



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, September 24, 2020, beginning at 6:01 p.m. in the Samuel A. Meyer Board Room located at the Elpha Lee West Building Room 105 at the Fort McIntosh Campus. Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus and pursuant to Governor Greg Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020, some of Laredo College Board members participated via Zoom videoconference.

**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mercurio Martinez Jr, President  
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Vice President  
*(arrived at 6:02 p.m.)*  
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary  
Cynthia Mares *(participated via Zoom)*  
Jorge "JD" Delgado  
Lupita Zepeda *(participated via Zoom)*  
Esteban Rangel *(arrived at 6:16 p.m.)*  
Tita C. Vela *(participated via Zoom at 6:07 p.m.)*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michelle De La Peña

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.  
Rusty Meurer  
Raquel Pena *(participated via Zoom)*  
Jesus Conrado Galaviz  
*(participated via Zoom)*  
Prakash Mansinghani  
*(participated via Zoom)*  
Cesar E. Vela Jr.  
Michael Gonzalez  
Federico Solis  
Marisela Rodriguez  
Homer Paez  
Carolyn Schmies

**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 FOR REGULAR  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING OF AUGUST 27,  
2020**

Ms. Mares moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Delgado; motion carried.

Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect the presence of Ms. Leven-Ramos.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

No one signed up for public testimony.

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

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, introduced the new hires – Dr. Claudette Quintanilla, Assistant Professor of Government; Sandra Garza, Lead Financial Aid Coordinator; Jessica L. Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Radiologic Technology; and Sonia Flores, Faculty Secretary Business Communications.

**FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

No one was present.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT  
ORGANIZATION REPORT**

Ms. Raquel Pena, Associate Dean of Students, introduced Jesus Conrado Galaviz, the new Associated Student Organization President for 2020 – 2021. Mr. Galaviz introduced himself and provided his bio. He reported that: 1) the ASO is recruiting new members for vacant positions; and 2) working on budget for this year's activities.

**FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Judge Martinez noted that Mr. Prakash Mansinghani is now on Zoom for the Faculty Senate Report.

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, reported: 1) Faculty Senate elections were scheduled in Spring but due to COVID, they were postponed to Fall. The virtual elections took place and he introduced the new representatives – Victoria Rodriguez, Vice President; and senators-at-large – Dr. Tayo Penosen (Social & Behavioral Sciences Department), Manuel Ramirez (Allied Health Department), and Jeannette Johnson (Nursing Department).

Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect the presence of Ms. Vela.

Dr. Ricardo Solis commended the ASO President and Faculty Senate President for their willingness to work with their organizations and adjust during the pandemic.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Item 8 – Approval of Information Technology Support and Maintenance Services as Approved by the FY 2021 Budget
- Item 9 – Preliminary August 2020 Financial Report
- Item 10 – Ratification of 3-Year Contract Extension with Campuslogic for Financial Aid Software Solution

Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**APPROVAL OF BANK DEPOSITORY CONTRACT – MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Chief Financial Officer, asked the Board to approve a two-year contract with Falcon International Bank for bank depository services. He noted that the Finance & Audit Committee scored the three proposals that were received. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect the presence of Mr. Rangel.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS TO THE LAREDO COLLEGE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PHASE 3 BOND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS – MR. CESAR VELA**

- A. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER**
- B. EXPANSION OF DIESEL SHOPS AT THE RAQUEL GONZALEZ AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY BUILDING**
- C. ROOF REPAIRS**
- D. CONSTRUCTION OF TRUCK DRIVING RANGE AT SOUTH CAMPUS**

Mr. Vela presented additional projects for the Board to consider adding to the Facilities Master Plan Phase 3 bond construction projects due to bond construction savings.

Mr. Delgado moved to “approve adding the Construction Projects outlined in item 12 to the Laredo College Facilities Master Plan Phase 3 Bond Construction Projects. The construction of the new law enforcement training center will occur on the condition that the Laredo College and the US Department of Homeland Security enter into a binding long term memorandum of understanding with a term of up to 10 years”. Discussion followed. Ms. Leven-Ramos called for the vote. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Mares, Ms. Zepeda, and Ms. Vela voted against.

Dr. Carranza moved to approve the inclusion of the remaining projects to the Facilities Master Plan Phase 3. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**SOFFIT AND LED LIGHTING  
UPGRADES AT SOUTH  
CAMPUS**

**APPROVAL OF  
MEMORANDUM OF  
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
LAREDO COLLEGE AND  
WEBB COUNTY FOR USE OF  
LAREDO COLLEGE  
FACILITY AS PER BOARD  
POLICY GD(LOCAL):  
COMMUNITY USE OF  
COLLEGE DISTRICT  
FACILITIES – MR. MICHAEL  
GONZALEZ**

Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Senior Director of Strategic and External Initiatives, asked the Board to authorize the College President to enter into an Interlocal/MOU agreement with Webb County in order to utilize the Martinez Fine Arts Center for jury panels. Mr. Gonzalez answered questions from the Board. Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL FOR A REDUCED  
TEXTBOOK FEE TO  
MINIMIZE TEXTBOOK  
COSTS – DR. FEDERICO  
SOLIS**

Dr. Federico Solis, Vice President for Student Success & Enrollment, asked the Board to approve expanding the reduced textbook fee pilot program to include more classes. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF UPDATES ON  
LAB FEES AND STUDENT  
LIABILITY INSURANCE FEES  
– DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ**

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, Provost/Vice President for Instruction, asked that the Board approve including Homeland Security program fees and update lab fees and liability insurance fees by discipline. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSS THE TEXAS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
POLICY PRIORITIES FOR  
THE 87<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS  
LEGISLATURE  
RECOMMENDATIONS AS  
DISCUSSED IN THE  
SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
– MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos reported on the Joint Legislative Committee meeting that she attended regarding the legislative appropriations request for the 87<sup>th</sup> legislative session. The Board was provided with the Texas Association of Community Colleges policy priorities for their information.

**INFORMATION ITEMS  
MARKETING TEAM UPDATE  
– MR. MICHAEL GONZALEZ**

Mr. Michael Gonzalez provided data on social media activities, media coverage, and awards received. He recognized Ms. Carolyn Schmies and Mr. Obed Guerrero for their work.

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

None presented.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –  
MR. HOMER PAEZ**

Mr. Homer Paez, Assistant Construction Project Manager, presented the construction projects at the Fort McIntosh and South campuses.

**LAREDO COLLEGE UNITED  
WAY CAMPAIGN UPDATE –  
MS. CAROLYN SCHMIES**

Ms. Carolyn Schmies, Dean of LC South, provided an update on Laredo College's United Way campaign for 2020 – 2021. She thanked Dr. Carolina Ramos for creating the online donation form and also the United Way Committee members (Beatriz Gutierrez, Dimitri Garcia, Mary Bausman, Sara Pompa, Dr. Marissa Longoria, Gloria Ortiz, Ramiro Hernandez, Rosa Rios, Monica Cuellar, and Dennis Quiroz) for their work.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Judge Martinez announced that the Level Three Grievance Hearing Filed by a Laredo College Adjunct Faculty Member has been settled.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE  
ACTION**

**LEVEL THREE GRIEVANCE  
HEARING FILED BY A  
LAREDO COLLEGE  
ADJUNCT FACULTY  
MEMBER**

Settled.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Judge Martinez noted that the next meeting date will be Thursday, October 29, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:30 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.