

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT**

September 14, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened at the Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples, Room 106, Corpus Christi, Texas, at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, with the following present:

From the Board:

Ms. Carol Scott, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Ms. Libby Averyt, Mr. Ed Bennett, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Ms. Susan Hutchinson, and Dr. Linda Villarreal.

From the College:

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; Ms. Lenora Keas, Executive Vice President and COO; Dr. Jonda Halcomb, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Tammy McDonald, Vice President of Administration and Human Resources; Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Mr. John Strybos, Vice President and Chief Physical Facilities Officer; Ms. Lorette Williams, Executive Director of Communication and Marketing; Dr. Natalie Villarreal, Executive Director of Government & Board Relations; Ms. Mary McQueen, Executive Director of Development; Ms. Delia Perez, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President & Board Liaison, and other staff and faculty.

CALL TO ORDER QUORUM CALL

Ms. 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.

AGENDA

RECOGNITIONS:

- Benita Flores-Munoz, Professor and Program Director of Child/Early Childhood, recipient of 2021 Dr. Aileen Creighton Award
(Goal 3: Academic Preparedness and Student Learning)

President Escamilla provided introductory remarks and introduced Dr. Jonda Halcomb who recognized the recipient of the 2021 Dr. Aileen Creighton Award: Professor Benita Flores-Munoz. The award is given for teaching and celebrates excellence in the classroom. Dr. Halcomb stated former students noted Professor Flores-Munoz' devotion in preparing them for their careers in Early Childhood/Child Development field. One of Professor Flores-Munoz' key accomplishments was to lead the College's Early Childhood Development Program to national accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and now serves on the Commission on Accreditation of Early Childhood higher education programs. Professor Flores-Munoz also serves as a Certified Advisor for Project SENDA and

also serves as the Gender Equity Coordinator for the Carl D. Perkins Grant to recruit non-traditional students into career and technical education programs. Chair Scott congratulated Professor Flores-Munoz on behalf of the Board of Regents. Professor Flores-Munoz provided words of appreciation.

- Raul Garcia, VP and CFO, appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) Community and Technical Colleges Formula Advisory Committee.
..... Dr. Mark Escamilla
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Dr. Escamilla introduced Mr. Raul Garcia, the College's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, who was appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Community and Technical Colleges Formula Advisory Committee. This Committee takes on the mission of reviewing the financial structure and technical matters of higher education. Chair Scott noted that this Committee informs the Texas Legislature on formula funding models and provided words of congratulations. Mr. Garcia provided words of gratitude.

- Joseph Ruiz, Financial Aid Director, appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) Financial Aid Advisory Committee for a three-year term
..... Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez
(Goal 2: Recruitment and Persistence)

Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Cheryl Sanders introduced Joseph Ruiz, Financial Aid Director for Del Mar College. Mr. Ruiz has been appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Financial Aid Advisory Committee for a three-year term. This Committee makes recommendations regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of State financial aid programs for college students. Chair Scott conveyed congratulations to Mr. Ruiz. Mr. Ruiz provided words of gratitude.

- David Barrera, Project SENDA Director, appointed to serve a two-year term on the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) State Board
..... Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Ms. Sanders recognized Mr. Barrera, who wasn't able to attend the meeting. Mr. Barrera was appointed to serve a two-year term on the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education State Board. Ms. Sanders provided words of congratulations to Mr. Barrera in his absence.

- Kiwana Denson, Director of Strategic Initiatives, appointed by the City of Corpus Christi to the Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend representing higher education
.....Ms. Lenora Keas
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Ms. Keas began her introduction of Ms. Kiwana Denson by stating she began her career in 2012 with Corporate Services and reminded the Board how Ms. Denson represented Del Mar College as the Project Manager on the industrial side for Gulf Coast Growth Ventures where

Ms. Denson and her team were able to deliver safety and leadership training to multiple industrial leaders throughout the Coastal Bend area. Ms. Denson’s work in business and industry has spanned many years and because of her knowledge and experience within higher education, she was nominated by Major Guajardo to represent the City of Corpus Christi on the Workforce Solutions Board for the Texas Workforce Commission. Ms. Denson has now been certified by the Texas Workforce Commission to serve on the local Workforce Board and will be representing Del Mar College in that capacity as well. Chair Scott congratulated Ms. Denson and she offered words of appreciation.

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.

STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb

- Radiologic Technology Program
(Goal 3: Academic Preparedness and Student Learning)

Dr. Halcomb began her presentation by providing background information for the Radiologic Technology program. Dr. Halcomb stated the program is a selective admission program and continues to have high pass rates of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) exam. The Radiologic Technology Department reports that there is a 100% job placement rate once the students complete the program and pass their exam.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT’S REPORT.....Dr. Mark Escamilla

- Return to Campus Planning
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Escamilla stated the College remains under the Phase III Return-to Campus conditions with all campuses open to students. Key health and safety protocols are still strongly encouraged and maintained such as social distancing, face coverings, etc. The College is going to launch a vaccine incentive program for employees and students shortly. Fall classes are continuing but will be modified as needed should COVID-19 conditions change. Dr. Escamilla provided words of gratitude to the staff and faculty for their work during the Fall semester for in person classes.

- Equity/Diversity Committee
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Escamilla stated it is his privilege and honor as well as his responsibility to formalize a Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee at Del Mar College. Dr. Escamilla has asked Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel and Dr. Natalie Villarreal, Executive Director of Government and Board Relations to develop a proposal that will engage students, faculty, and staff. The Committee will strengthen and apply DEI principles to all aspects of the College moving forward and that will pursue efforts to improve the lives of everyone at Del Mar College and the community.

- SACSCOC Update
(Goal 1: Completion)

Dr. Escamilla provided an update regarding SACSCOC substantive change offsite visit for the new Bachelor of Nursing degree. The offsite visit will take place virtually on November 15 - 18, 2021. The in-person component of the federally required site review will be postponed until 2022.

REGENTS REPORTS:

Discussion related to the appointment of a representative to the Nueces County Appraisal District Board.....Ms. Carol Scott
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott advised that the Board received a letter from Chief Appraiser Ronnie Canales regarding the Del Mar College appointed representative on the Appraisal District Board. Mr. Armando Chapa currently serves as the DMC representative and his term will be expiring in December 2021. Mr. Chapa is interested in serving another term, but the application process is open to all. This item will be on the Board’s November Agenda for action. Interested applicants should contact the President’s Office or General Counsel’s Office regarding requirements. The appointment needs to be made prior to November 15, 2021.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Write-offs of Account Receivables.....Mr. Raul Garcia
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Garcia began his presentation providing a background of Account Receivables Write-offs Board policy. The Fiscal Year 2021 tuition and fee write-off amount is \$287,122.00. Mr. Garcia stated Del Mar College’s collection rate is 99.7% as compared to the College’s peer groups and is also the highest collection rate.

- Junior College Audit Report (JCAR) – Safety and Security Audit Report for the 2018-2021 Audit Cycle.....Ms. Tammy McDonald
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Ms. McDonald provided a brief history of the Texas Education Code requirements regarding the self-assessment Safety and Security Report, called the Junior College Audit Report (JCAR). The JCAR covers the reporting period September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2021 and is also submitted to the Texas School Safety Center. Some areas reviewed for the report include interior/exterior of facilities, safety and security personnel utilization, safe working environment, data, College policies, and emergency plan and procedures. The overall assessment was satisfactory, and, with this update, the College has timely reported the results to the appropriate governing body (the Board). Ms. McDonald thanked the JCAR team for their diligent work.

- Update on Art/Sculptures for Campuses.....Mr. John Strybos

(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Mr. Strybos began his presentation describing aesthetics for the Del Mar College campuses and provided a background describing the campus available areas for art and sculptures. Mr. Strybos discussed the project goals which include 1) Develop guidelines for art and sculpture installations; 2) Identify Building interior locations for art and sculptures; 3) Identify Campus exterior locations for art and sculptures; 4) Prepare Construction Documents for installation of art and sculptures; and 5) Install approved art and sculptures. Mr. Strybos stated there are consultants under contract and reviewed a preliminary project schedule with the Board that will begin in the fourth quarter of 2021 and last through the first quarter of 2023. Mr. Strybos reviewed a preliminary project budget that includes developing guidelines, interior locations, exterior locations, construction documents and installation. The funding sources will be the 2014 and 2016 Bonds. Mr. Strybos provided examples of the term “Public Art” for the Board to review.

Dr. Escamilla provided booklets to the Board of artwork examples for their review. Dr. Escamilla discussed the many opportunities of ambient learning and how to present and display art and enhance the aesthetics of the College’s buildings, walls, and hallways.

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

PENDING BUSINESS:

Status Report on Requested Information

(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott reviewed the list of pending business.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT MOTIONS:

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Approval of Minutes:
Called Meeting, July 27, 2021
Regular Board Meeting, August 10, 2021
Called Meeting, Public Hearing on Budget, August 24, 2021
Called Meeting, Public Hearing on Tax Rates, August 24, 2021
Called Meeting, Adoption of 2021-2022 Budget and Tax Rates, August 24, 2021
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)
2. Acceptance of Investments for August 2021
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)
3. Acceptance of Financials for July 2021

(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Public comments for consent agenda items

Regent Hutchinson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Regent Villarreal seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously, 7-0 amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, and Villarreal in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 4. Discussion and possible action related to recommendation of Professor Emeritus status to Mr. Renato Ramirez.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Halcomb presented Mr. Renato Ramirez to the Board for consideration of Professor Emeritus status. Dr. Halcomb stated Mr. Ramirez has provided 29 years of service to the College as a faculty member of the Political Science Program and as the chairperson over the Department of Social Sciences. During his tenure, Mr. Ramirez demonstrated distinguished leadership and notable dedication to the students, the College, the community, and the field of Political Science. Dr. Halcomb read a resolution in honor of Mr. Ramirez and recommended the Board approve conferring his Professor Emeritus status. Chair Scott expressed the Board’s gratitude to Mr. Ramirez. Mr. Ramirez provided words of appreciation and gratitude.

Regent Adame made a motion to approve conferring Professor Emeritus status on Mr. Renato Ramirez. Regent Hutchinson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously, 7-0 amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, and Villarreal in favor.

- 5. Discussion and possible action related to recommendation of Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Russell Long.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Halcomb presented Dr. Russell Long to the Board for consideration of Professor Emeritus status. Dr. Halcomb stated Dr. Long provided 22 years of service to the College as a faculty member of the Sociology Program in the Department of Social Sciences. During his tenure, he demonstrated distinguished leadership and notable dedication to the

students, the College, the community, and the field of Sociology. Dr. Halcomb read a resolution in honor of Dr. Long and recommended the Board approve conferring his Professor Emeritus status. Chair Scott expressed the Board's gratitude to Dr. Long.

Regent Averyt made a motion to approve conferring Professor Emeritus status on Dr. Russell Long. Regent Villarreal seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously, 7-0 amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, and Villarreal in favor.

- 6. Discussion and possible action regarding review and possible adoption of revised Board Bylaws.....Ms. Libby Averyt
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Regent Averyt began the presentation by stating she and Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel would provide an update to the Board regarding the changes and edits to the Bylaws proposed by the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee at the August 10th Board meeting. Mr. Rivera reviewed the three areas of the Statement of Conduct and Ethics that Board had asked for further review, and presented additional edits from the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee for the Board's consideration. Mr. Rivera and Regent Averyt also proceeded discussing proposed edits to the the Personal Disclosure Statement, originally presented at the August 10th Board meeting.

The Board discussed the proposed revisions and Regent Averyt and Mr. Rivera responded to questions from the Board.

Regent Averyt made a motion to adopt and approve the proposed revisions to the Board Bylaws presented at the August 10th Board meeting, as well as the revisions as today, and to adopt the Personal Disclosure Statement with the proposed revisions. Regent Hutchinson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0 amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, and Villarreal in favor.

- 7. Discussion and possible action on award of Invitation for Bid, IFB #2021-078, Heritage Hall Demolition.....Mr. John Strybos
(Goal 4: Learning Environments and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Strybos provided background regarding the 2014 Bond project Heritage Hall Demolition. The condition of the building was cost prohibitive to renovate. Mr. Strybos

stated that the College advertised for the demolition of Heritage Hall and the solicitation was a low bid procurement. The final use of the site will be addressed in the Memorial Class Building renovation project.

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

Regent Adame made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented regarding the Heritage Hall Demolition. Regent Villarreal seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0 amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, and Villarreal in favor.

At 2:30 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

8. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:

TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071: (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 reconvened in Open Session at 2.54 p.m. with no action taken.

CALENDAR: Discussion held regarding upcoming calendar dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr