

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

February 4, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., at the Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples, Room 106, Corpus Christi, Texas with the following present:

From the Board:

Present:

Ms. Carol Scott, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Ms. Libby Averyt, Dr. Anantha Babbili, Mr. Carl Crull, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., and Dr. Laurie Turner.

Mr. Bill Kelly and Mr. David Loeb joined the meeting in progress.

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; Dr. 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; Mr. Matthew Busby, Vice President of Development and Donor Advising; 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.

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

- January 22, 2025: TACC Quarterly Meeting
(*I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla attended the meeting virtually and stated the current 89th Legislative Session was heavy on the agenda with committees still being established.

- January 30, 2025: Aransas County Partnership Economic Summit
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Dr. Escamilla attended and participated in the Summit with other College attendees. Ms. Lenora Keas and other members of the community presented to a large group of attendees.

- January 30, 2025: Workforce Development Center Restoration Kick-Off, Rockport
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Dr. Escamilla stated that the kickoff for the Workforce Development Center Restoration. A second event will be held when the Center is ready to open.

- February 3, 2025: Community College Day
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Dr. Escamilla stated Community College Day at the Texas Capitol included 50 community colleges that participated to show the state's leadership to the students that attend and to give those students the opportunity to be heard. The College had 53 students, staff, and Regents Scott and Babbili in attendance.

REGENT'S REPORT:

- THECB Higher Edge Conference, December 12-13, 2024.....Regent Bill Kelly
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Regent Kelly reported that his attendance at the Conference included a panel that Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel was a part of, and a session stated discussing College's place in the community. He believes the College is well established with partnerships with industrial partners and attention to the local economy.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Update.....Dr. Sydney Saumby
(II Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Dr. Saumby provided background information and stated the College is accredited by SACSCOC for baccalaureates degrees, associate degrees, and certificates. Accreditation by SACSCOC signifies that the institution has a mission appropriate to higher education, has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission, and maintains clearly specified educational objectives to the degrees it offers, and that indicate whether it is successful in achieving its stated objectives.

Dr. Saumby reviewed accreditation standards that includes reaffirmation and 73 standards that occur every ten years and an Interim Report that includes 22 standards that occurs midway between reaffirmation. The topics in these standards include student achievement assessment, educational programs, student support services, financial and physical resources, and others. The administration team will be meeting regularly and will be providing updates up until submission in the fall of 2026.

Dr. Saumby responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Adult Education and Literacy Grant Update....Dr. Leonard Rivera and Ms. Rachel Benavides
(II Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Dr. Rivera provided an overview of the Adult Education and Literacy program which has been active since July 1, 2024. He stated that according to the Corpus Christi Literacy Council about 20% of the Corpus Christi population does not possess a high school diploma.

Ms. Rachel Benavides emphasized that the program is more than just a GED program and is a workforce development program, therefore operating under the auspice of the Texas Workforce Commission. The College received two Grants – High School Equivalency (HSE) program in the amount of \$895,000 with pending funding of \$38,000 being provided in March of 2025. The number of students to serve is 634 which includes 493 for adult basic services, 89 for integrated education and training, and 52 for intensive. The area includes counties in Aransas, Kenedy, Kleberg, San Patricio and half of Nueces County.

The second grant received for English as a Second Language (ESL) is to serve individuals who lack English fluency. The grant is in the amount of \$396,000. The ESL program has turned into a college and career readiness program. The number of students to serve is 297 which include 275 for adult basic service and 22 for integrated education and training. The counties include Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio.

Ms. Benavides stated the Integrated Educational Training (IET) is funding set aside to provide tuition support for short-term workforce training while concurrently enrolled in the adult education programs. The IET's are strategically aligned with House Bill 8. The Grant currently partners with Aransas Pass ISD, Goodwill Industries of South Texas, Gregory-Portland ISD, San Patricio County Literacy Council, and Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend.

Ms. Benavides, Dr. Rivera and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Bachelor of Applied Science Organizational Management and Leadership Degree (BAS-OML) Update.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb and Dr. Jennifer Sramek
(II Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Dr. Halcomb reported that the BAS-OML started in fall 2024 and acknowledged the team that assisted in preparing the program.

Dr. Sramek provided information of enrollment. For fall 2024, 258 students enrolled in the degree program and for spring 2025, 243 students were enrolled in the program. Dr. Sramek stated that 47 current college employees were also enrolled in the BAS-OML program in fall 2025 and for spring 2025 semesters, there are 60 current employees enrolled.

Dr. Sramek and Dr. Halcomb responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Board Policy Review Update.....Ms. Tammy McDonald
(II Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Ms. McDonald provided introductory commentary. Ms. Jessica Alaniz provided an overview of the College's Policy Review Process. Every five years, College administration will perform review of policies according to the review schedule and make recommendations to the Board of Regents as necessary. For 2025, Chapters 9 and 10 are scheduled to be reviewed and other chapters that need review subject to changes in laws, statutes, or regulations as required.

Ms. McDonald reviewed the College's Chapter 9 (Prohibiting Sexual Misconduct/Title IX) and stated revisions to the policies and procedures are expected in the next few months as impacted by the new administration at the federal level. The College's Chapter 10 (Carrying Handguns on Campus by License Holder) has been reviewed and there are no recommendations for revisions. She also stated that Collegiate High School has moved into one building, and is designated automatically that you cannot carry in this building. The team will continue to monitor policies impacted by changes including executive orders and will be reviewed through the standards of SACSCOC.

BOARD NOTIFICATIONS.....Ms. Tammy McDonald

- "A" Administrative procedure revisions in Chapter IX – Prohibiting Sexual Misconduct
(III Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the student Viking experience)

Ms. McDonald provided an update regarding the location of A9.1.5.4 Counseling and Supportive Services regarding offices moving and their new locations on campus.

- DMC Police Department Racial Profiling Report Submission
(III Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the student Viking experience)

Ms. McDonald provided an update of the requirements for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement for filing a report regarding law enforcement racial profiling. The report was filed as exempt since the College does not make traffic stops in the routine performance of officer duties.

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:

1. Approval of Minutes:
Board Retreat, November 4, 2024
Regular Board Meeting, December 10, 2024
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)
2. Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report for period ending November 30, 2024
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)
3. Acceptance of Investments for December 2024
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)
4. Acceptance of Quarterly Financial Report for period ending November 30, 2024
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)
5. Acceptance of Financials for December 2024
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Regent Kelly made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. 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 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Discussion and possible action relating to 2025-2026 Tuition
.....Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

- A. Administration will present Governor Abbott's mandate regarding tuition;
- B. Discussion and possible action regarding suspension of the automatic \$1 tuition increase per Board Policy B3.21; and
- C. Timeline and discussion for proposed Pilot and Tuition Fee Waiver Program

Dr. Benavides-Dominguez provided information on Governor Abbott's November 13, 2024, tuition freeze mandate for all public institutions of higher education. This action prohibits increases in undergraduate tuition and fees for both the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic years. She also stated that staff is recommending a suspension of the \$1 minimum increase in tuition per the College's B3.231 Tuition Policy.

Ms. Lenora Keas stated the team has been working diligently regarding the tuition waiver program and the details will be brought before the Board in the March meeting although a workshop may also be necessary to analyze options as well as a timeline.

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

Regent Crull made a motion to suspend the tuition increases for FY 25-26 and FY 26-27 academic years. Regent Kelly seconded the motion. There was further discussion from the Board. A vote was taken by show of hands, with 6 voting in favor by Regents Scott, Adame, Crull, Kelly, Garza, and Turner, and 3 voting against by Regents Averyt, Babbili, and Loeb. The motion passed 6-3.

Regent Loeb made a motion to amend the motion to suspend the tuition increases for FY 25-26 and FY 26-27 academic years to only FY 25-26. Regent Averyt seconded the motion. There was further discussion about this motion among the Regents and Dr. Escamilla. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, with 4 voting in favor by Regents Averyt, Adame, Babbili, and Loeb,

and 5 voting against by Regents Scott, Crull, Kelly, Garza, and Turner. The motion failed 5-4.

7. Discussion and possible action related to proposal of Associate of Applied Science in Cosmetology degree.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb
(II Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Dr. Halcomb provided information regarding a new Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Cosmetology. The degree builds upon an existing successful Level 1 Cosmetology certificate program.

Current Program & Proposal: The College currently offers a Level 1 certificate requiring 33 semester credit hours, allowing graduates to take the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) exam. The proposed AAS degree adds 27 credit hours, including 12 in advanced cosmetology, 5 general education core courses, and additional courses to bring the total to 60 credit hours. This provides a pathway to a Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Management Leadership (BAS-OML), beneficial for those aiming to own a salon. The AAS is presented as a career advancement pathway.

Dr. Sramek outlines how the certificate prepares students for entry-level positions like hair stylist or skincare specialist, while the AAS degree is preferred for supervisory roles. The additional business courses within the AAS are geared towards preparing students for salon ownership. Stakeholder feedback (advisory committee, salon owners, high schools) strongly supports the AAS program. High schools are enthusiastic, with plans to allow students to complete the AAS by high school graduation. Faculty are also supportive, seeing it as a way to advance student skills and create a pool of qualified educators. The program addresses a high demand, as evidenced by the College's high enrollment numbers compared to other Texas colleges offering similar programs, and the projected increase in demand.

The College currently has the necessary faculty, lab assistants, classroom and lab space to support the program. Additional adjunct faculty will be hired to meet increasing demand. High schools may also teach some courses if they meet the criteria. Conservative budget projections anticipate 10 new students in year one, increasing by five each year, with funding for two adjunct faculty and instructional supplies. The program is projected to generate \$669,000 in net revenue by year five, with House Bill 8 funding of \$3,500 for the certificate and \$4,500 for the AAS.

The program will allow students with licenses from other institutions to transfer credits. The Board discussed the potential for granting a certificate upon credit transfer, mirroring a previous discussion on a similar issue with a welding program. A proposed

marketing plan involves contacting all licensed cosmetologists in the service area. Next steps include obtaining approval from the coordinating board, notifying SACSCOC, and developing a marketing plan.

Dr. Halcomb and Dr. Sramek responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Babbili made a motion to approve the Associate of Applied Science in Cosmetology Degree 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 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

8. Discussion and possible action related to Annexation and Dis-annexation adopted by the City of Corpus Christi on December 10, 2024.....Mr. John Strybos
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Strybos explained that Texas Education Code, Section 130.066, Automatic Annexation of Certain Territory, allows Del Mar College to annex property as the City of Corpus Christi annexes new property. On December 10, 2024, the City of Corpus Christi annexed property under Ordinance No. 033533. The City also dis-annexed property under Ordinance No. 033534 for property located at or near Nueces Bay Blvd. and Broadway Street for the inner harbor seawater desalination treatment plant. Staff recommendation is to annex the property annexed by the City of Corpus Christi on under Ordinance 033533 and dis-annex property under Ordinance No. 033534.

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

Regent Loeb made a motion to approve the annexation and dis-annexation adopted by the City of Corpus Christi 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 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

9. Discussion and possible action related to legislative update and TACC Resolution of SupportDr. Natalie Villarreal
(*I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Villarreal presented information regarding a resolution for the 89th Texas State Legislative Priorities/Focus Areas. She presented the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) and Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) shared policy priorities and legislative focus areas. She also discussed the initiatives aimed to enhance student success, strengthen workforce development, and amplify the transformative impact of Texas community colleges. The resolution aims to demonstrate the unified support of 450 community college boards across Texas for several priorities which include full funding for the next biennium and includes a private funding for four-year institutions as part of our new funding metrics and continued support of partnerships across the state and country in order to support our workforce.

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

Regent Crull made a motion to adopt the TACC/CCATT Resolution 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 9-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

At 3:05 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session.

10. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:

TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071: (Consultation with Legal Counsel), regarding pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer, and the seeking of legal advice from counsel, with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 3:44 p.m. with no action taken.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr