



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular monthly meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, beginning at 6:02 p.m. in Adolfo C. and Maria de Jesus De La Garza Building Room 101, at the Fort McIntosh Campus, West End Washington Street, Laredo, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rangel called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Esteban Rangel, President
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian
Erica Benavides Garcia
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Lizzy Newsome
Karina "Kari" Elizondo

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Ruben Villarreal
Gilberto Martinez, Jr., Ed.D.
Jessica Treviño
Patricia Barrera
Andrea Lopez
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Adriana Alexander (*Ms. Ramos moved to excuse Ms. Alexander's absence. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed*)

3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

4. RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS – MR. RUBEN VILLARREAL

4.A. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM RECEIVES CONTINUED ACCREDITATION

The LC Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program has been granted Continuing Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), effective July 16, 2025. The following individuals were recognized: Manuel Ramirez, Professor EMS Program/Program Director; Mauro Ramon, Assistant Professor of EMS Program; Gregorio Salas, Assistant Professor of EMS Program; Herbert Serna, EMS Instructor /Lab Coordinator; Vicente Mancha, EMS Instructor; and Dr. Esmeralda Vargas, Dean of Health Sciences.

4.C. INTRODUCTION OF PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL ACTIONS

The new hires/personnel actions for the month were announced – Alejandra Buentello, Registered Nurse (South); Marco Castillo, Enrollment Coach; Carlos Esparza, Journeyman Electrician (South); Roxanne A. Gardner, Custodial Service Manager; Lisa M. Gonzalez, Staff Assistant Advising Center; Carlos G. Miranda, HVAC Technician; Nicolas D. Pohlenz, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations; Karla Rivas, Financial Aid Coordinator; Denise G. Rubio, Staff Assistant Community and Media Relations; Isai Olivas, Instructional Assistant - (Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning); Joana Santillana, Community and Media Relations Director; Karina Benavides, Diesel Lab Assistant (South); Stephanie R. Moreno, Teacher Assistant (South); Karina Saucedo, Financial Aid Coordinator; Diana P. Juarez

Berlanga, LEAD Program Coordinator; and Blanca Teran, Palomino Pantry Assistant.

4.B. STUDENT RECOGNITION – MS. KAREN HINOJOSA

Karen Hinojosa, a recent LC graduate, was recognized for her accomplishments.

Mr. Rangel recognized Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, in attendance.

5. FACULTY ADVISORY – DR. GILBERTO MARTINEZ, JR.

Dr. Gilberto Martinez, Jr., Faculty Senate President, reported on recent legislation for Faculty Senates.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.A. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS.

ERNESTINA “TITA” CANTU VELA

Ms. Vela provided a recap of the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on July 29th.

6.B. PROGRAM/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Leven-Ramos provided a recap of the Program/Policy Committee meeting held on July 29th.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.A. STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA/MS. JESSICA TREVIÑO

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, provided an enrollment update, which included an enrollment timeline and enrollment numbers for Summer Session I, Summer Session II, and Fall. She also provided information on Summer Commencement.

7.B. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS (NALEO) ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT – MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL

Mr. Rangel provided a recap of the NALEO Annual Conference that he attended (topics included immigration, education, health, energy, trade, foreign policy, birthright citizenship, immigrants’ mental health, and home ownership for Latinos).

7.C. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE DESIGNATION REQUEST – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, informed the Board that a letter of concurrence was issued for CAMILI Forwarding Inc. for a foreign trade zone designation.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Liendo moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Agenda Item 8.A. – Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting of May 29, 2025 and the Board Budget Workshop of June 25, 2025
- Agenda Item 8.B. – Approval of Donor Requested Endowment Matching Funds
- Agenda Item 8.C. – June 2025 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 8.D. – May 2025 Quarterly Investment Report
- Agenda Item 8.E. – Approval for Purchase of Anatomage Table for the Natural Sciences Department
- Agenda Item 8.F. – Approval of Contract for Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance
- Agenda Item 8.G. – Approval for Purchase of Air Compressor for Diesel Shop Expansion Project
- Agenda Item 8.H. – Approval to Purchase Annual Licenses for Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor
- Agenda Item 8.I. – Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for the Transportation Technology Program
- Agenda Item 8.J. – Approval for the Purchase of Ellucian Journey Software
- Agenda Item 8.K. – Approval for the Purchase of Furniture for the Forensic Sciences Program

