

MINUTES
 Regular Meeting
 BOARD OF REGENTS
 South Plains College
 May 14, 2020

The Board of Regents of South Plains College met on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom for their regular meeting with the following present: Mr. Mike Box, Chairman; Mr. Bobby Neal, Vice Chairman; Mr. Ronny Alexander, Secretary; and other members of the Board; Mr. Pete Pettiet; and Mr. Richard Ellis. Others present were Dr. Ryan Gibbs; Ms. Teresa Green; Dr. Stan DeMerritt; Mr. Stephen John; Ms. Kati Moody, of the News-Press; Mr. Jody Rose, of KLVY; Ms. Myrna Whitehead, News and Information Coordinator; and Dr. Robin Satterwhite.

Guests present: Robyn Reaves, Administrative Assistant to the President.

Mr. Box gave the opening prayer.

Mr. Box led the pledge to the United States Flag.

The Chairman asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes; there being none, Mr. Neal made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Alexander, vote to approve was unanimous.

The Chairman then called on the Vice President for Academic Affairs for his report. Dr. Gibbs reported that the 38th Annual Employee Recognition Banquet. See exhibit #4472. The banquet was held on Thursday, May 7 in an online format due to the COVID-19 restrictions. He also presented the curriculum changes for the 2020-2021 academic year. See exhibit #4473. Mr. Ellis made the motion to accept the changes, followed by a second from Ms. Pettiet. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The Chairman called on the Vice President for Student Affairs for his report. Dr. DeMerritt informed the Board of the progress being made to mail graduation boxes to 2020 graduates in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students stated that students will receive their diplomas and graduation boxes sooner than originally thought. He also stated that the Student Awards were held in a virtual format. Student will still receive their awarded certificates through the mail.

Mr. Box then called on the Vice President for Business Affairs to report. Ms. Green presented the Tax Office Report and Financial Reports. The Chairman asked if there were any questions regarding the reports, there being none, and Mr. Alexander moved that the Board accept the reports as shown in exhibits #4474 and #4475. Second by Mr. Neal and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Green also discussed the CARES Act funding and how those funds are being dispersed. South Plains College recently received three grants from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for a total of \$5,507,809. We received \$2,591,110 to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Students must be currently enrolled, in good academic standing, and must complete an application to be

considered for the financial aid grant. Such things as child care, emergency funds, food assistance, housing assistance, medical care, transportation, course materials, and technology assistance are listed as reasons for aid to students on the application. Counselors are contacting each student that applies for the funds. These funds must go directly to students and may not be used to pay tuition, fees, room or board. We also received an additional \$2,591,109 for the Institutional Portion of the CARES Act. These funds can be expended to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus. It can also be used to reimburse the college for refunds to students for room and board, tuition and other fees. We are also allowed to expend these funds as emergency financial aid grants to students. We plan to reimburse the college for the \$270,000 refunded to students for room and board. We will use the funds to make sure all faculty have computers that will allow them to teach online classes as needed. We have assembled a committee that will look at the best options to use these funds as allowed in the CARES Act. We also received \$325,590 for developing Hispanic-serving institutions. These funds may be used to defray institutional expenses, which may include lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with the transition to distance education, faculty and staff training, and payroll.

Mr. Box called upon the Vice President for Institutional Advancement for his report. Mr. John presented a report on the amount of scholarships that have been administered by the Scholarship Office for the 2018-20 academic year (Exhibit #4476). As of May 7, 2020, \$2,442,212 in scholarship funds have been awarded to 1,294 students. Of this amount, \$961,214 has been provided by the South Plains College Foundation for 853 students. Over the past five years, scholarships funded by the SPC Foundation has increased 18 percent. Mr. John reported that the SPC Foundation Board of Directors approved the disbursement of \$1,058,250 in scholarship funds for the 2020-21 academic year. The Scholarship Office has received completed scholarship applications from 929 students that have been reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. The office has begun making scholarship offers to incoming and returning students.

The Chairman called on the President for his report. Dr. Satterwhite provided a construction update stating that work is ahead of schedule on the Science Building renovation. He also provided a COVID-19 update. He informed the Board that students were able to complete the Spring semester in an online format, and students in multiple areas are being brought in within the CDC guidelines to complete classes that need to be completed in person. He also provided an update on the upcoming budget year. A preliminary budget will be presented the Board over the summer. Finally, Dr. Satterwhite informed the Board that the Student Awards Banquet and Employee Banquet were held in a virtual format.

Meeting adjourned.

Chairman

Secretary