



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, beginning at 6:04 p.m. in the Samuel A. Meyer Board Room located at the Elpha Lee West Building Room 105 at the Fort McIntosh Campus.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mercurio Martinez Jr, President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Vice President
(arrived at 6:08 p.m.)
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary
(left at 7:05 p.m.)
Jorge "JD" Delgado
Lupita Zepeda
Esteban Rangel
Tita C. Vela *(arrived at 6:05 p.m.)*
MEMBERS ABSENT
Cynthia Mares
Michelle De La Peña

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Dianna Miller
Marisela Rodriguez
Nora R. Garza
Michael Gonzalez
Sandra Cortez
Prakash Mansinghani
Vilma Guzman
Rosario Dominguez
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Robert Ochoa
Heriberto Hernandez

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Martinez called the meeting to order. Dr. Carranza called the roll. A quorum of the members was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2019

Dr. Carranza moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rangel; motion carried.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.
Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect the presence of Ms. Vela.

RECOGNITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL, AND NEW PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, announced the new hires: Omelia Arreola, Information Literacy Librarian; Miguel E. Flores, Secretary Continuing Ed. & Adult Ed. (South); Jorge A. Guerrero, Purchasing Clerk; Monica Santa Cruz, Workforce Development Enrollment Specialist; Cordelia Rodriguez Sarabia, Kinesiology Instructor (Temporary); Dr. Horacio Salinas, Dean of Arts & Sciences; Ignacio Silva, Computer Information Systems Instructor; Dongyeol Yeo, Professor of Associate Degree Nursing; Emanuel Villanueva, Computer Aided Draft & Design Instructor (Temporary); Edgar Gomez, Dual Enrollment Coordinator; and Claudia M. Rodriguez, Lead Financial Aid Coordinator.

Dr. Dianna Miller, Dean of Health Sciences/Nursing Program Director, announced that the Associate Degree Nursing Program is ranked #1 in Texas. This is the third year in a row that the program has been #1. She recognized the faculty members: Melissa Guidry, Connie Madrigal, Dr. Manuel Gonzalez, Janet Johnson, Dongyeol Yeo, Michael Martinez, Jose Luis Santos, and Marissa Jimenez. Dr. Marisela Rodriguez,

Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, recognized Dr. Miller as well as the faculty.

Dr. Ricardo Solis announced that Laredo College has received a credit rating from Standard & Poor's. He asked Judge Martinez to elaborate. Judge Martinez announced that Laredo College has improved rating from AA- to AA.

Dr. Nora R. Garza, Vice President for Resource Development, announced that Laredo College is a member of the Texas Space Grant Consortium.

Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Senior Director of Strategic & External Initiatives, presented the different college brandings at the early college high school at LBJ High School. Dr. Ricardo Solis recognized the Marketing team and Mr. Obed Guerrero.

Ms. Sandra Cortez, Dean of Community Education, announced that Laredo College is a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site. She also announced the services available from the cosmetology program.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, congratulated the new faculty and staff and Dr. Horacio Salinas on his permanent appointment. He reported on: faculty evaluations, dual enrollment committee, memorial brick project, TCCTA conference, graduation date change, and invited the Board to Faculty Senate meetings.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT

Ms. Vilma Guzman, Associated Student Organization President, reported on their December/January projects: Retama Nursing home and Juarez-Lincoln Elementary community service, MAES teddy bear drive, MAES donations to the Trading Station, LC traditional posadas, student organizations' training, FunFest, and Trading Station donations from Dr. Carranza.

CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Rosario Dominguez, Classified Staff Council President, introduced the council's officers: Vice President – Elizabeth Calderon, Secretary – Victoria Martinez, Treasurer – Lupita Martinez, and Sergeant at Arms – Roy Tovar. The council will be participating in FunFest.

