

**Texas State University System
Telephonic Called Board of Regents Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 18, 2014
3:30 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Agenda Items

- 1. TSUS: Appointment of Betty J. Reynard, M.B.A., Ph.D. as president of Lamar State College-Port Arthur 2
- 2. SRSU-RGC: Begin offering courses/programs in Medina County 3

3. Adjourn

1. TSUS: Appointment of Betty J. Reynard, M.B.A., Ph.D. as president of Lamar State College-Port Arthur

Upon the Chancellor's recommendation and motion of Regent _____, seconded by Regent _____:

It was ordered that Betty Reynard, M.B.A., Ph.D. be hereby appointed as president of Lamar State College-Port Arthur, effective September 1, 2014.

Explanation

On May 23, 2014, in conformity with the Texas *Public Information Act, Government Code, Section 552.123*, Dr. Betty J. Reynard, vice president for academic affairs at Lamar Institute of Technology, was announced as the sole finalist in the Lamar State College-Port Arthur presidential search. Dr. Reynard was selected following an internal System search that began last year. She succeeds Dr. Sam Monroe, who is retiring August 31, 2014 after 49 years of service to the college, including 40 as its chief executive officer. She will assume the presidency on September 1, 2014.

Dr. Reynard earned an associate of applied science degree in dental hygiene, a bachelor's degree in secondary education, and a master's degree in educational administration from Lamar University, receiving her doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Houston.

She began her career in 1979 as a faculty member at Lamar University and moved to Lamar Institute of Technology as a program director and assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, becoming vice president for academic affairs in 2007.

2. SRSU-RGC: Begin offering courses/programs in Medina County

Upon motion of Regent _____, seconded by Regent _____, it was ordered that:

Sul Ross State University through its Rio Grande College be authorized to offer classes in Medina County through a joint partnership with Southwest Texas Junior College and the Medina Valley Independent School District. Be it further ordered that all leases and other legal documents be subject to review and approval as to legal form by the vice chancellor and general counsel.

Explanation

The Castroville area, east Medina County and far west Bexar County are experiencing phenomenal growth. The Medina Valley Independent School District (located west of San Antonio along US Hwy 90 and west of Loop 1604) serves this region including Medina county and the area west of 1604 north to Media lake and south of Lacoste. The school district reports that they are adding approximately 300 students a year to their enrollment. Community business leaders expect 600 new families to move into the area in the next year. Several 800 to 1000 unit housing developments are expected to open in the coming months and Wal-Mart is reported to have purchased property on US 90 on the east side of Castroville. Construction should begin when utilities have been completed. In addition, numerous houses have been built in the area west of 1604 in the past 3 years. The region is one of the fastest growing areas of San Antonio.

The school district has the vision to provide educational opportunities to residents, particularly those who cannot leave the region to attend college. Sul Ross-Rio Grande College has served this region through its Uvalde campus, about an hour's drive west. The school district is completing a building for a Higher Education Center to provide educational programming in the form of dual credit for their high school students and bachelor and master's degrees for graduates and area residents. They have invited Southwest Texas Junior College and Sul Ross-Rio Grande College as the sole providers of classes and degree programs. The district has been exceptionally receptive and helpful in the project offering the lease cost at 50% of the usual market rate and then discounting on a graduated yearly cost to help contain costs in the initial years. The lease for the new \$5M 12,000 sq ft building will be \$18,000 for the first year (utilities, custodian, and maintenance included) and incrementally increase each year until it reaches 50% of market value (\$.70 per sq ft) in year five. Additionally the school district has been helpful with research on needs. Surveys were administered to all senior, junior, and sophomores, as well as all faculty and staff. Student results indicate strong interest in Criminal Justice, Business, Psychology, Nursing, Biology, Mathematics, History, and Education. Faculty/staff results indicate interest in graduate programs in Counseling, Education (Reading and school Administration), and Business. Southwest Texas Junior College and Sul Ross-Rio Grande College will share startup costs with SWTJC providing the furniture and SR-RGC the technology; they will split clerical/administrative staff positions as well. Plans for an economical roll out include extending current teleconference classes to six equipped classrooms and transitioning one current faculty to anchor the center. The faculty member would be active in the community to establish RGC as a "community university" as we have done in our other three communities. Classes would begin spring 2015. The combination of teleconference and face to face classes staffed by current faculty is a very affordable strategy.

While only an estimate, we expect an initial enrollment of approximately 50 students. This will depend in part on the space sharing arrangements with SWTJC which are yet to be finalized. Additional classroom space has been offered for night courses in the adjacent high school building providing an avenue for growth when needed. Lease of classroom space at local high schools has been employed in past years in both Eagle Pass and Del Rio. We believe this to be an excellent opportunity for Sul Ross-Rio Grande College and the Texas State University System to expand at a very affordable cost with exceptional long term potential.