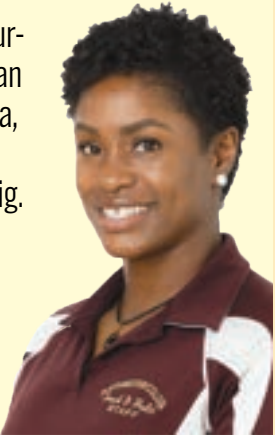


Sports

All-American track coach

Toni Smith, a four-time All-American at U of Oklahoma, has the track team thinking big.

Story Page 14



News

CLEVER AS A FOX

Former Mexico President Vicente Fox says college students are key to the future.

Story Page 3

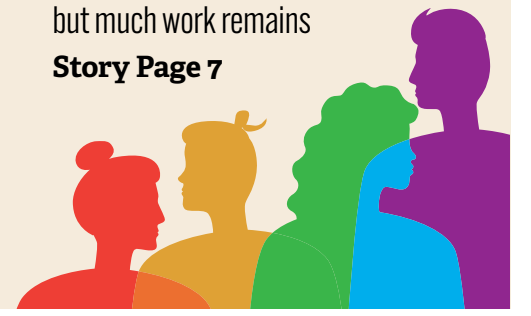


Campus

PRISM's bright Rainbow

Southwestern's LGBTQ advocacy group said college supports the community, but much work remains

Story Page 7



THE SUN SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

AN ACP HALL OF FAME NEWSPAPER

MARCH 22, 2024 / ISSUE 3

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

GOV BOARD EXTENDS SANCHEZ'S CONTRACT TWO YEARS

BY ALEXA LIMA

Dr. Mark Sanchez is not quite ready for the beach.

On a 3-1 vote the 51-year-old Southwestern College president received a two-year extension that will take him through June 2026. Trustee Corina Soto opposed and said he should get a one-year extension and be placed on a helping plan. Soto also dissented on a largely positive review of Sanchez conducted by the governing board.



DR. MARK SANCHEZ

Sanchez's new contract includes a 6.5 percent cost of living increase, raising his annual salary to \$282,570. He earned \$250,000 when the college hired him March 2021. His monthly vehicle allowance will increase to \$1,700. His current contract expires this month.

Sanchez called the extension "humbling." "It made me very proud because when (the board members) did

SANCHEZ • PG 2

COLLEGE INKS EXCHANGE PACT FOR STUDENTS FROM ABU DHABI

BY HAN PSALMA

Southwestern College's service area stretches from National City to the Mexican border, and from Coronado to...Abu Dhabi.

SC is one of the 12 community colleges in the United States to host recipients of the Khotwa Scholarship, which offers students in Abu Dhabi a full ride to colleges in the U.S. and Canada to complete their Bachelor's degrees.

In contrast to other Middle Eastern study abroad programs, this scholarship aims to help students in the United Arab Emirates who are

KHOTWA • PG 2

SOCCER ROCKERS GO TO COURT



Photo By Camila A. Gonzalez / Staff

WINLESS AND WONDERFUL



Photo Courtesy of the SDUT

When the women's basketball season was about to collapse in injury, illness and incompletes, the college soccer team tossed aside its cleats and broke in some new sneakers. The brave replacements went 0-12 but are undefeated in the hearts of Southwestern College fans. **Special Section Inside**

BOARD SPLIT ON SPEECH LIMITS

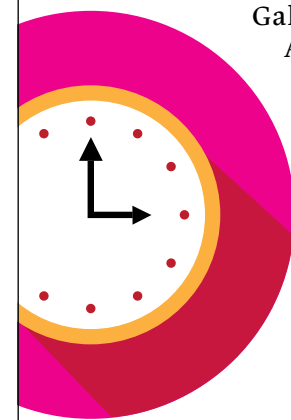
Soto, Moreno say no data supports majority's claim that three-minute limit will make meetings more 'efficient'

BY YANELLI Z. ROBLES

Three minutes on the clock and time ticking away.

It is not crunch time at a basketball game that has some Southwestern College Governing Board members calling for a foul. A recent 3-2 decision to limit all speakers to three minutes has trustees arguing whether shorter meetings in the name of efficiency are unfairly limiting the Constitutional right to free speech.

Trustees Don Dumas, Kristine Galicia-Brown and Roberto Alcantar supported a new policy that reduced the time for all speakers - including the board - from five minutes to three. Board members Robert Moreno and Corina Soto voted against it.



LESS TIME ON THE CLOCK

Robert's Rules of Order assert that elected boards may set time limits for speakers, but First Amendment advocates argue that elected officials and citizens have the right to a reasonable opportunity to address each other. Southwestern's board cut speaking time from five minutes to three for the public, employees giving reports and its own members. Trustee Moreno says that is not enough time. Trustee Soto says it is another attempt to silence her.

"It's about the efficiency of the meetings," said Dumas. "A survey went out to every constituent group and we heard back in December of 2022 that the length of the meetings were too long."

Constituent groups at SC include a small number of leaders of the faculty, classified and administrator unions and other interest groups. Alcantar said three minutes was time enough.

"We don't need time to speak that much," he said. "We are limiting ourselves so that we can keep the meetings efficient."

Alcantar said the time limit will allow trustees to focus on the "most important issues" and will encourage more people to attend meetings.

"I'm a big believer in bringing government to people and having people more involved with government," he said. "More people will come out to the meetings because the time commitment is a lot lower."

Soto disagreed. She said there is no empirical evidence that shorter board meetings lead to

LIMIT • PG 3

AMERICA'S ASTONISHING BLACK ARTISTS

Staff and readers share their thoughts on their favorite Black singers, musicians, writers, visual artists, actors, dancers and filmmakers. **Back Page**