CONSENT AGENDA

Judge Martinez called on legal counsel for an exception on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Rusty Meurer, College Attorney, noted the Item 12 - *Approval of Contract for Water Line Project* would be the exception to the Consent Agenda. Judge Martinez recognized the presence of Ms. Leven-Ramos. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Item 9 - December 2019 Monthly Financial Report
- Item 10 - November 2019 Quarterly Investment Report
- Item 11 - Approval to Join the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance
- Item 13 - Approval of Contract with Condensed Curriculum International for Continuing Education Certificate Programs
- Item 14 - Approval for the Purchase and Lease of Copier Machines from Xerox Corporation
- Item 15 - Approval of Matching Funds for 2020 – 2021 Texas Workforce Commission JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) Grant Application
- Item 16 - Approval of Information Technology Support and Maintenance Fees as Approved by the FY 2020 Budget
- Item 17 - Approval of Purchase of Computer Equipment (PCs) for the College of Health Sciences and the Cigarroa Science Complex as part of the Facilities Master Plan Phase III

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT
FOR WATER LINE PROJECT**
- MR. CESAR VELA

Judge Martinez called on legal counsel for proper terminology of the motion for this item. Mr. Meurer noted that under the government code specific for awarding construction contracts requires “that the governmental body select the offeror that submits a proposal that offers the best value to the governmental body based on selection criteria”.

Mr. Cesar Vela, Chief Financial Officer, asked that the Board approve a contract with Azar Services LLC in the amount of \$411,298 and to approve the use of \$49,298.00 from the Physical Plant Fund Balance to fully fund the project. He provided background on the project. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the use of \$49,298 from the Physical Plant Fund Balance. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Mr. Meurer suggested the following motion: “Based on the criteria by the Laredo College request for proposal, I move that the Laredo College approve and award a contract for the water line project to the offeror that offers the best value to the Laredo College that offeror being Azar Services LLC in the amount of \$411,298 and I instruct administration to repair and execute the proper construction contract to carry out the project”. Dr. Carranza moved to accept the motion suggested. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE
ACTION**

**APPROVAL OF REVISIONS
TO THE 2019 - 2020
LAREDO COLLEGE
ACADEMIC CALENDAR - DR.
FRED SOLIS**

Mr. Robert Ochoa, Associate Vice President for Student Services, on behalf of Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment, presented the revisions to the 2019 - 2020 academic calendar which includes changing graduation from Saturday, May 9th to Friday, May 8th and to include the Bachelor of Science Nursing graduation of June 25th. He briefly explained the graduation ceremony. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the revisions presented. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2020 -
2021 LAREDO COLLEGE
ACADEMIC CALENDAR - DR.
FRED SOLIS**

Mr. Ochoa on behalf of Dr. Fred Solis asked the Board to approve the 2020 - 2021 academic calendar as presented. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved to approve the academic calendar as presented. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PROCESSING
FEES FOR THE DIVISION OF
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
PROGRAMS - DR. MARISELA
RODRIGUEZ**

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez asked that the Board approve a \$10 application-processing fee for nursing programs, allied health programs, and adult education programs. The money would become available for scholarships in these programs. Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Ms. Leven-Ramos was not present for the vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND
FUTURE PROGRAMS - DR.
RICARDO J. SOLIS**

Dr. Ricardo Solis reported that he attended an Apple summit. Dr. Solis asked Dr. Marisela Rodriguez to elaborate on the upcoming Apple visit. Dr. Rodriguez reported that on February 13, 2020, Apple representatives will visit Laredo College to introduce new higher education initiatives, which aligns with LC's Quality Enhancement Plan.

Dr. Ricardo Solis provided an update on the aviation program partnership with Texas State Technical College and the airport.

Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, provided an update on a Homeland Security studies program.

**SPRING 2020 ENROLLMENT
UPDATE – DR. FRED SOLIS**

Mr. Robert Ochoa on behalf of Dr. Fred Solis reported on student enrollment for Spring 2020 as of today is: 10,318 headcount plus 1,564 headcount for flexible entry courses and wintermester for a total of 11,882; credit hours are 72,502; and contact hours are 1,413,072.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORTS
CAMPUS POLICE,
PERSONNEL,
TRAVEL, AND
OTHER REPORTS**

The reports were provided for information purposes.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

February 27, 2020 – Regular Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:24 p.m., Mr. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.