

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

May 9, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 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:

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

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 at this meeting.

RECOGNITIONS:

- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program hosted by Accounting faculty and students at Heritage Campus, Spring 2023 Dr. Jonda Halcomb (*Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy*)

Dr. Halcomb stated the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program was hosted by the accounting faculty, accounting students, and under the Business and Entrepreneurship Department, Del Mar College, United Way of Coastal Bend, Goodwill Industries of South Texas, Internal Revenue Service, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, and Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend to provide free income tax preparation to the community. The College has hosted the VITA Program for 18 years and assisted more than 700 community members in processing refunds exceeding \$1 million. The student

volunteers from Del Mar College and Texas A&M Corpus Christi worked over 800 hours of community assistance. Dr. Halcomb introduced some of the faculty and students involved and Professor of Accounting Adelfino Palacios provided words of gratitude for the opportunity to provide the program. Chair Scott thanked the team for their hard work.

- Texas Public Service Teacher Association's First Responder Competition hosted by the Public Service Department at Windward Campus, March 11, 2023
..... Dr. Jonda Halcomb
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Halcomb stated the Texas Public Service Teacher Association's First Responder Competition hosted by the Public Service Department was held on March 11, 2023 at Windward Campus. The annual competition attracted 683 student participants and the competition provides participants an area for hands-on experience to prepare them for potentially dangerous situations as next generation of law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. She introduced the College's faculty and staff that collaborated and supported the competition with the preparations for the event. Directory of the Law Enforcement Academy, John Hornsby, provided words of gratitude for the recognition. Chair Scott thanked Mr. Hornsby and congratulated the team for their success.

STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT Patricia Benavides-Dominguez

- Student Success Center Services

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez provided an overview of the services provided by the Student Success Center which include in-person tutoring, student success coaching, technology resources, and virtual reality A&P software learning. After reviewing the data points for 2022-2023 through March, she stated they are on track to surpass 2021-2022 data points.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORTDr. Mark Escamilla

- Texas Administrators of Continuing Education (TACE) Keynote, April 13, 2023
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Escamilla stated he was invited to attend and keynote the Texas Administrators of Continuing Education Conference in Austin on April 13, 2023. The College was represented with a strong contingent and he discussed the Commission on Community College Finance, and the implications of House Bill 8.

- Oso Creek Campus Grand Opening, April 21, 2023
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Oso Creek Campus had its Grand Opening on April 21, 2023 and it was attended by several hundred people. Dr. Escamilla thanked the Del Mar College staff and faculty who arranged the event which was a huge success.

Chair Scott provided comments of gratitude to all involved regarding the Oso Creek Campus grand opening celebration.

- TACC Quarterly Meeting, April 26, 2023
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Escamilla attended the quarterly meeting of the Texas Association of Community Colleges with House Bill 8 being the forefront of discussion.

- TACC Legislative Committee Meeting, May 3, 2023
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Escamilla continues his attendance at the May 3, 2023 Legislative Committee meeting with continued discussion of House Bill 8.

The Order of Agenda items was changed by Chair Scott.

4. Discussion and possible action related to recommendation of Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Jonizo Cain-Calloway, Professor of English Dr. Jonda Halcomb
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Halcomb presented Dr. Jonizo Cain-Calloway to the Board for consideration of Professor Emeritus. She stated that Dr. Cain-Calloway has provided over 25 years of service to the English Department. During her tenure, Dr. Cain-Calloway demonstrated distinguished leadership and notable dedication to the students, the College, and the community. She helped to establish the Joseph and Mabe Cain Scholarship in honor of her parents. Dr. Halcomb read a resolution in honor of Dr. Cain-Calloway and recommended the Board approve her Professor Emeritus status. Chair Scott expressed the Board's gratitude to Dr. Cain-Calloway. Dr. Cain-Calloway provided words of appreciation and gratitude.

Regent Adame made a motion to adopt the resolution conferring the status of Professor Emeritus to Dr. Jonizo Cain-Calloway. 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, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb in favor.

