to be discussed towards the July and August time frame.

Mr. John Strybos presented information regarding deferred maintenance and stated the current need for today is \$150 million with an additional \$101 million for the next 10-year period. These amounts are for current priority projects needing to be addressed to continue with classes as well as future planning.

Dr. Escamilla provided commentary regarding the factors influencing the strategic planning needs.

Ms. Keas, Ms. Benavides-Dominguez, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Strybos, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Turner made a motion to adopt a \$2 per semester hour rate increase. Regent Garza seconded the motion. Further discussion was held among the Regents. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried 4-3, amongst Regents present, with Regents Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Turner in favor; Regents Scott, Adame, and Loeb in opposition; and one abstention by Regent Babbili.

Ms. McDonald provided background information regarding the College's Internal Audit Report for Purchasing/Procurement and Internal Audit FY 2023 Plan. She introduced Dan Graves and Brandon Tanous who provided their report. This report presents the results of the internal audit procedures performed for Del Mar College during the period of July 11, 2022 through December 5, 2022 relating to the Purchasing processes of the College. The objectives of the internal audit were to evaluate the design and effectiveness of Del Mar College's Purchasing processes as follows: A. Determine if internal controls are designed to ensure the effective management, administration, and compliance of Purchasing functions and responsibilities. B. Ensure that controls over selected critical processes within the Purchasing processes are operating efficiently, effectively, and resulting in consistent and compliant procedures that meet end user needs. C. Ensure that user access to view, process, modify and approve purchasing transactions is restricted to appropriate personnel and that access is periodically reviewed. To accomplish these objectives, they conducted interviews and walkthroughs with personnel responsible for purchasing processes within the Purchasing, Business Services, and Information Technology (IT) Departments. They also examined existing documentation, evaluated internal controls over the processes, and performed specific testing procedures to assess controls. The coverage period was from January 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022. Procedures were performed both onsite and remotely and an exit meeting was conducted on December 5, 2022.

Based on their evaluation, the Purchasing processes have procedures and controls in place designed to mitigate risks within the significant processes. The recommendations for Purchasing were reviewed.

Mr. Graves and Mr. Tanous responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Garza made a motion to accept the Internal Audit report for Purchasing and Procurement as presented. Regent Adame seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

Chair Scott provided background information regarding the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) and the College's participation. She appointed the following Regents to active TIRZ zones:

- 1. Libby Averyt to TIRZ #2
- 2. Rudy Garza to TIRZ #3
- 3. David Loeb to TIRZ #4 and #5

Regent Crull made a motion to accept the Chair's appointments as presented. Regent Kelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 7-0, amongst

Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb in favor. Regent Turner was not present for this vote.

10. Discussion and possible action on Award of Contract for Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals, RCSP #2023-02, Del Mar College Building Renovations and Improvements Heritage Campus......Mr. John Strybos (Goal 4: Learning Environments and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Strybos provided background information regarding the Request for a Competitive Sealed Proposal #2023-02 for the Del Mar College Building Renovations and Improvements Heritage Campus. He stated the project is scheduled to be completed in 540 calendar days after "notice to proceed." This is a 2014 bond funded project. The building is vacant, and all asbestos abatement has been completed and is ready for construction. The recommendation was that the award go to SpawGlass Contractors, Inc. for \$12.6 million using 2014 bond funds.

Mr. Strybos responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Adame made a motion to accept staff recommendation to award the contract to SpawGlass Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$12.6 million using the 2014 bond funds. Regent Turner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

11. Discussion and possible action on Award of Contract for Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals, RCSP #2023-03, Windward Campus Emergency Response Training (ERT) Facility Improvements......Mr. John Strybos (Goal 4: Learning Environments and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Strybos provided background information regarding the Request for a Competitive Sealed Proposal #2023-03 for the Windward Campus Emergency Response Training (ERT) Facility Improvements. He reported that the project is scheduled to be complete 210 calendar days after notice to proceed. This is a key part of the training which has confined space training and collapsed trench training. Also, on December 6, 2022, the City of Corpus Christi passed a resolution authorizing a 10-year Interlocal Agreement with automatic renewal every year with Del Mar College to provide fire, emergency medical

services, and other public safety related training for joint use for these facilities. The recommendation is that the award go to Marshall Company Limited for \$1.5 million. The funding is partly from internal funding in the amount of \$647,000, and the remaining balance will be from 2014 bond funds.

Mr. Strybos responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Crull made a motion to accept staff recommendation to award the contract to Marshall Company Limited in the amount of \$1.54 million as presented. Regent Turner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

12. Discussion and possible action on approval of 2016 Bond Oso Creek Campus Construction Project Change Order #13, Main, STEM, Culinary and Change Order #5 Central Plant......Mr. John Strybos (Goal 4: Learning Environments and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Strybos provided background information regarding the 2016 Bond funding the design and construction of the Oso Creek Campus. He reviewed the proposed Change Order #13 Main, STEM, Culinary, and Change Order #5 Central Plant. To address changes in the scope of work that have resulted from: (1) Architect's Supplemental Information, (2) Request for Information (RFI) responses issued by the Architect, (3) Bulletin issued by the Architect, and (4) unforeseen sight conditions. The change order for the Central Plant is \$52,187, and the change order for the rest of the campus is \$216,112.39. The requested change orders are to get the campus completed as needed by the users, as well as address items identified by architects, engineers, and City of Corpus Christi staff about code compliance issues. These changes are funded with the 2016 bond funds.

Mr. Strybos responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Babbili made a motion to approve Change Order #13 for the Oso Creek Campus, and Change Order #5 for the Central Plant as presented. Regent Garza seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

Mr. Rivera provided a historical background review of the Board's long-standing commitment to ethics and ethics training. He reviewed the history of the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee for the purpose of reviewing and updating the Board's Bylaws and Statement of Conduct and Ethics. After substantial work and time to the project, the Ad Hoc Committee proposed additions and revisions to the Bylaws for clarity and improvement, and the changes were approved in the Fall of 2021.

Mr. Rivera stated ethics statements do not guarantee ethical behavior, but they do serve to remind leaders that ethical consideration should guide their behavior. He continued with his review of authoritative sources for ethics and best practices, reviewed the Statement of Ethics in the Bylaws, and reviewed the new preamble as well as a review of the Bylaws which were provided to the Regents prior to the meeting. He provided an update regarding the *Houston Community College vs Wilson* case and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision made on March 24, 2022 regarding a Regent's First Amendment rights.

At the conclusion of the ethics review, Mr. Rivera passed out the Code of Ethics Form and the Personal Disclosure Statement to each Board member. The Board was asked to sign and return them at the March 2023 Board meeting, or send them to the Office of General Counsel.

At 4:41 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

- 14. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:
 - A. <u>**TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.074(a)(1)</u></u>: (Personnel matters), regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, with possible discussion and action in open session;</u>**
 - B. <u>TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.089</u>: (Deliberations), regarding security devices or audits, regarding security assessments or deployments relating to information, resources, technology, network security information or the deployment or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure or security devices with possible discussion and action in open session; and,
 - C. <u>**TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071**</u>: (Consultation with legal counsel), regarding pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer, with possible discussion and action in open session; and the seeking of legal advice from counsel on pending legal or contemplated matters or claims, with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 5:06 p.m. with no action taken.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.