- Agenda Item 8.L. – Approval for the Purchase Table for De La Garza 101 Board Room
- Agenda Item 8.M. – Approval for Argos Software License Agreement and Maintenance Extension
- Agenda Item 8.N. – Approval of Modifications to Laredo College Board Policy CAK(LOCAL) - APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE SOURCES: INVESTMENTS
- Agenda Item 8.O. – Approval of Laredo College Police Dispatch Consoles. Possible Closed Session Discussion as Permitted by Government Code §551.076

Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

9.A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING MATTERS RELATED TO APPRAISAL ROLL AND TAX RATE – MR. CESAR VELA/MS. PATRICIA BARRERA

9.A.1. Approve the 2025 Certification of the Appraisal Roll

Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, presented the 2025 Certified Tax Roll Values. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the 2025 certification of the appraisal roll as presented by Ms. Patricia Barrera. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

9.A.2. Approve the Anticipated Collections for 2025 of 100%

Ms. Barrera provided information on collections. She read the Certification of Excess Collection and Anticipated Collection Rate. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the anticipated collections for 2025 of 100%. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

9.B. APPROVAL OF DESIGNATED NON-BUSINESS DAYS FOR OPEN RECORDS REQUEST – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA

Ms. Andrea Lopez, Associate Vice President of Compliance, presented the proposed designated non-business days calculated for requests for public information pursuant to the new Texas Government Code section 552.0031 and 552.0031(f). Ms. Vela moved to approve. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Elizondo voted against).

9.C. RATIFICATION OF LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE ASPEN-PRESIDENTS & TRUSTEES COLLABORATIVE – MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL

Mr. Rangel reported that the letter of support was submitted and received. Dr. Ramirez provided information on the collaborative. Ms. Liendo moved to approve the ratification of the letter. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

9.D. DISCUSS PROVISIONS OF TEXAS SENATE BILL 37 REQUIRING ABOLISHMENT OF THE FACULTY SENATE IN ITS CURRENT FORM, ACT AS NEEDED TO FORM A NEW FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION, AND CHANGE LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY BGC(LOCAL) AND BOARD REGULATION BD(REGULATION) – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, provided a brief overview of Senate Bill 37 (purpose, governance and oversight, key areas, and implications). Discussion followed. No action was taken.

9.E. ADOPT A RESOLUTION ABOLISHING FACULTY SENATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANDATES OF

Dr. Ramirez provided background information on abolishing the Faculty Senate as per SB 37. Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING
COMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS SENATE BILL 37 AND THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE
EXISTING FACULTY SENATE**

WHEREAS, the 89th Texas Legislature enacted Texas Senate Bill 37 (“Senate Bill 37”), amending Chapter 51 of the Texas Education Code to add Section 51.3522 (“Section 51.3522”), governing the establishment and recognition of faculty senates and similar representative bodies at public institutions of higher education in Texas;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 37 provides that only the governing board of a public institution of higher education may establish a faculty senate;

WHEREAS, under Section 51.3522, any such faculty body must be established pursuant to a policy adopted by the institution’s governing board which sets forth procedures for the selection of members and the scope of the body’s representative authority;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 37 further provides that any existing faculty senate or similar body not created pursuant to Section 51.3522, and not ratified by the governing board by September 1, 2025, shall be abolished as a matter of law;

WHEREAS, the current faculty senate at Laredo College was not created pursuant to a policy adopted under Section 51.3522, and does not meet the requirements of any such policy currently in effect;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Laredo College (also referred to as “the Board”) desires to reconstitute a faculty representative body in accordance with the requirements of Senate Bill 37 and establish a timeline for accomplishing same.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of Laredo College that:

1. The Board finds that the existing faculty senate was not established in compliance with the provisions of Section 51.3522 of the Texas Education Code set to become effective on September 1, 2025, and does not meet the requirements of any policy adopted by the Board pursuant to that Section.
2. In accordance with Senate Bill 37, the existing faculty senate shall be abolished effective September 1, 2025;
3. The Board will adopt a formal policy under Section 51.3522 to govern the future establishment of a representative faculty body to be known as the Faculty Council, consistent with state law and the best interests of Laredo College;
4. The Board will adopt a timeline for the formation of a Faculty Council; and
5. The administration is directed to prepare and present a proposed policy for the Board’s consideration addressing the formation, structure, selection procedures, and responsibilities of the future Faculty Council, in accordance with the requirements of Section 51.3522.

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of Laredo College on this 30th day of July, 2025.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve. Ms. Vela and Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.F. APPROVE A
TIMELINE FOR THE
CREATION OF A FACULTY
COUNCIL PURSUANT TO
TEXAS SENATE BILL 37,
INCLUDING DATES TO
ADOPT A BOARD POLICY
THAT INCORPORATES
REQUIREMENTS OF
SENATE BILL 37,
APPOINT MEMBERS, AND
ESTABLISH AN
EFFECTIVE DATE – DR.
MINITA RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramirez stated that staff recommends the Laredo College Board of Trustees approve a timeline for establishing a Faculty Council, as required by Texas Senate Bill 37. The timeline was provided in the Board meeting materials. Ms. Liendo moved to approve the timeline. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:40 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- Agenda Item 10.A. – Meeting with the Laredo College President and Laredo College Attorney Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.074 and 551.071 to

discuss a Recommendation for a Reduction in Force Due to a Program Change Resulting from a Termination or Curtailment in Federal and State Government Funding Sources

- Agenda Item 10.B. – Closed Session Meeting Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 to Discuss with Laredo College President and Laredo College Attorney Legal Issues Related to Delegation of Authority to the College President to Conduct Reductions in Force When Federal or State Grant Funding is Terminated or Curtailed and Discuss Modifying Laredo College Board Policy DMC(LOCAL): TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT-REDUCTION IN FORCE to Enable the Delegation
- Agenda Item 10.C. – Discussion to Review the Board Self-Evaluation Results as Required by Board Policy BCG(LOCAL): BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION - BOARD EVALUATION and by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Principles of Accreditation. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:34 p.m. Mr. Rangel noted that no action was taken during executive session.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

11.A. APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FOR A REDUCTION IN FORCE DUE TO A PROGRAM CHANGE RESULTING FROM A TERMINATION OR CURTAILMENT IN FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING SOURCES

No action was taken.

11.B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AMEND LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY DMC(LOCAL): TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT - REDUCTION IN FORCE, TO AUTHORIZE THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO ACT WITHOUT PRIOR BOARD APPROVAL SOLELY IN CASES OF CONFIRMED LOSS OR CURTAILMENT OF FEDERAL OR STATE GRANT FUNDS, PROVIDED THAT SUCH ACTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CASE-BY-CASE LEGAL REVIEW AND REPORTING TO THE BOARD AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to approve modifications to LC Board policy DMC(LOCAL) as discussed in executive session. Ms. Liendo and Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Elizondo voted against and Ms. Newsome was not present for the vote).

11.C. REVIEW THE BOARD SELF-EVALUATION RESULTS AS REQUIRED BY BOARD POLICY BCG(LOCAL): BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION - BOARD EVALUATION AND BY SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES (SACSCOC) PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the Board self-evaluation results as discussed in executive session. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Newsome was not present for the vote).

12. PRESIDENT’S REMARKS AND REPORTS

12.A. CAMPUS POLICE, PERSONNEL, AND TRAVEL REPORTS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ Reports were provided to the Board in the meeting materials.

12.B. PRESIDENT’S REMARKS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ Dr. Ramírez remarked on the following:

- College activities and trainings
- budget

13. UPCOMING EVENTS: July 29 – August 2, 2025 – FlamencoFest

Thursday, July 31, 2025, 3:00 p.m. – IME Becas Memorandum of Understanding Signing at the Elpha Lee West Building Board Room

Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 4:00 p.m. – Associate Nursing Degree and Vocational Nursing Pinning Ceremony at the Martinez Fine Arts Center

Friday, August 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – Summer Graduation at the Martinez Fine Arts Center

Monday, August 11, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – Convocation at the Martinez Fine Arts Center

14. NEXT MEETING DATES: Thursday, August 7, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

15. ADJOURNMENT At 8:40 p.m., Mr. Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leven-Ramos and Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

Mr. Esteban Rangel
President

Ms. Jackie Leven-Ramos
Secretary