- 5. Discussion and possible action related to recommendation of Professor Emeritus status to Ronald M. Huskin, Professor of Sociology.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb (Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Halcomb presented Professor Ron Huskin to the Board for consideration of Professor Emeritus. She stated Professor Huskin has provided 21 years of service to the Social Sciences Department. During his tenure, Professor Huskin demonstrated distinguished leadership and notable dedication to the students, the College, and the community. Dr. Halcomb read a resolution in honor of Professor Huskin and recommended the Board approve his Professor Emeritus status. Chair Scott expressed the Board’s gratitude to Professor Huskin. Professor Huskin provided words of appreciation and gratitude.

Regent Loeb made a motion to adopt the resolution conferring the status of Professor Emeritus to Professor Ron Huskin. Regent Babbili 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, and Loeb in favor.

STAFF REPORTS:

- DMC3 Grant - Title V HSI 5 Year Grant, \$2,782,572 Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez (Goal 1: Completion and Goal 2: Recruitment and Persistence)

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez began her presentation announcing the College was awarded a Title V HSI Grant. The name of the project is DMC 3 – Conectamos, Continuamos, Completamos (Connect, Continue and Complete). The five-year grant is for October 2023 through 2028 and the total is \$2.7 million. The purpose of the DMC3 grant is to expand and enhance support to underprepared, socially economic disadvantaged students; implement best practices, services, and mechanisms to address challenges students face in navigating complex higher ed systems; increase Hispanic and low-enrollment persistence, retention and graduation through guided pathways and enhancing onboarding processes; increase student rates through enhanced support, advising systems, intervening when students are off track. The grant will offer a year-round calendar for professional development activities that are culturally relevant, equity-minded pedagogy to improve student learning and student service outcomes for all employees.

Dr. Escamilla provided detailed commentary regarding the Title V HSI Grant and thanked the team for their persistence in applying and obtaining this Grant.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Student Enrollment Report

..... Ms. Lenora Keas, Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, and Ms. Cheryl Sanders
(Goal 2: Recruitment and Persistence)

Ms. Keas began the enrollment update presentation by providing an overview of enrollment which included information from the State of Texas Biennium; base year for contact hours, formula funding, credit headcount and contact hours, dual credit, and annual credit and continuing education contact hours. Ms. Keas stated the Texas Legislature funds community colleges on a base year during periods beginning the summer semester of the even numbered years prior to a legislative session.

Ms. Keas introduced Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez who explained that although the College is on par in comparison to other large colleges with overall enrollment decreases, we are higher in continuing education contact hours. Texas community colleges receive success points based on this model. Currently, the College is serving approximately 12,871 students and the number is trending up 1.9%.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez noted the College is in the middle of registering for the summer and fall, and reviewed the headcount totals for the College as well as our peer group totals. A 2% increase in enrollment in Continuing Education has been noted for the last three academic years. The top 5 programs by 2021-2022 awards conferred include Nurse Education – 14 BSN, 118 AA, 176 AAS, 5 certificates; Liberal Arts – 163 AA degrees; Business Administration – 105 AA degrees; Welding – 11 AAS, 112 certificates; and Process Technology – 87 AAS, 10 certificates. Healthcare Services Continuing Education has the largest enrollment for 2021-2022.

Ms. Cheryl Sanders provided information regarding the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan which includes Goal 1 – Recruitment, Goal 2 – Onboarding, and Goal 3 – Persistence. The objectives of Goal 1 include increasing targeted outreach efforts featuring strategically recruited employees, alumni, and students, and increasing community awareness of financial support (grants, loans, scholarships, and other funding sources) opportunities for postsecondary education. The objectives of Goal 2 include setting baselines and targets such as increasing utilization of financial aid resources and scholarships. The objectives for Goal 3 increase Dual Credit student matriculation to Del Mar College, increase success and completion of male students of color, and increase the retention of students identified as “at-risk.”

Ms. Sanders provided information regarding the College partnerships with third-party companies that specialize in target registration utilizing social media platforms and direct student outreach. The companies partnered with were Motimatic and Graduation Alliance.

A robust conversation took place among Dr. Escamilla, Ms. Benavides-Dominguez, Dr. Jonda Halcomb, Ms. Lenora Keas, and Regents.

Ms. Sanders announced the College chose CampusWorks as the Strategic Enrollment Consultant that will assign an enrollment management consultant who will work with the College to develop a specific project schedule.

Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Ms. Cheryl Sanders, Dr. Leonard Rivera, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Preliminary Budget Update Mr. Raul Garcia
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Dr. Escamilla provided introductory comments and introduced Mr. Raul Garcia. Mr. Garcia began by stating he is presenting the best information currently available pending external factors needed to finalize the estimated state appropriations and property tax collections. The College's State appropriation revenues will be finalized once the legislative process for the proposed new Texas Community Colleges funding model, also recognized as HB 8, SB 1201, has run its course.

Mr. Garcia introduced Dr. Catherine West who provided a review of our Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) participation in their awards for excellence in reporting. To be able to participate in these Awards for Excellence, an entity must have best business practices in place, and must meet stringent criteria for each one of these reports. The Awards for Excellence recognize governments that excel at having these best business practices and budget practices and is evidence that there is a spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

Dr. West introduced Ms. Jackie Landrum who provided an overview of the five phases of the budget process which include Phase I: Planning (Oct.-Jan.); Phase II: Data informed decisions (Feb.); Phase III: Review and recommendations (March – July); Phase IV: Budget approval (August); and Phase V: Property tax approval (August).

Ms. Landrum introduced Mr. John Johnson who reviewed information regarding the College's revenue challenges and assumptions. Mr. Johnson stated the budget consists of three components that include state funding, tuition and fee revenue, and property taxes. Tuition & Fees include a \$2 in-district tuition rate increase and enrollment projection adjusted to reflect current trends. Property tax includes overall tax rate unchanged, assumes a 4.3% net valuation growth, and \$300 million in new construction. State appropriations have yet to be determined during the 88th legislative session.

Dr. Escamilla provided commentary regarding assumptions and being cautiously optimistic.

Ms. Landrum proceeded with discussing preliminary expense increases which may include new program development and program growth, student support services, computer hardware and software, property insurance, security and safety, and ground maintenance. At this time, increases to salaries and benefits have yet to be determined.

Mr. Garcia, Dr. West, Ms. Landrum, Ms. McDonald, Mr. Johnson, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF) II & III Update
.....Mr. Raul Garcia
(Goal 6: *Financial Effectiveness and Affordability*)

Mr. Garcia provided the Board of Regents with historical information regarding the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF) II & III. The College received \$30.8 million which contributed to the resilience of the College throughout the pandemic and provided students with much-needed financial support. Mr. Garcia stated the HEERF Advisory Board and Dr. Escamilla helped shape the spending plan which included three categories – student support, long-term sustainability of the College, and health and safety. After reviewing the investments in health and academic upgrades, He reported that the College spent and collected the full grant award of \$30.8 million. The team did an incredible job advising the wide range of HEERF grant stakeholders, and verified all grant expenditures were made in accordance with grant requirements. Mr. Garcia indicated that the College is well-positioned to transition to the grant closeout phase.

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

Ms. McQueen reviewed the 88th Legislative Session bill deadlines and numbers of bills filed, passed, and vetoed. There are 195 bills being monitored by the College which include legislation regarding appropriations, TXCCCF, tuition/financial aid/loans, property taxes/appraisals, cyber/IT, curriculum/workforce/dual credit/transfer, and campus safety. She reviewed the priority bills being monitored which include the Community College Finance Reform (HB 8 & SB 2539), Texas Education Opportunity Grants (TEOG, HB 4722 & SB 2363), Cybersecurity and IT Modernization (HB 584 & SB 1201), Clinical Nursing Sites (HB 4684 & SB 458), and Texas Transfer Framework (HB 3486 & SB 1887). She also reviewed the movement of some of the bills and their current status.

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

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:
Regular Board Meeting, April 11, 2023
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)
2. Acceptance of Investments for April, 2023
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)
3. Acceptance of Financials for March, 2023
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Regent Crull made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. 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 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb, in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

At 3:15 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

6. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:
 - A. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.072**: (Real Property Deliberation), regarding the potential purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property with possible discussion and action in open session; and

- B. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.074(a)(1)**: (Personnel Matters), regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; including, 1.) Annual Evaluation of College President, 2.) Board Self-Evaluation, 3.) HR update, with possible discussion and action in open session; and

- C. **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 of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 4:22 p.m. with no action taken.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr