



**AGENDA  
FOR SPECIAL CALLED TELEPHONE MEETING  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**March 7, 2014**  
Austin, Texas

		<b>Page</b>
CONVENE THE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEMS	<i>10:30 a.m.</i>	
1. <b>U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Approval to delegate authority regarding new Employer Identification Number (EIN) application</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>2</b>
2. <b>U. T. Austin: Approval of authorization for participation in Giant Magellan Telescope project, including funding a 5% share with \$50 million of Designated Funds, with the right to fund an additional 5% share with donor gifts</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>3</b>
RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO <i>TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 551</i>	<i>10:45 a.m.</i>	
1. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Legal Matters or Pending and/or Contemplated Litigation or Settlement Offers – Section 551.071		
a. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion with Counsel on pending legal issues</b>		
b. <b>U. T. System: Discussion of legal issues related to admissions procedures</b>		
c. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion of legal issues related to work of the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations</b>		
2. Personnel Matters Relating to Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Assignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Officers or Employees – Section 551.074		
a. <b>U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding individual personnel matters relating to appointment, employment, evaluation, compensation, assignment, and duties of presidents (academic and health institutions), U. T. System Administration officers (Executive Vice Chancellors and Vice Chancellors), other officers reporting directly to the Board (Chancellor, General Counsel to the Board, and Chief Audit Executive), and U. T. System and institutional employees</b>		
b. <b>U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion and appropriate action concerning individual personnel matters related to the search for a president, including discussion of candidates to be invited to interview</b>		
RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO CONSIDER ACTION, IF ANY, ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS	<i>11:55 a.m.</i>	
ADJOURN	<i>12:00 p.m. approximately</i>	

1. **U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Approval to delegate authority regarding new Employer Identification Number (EIN) application**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Interim Vice Chancellor and General Counsel that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve a special delegation of authority to the Chancellor to create and attest to the necessary documentation to create an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for U. T. Rio Grande Valley.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The U. T. Rio Grande Valley was created by the Texas Legislature in Senate Bill 24 in 2013. Guiding principles for the new university were passed by the Board of Regents in July 2013. The creation of U. T. Rio Grande Valley requires the filing of a Form SS-4 with the Internal Revenue Service to obtain an EIN, the unique number assigned to U. T. Rio Grande Valley for compliance with various federal reporting requirements.

Approval of the required authorization will allow the Chancellor to execute the Form SS-4 application on behalf of the Board.

2. **U. T. Austin: Approval of authorization for participation in Giant Magellan Telescope project, including funding a 5% share with \$50 million of Designated Funds, with the right to fund an additional 5% share with donor gifts**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, and President Powers that the U. T. System Board of Regents authorize participation by U. T. Austin in the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT) project. U. T. Austin will fund a 5% share of the construction cost of the GMT with \$50 million of Designated Funds (Indirect Cost Return from research accumulated case reserves), with the right to acquire up to an additional 5% share with funding by donor gifts.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

U. T. Austin is part of an international effort to design, construct, and operate an innovative 25-meter (80-foot) astronomical telescope, the GMT, that will address questions beyond the reach of today's largest telescopes, such as detection and description of the first stars and galaxies formed following the Big Bang, and imaging and analysis of planets around nearby stars. Investment in the GMT will place U. T. Austin among a select few American universities with access to a 21st century telescope. U. T. Austin wishes to fund a 5% share of the construction cost of the GMT with \$50 million of Designated Funds (Indirect Cost Return from research accumulated case reserves), with the right to acquire up to an additional 5% share with funding by donor gifts.

Since 2008, U. T. Austin has held a seat, under a nonbinding agreement, on the governing board of the Giant Magellan Telescope Organization (GMTO), a non-stock, not-for-profit corporation. Other members or "founding partners" of the governing board include Harvard University, The University of Chicago, Carnegie Institution for Science, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Texas A&M University, The University of Arizona, Australian National University, Astronomy Australia Limited, and Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute. The primary sources of funding for the GMTO are contributions from these universities and institutions. The founding partners will receive guaranteed access rights to use the GMT in proportion to their contributions to the design, construction, commissioning, and operating costs of the GMT. A 5% interest would equate to 16.5 nights of annual usage of the telescope, which will be located in Chile. Acquiring a total of 10% interest would equate to 33.0 nights of annual usage.

U. T. Austin views investment in the GMT project as critical from an academic and research perspective. Having guaranteed access to a cutting-edge instrument is vital for the discovery of new knowledge and for retaining the faculty and researchers who have collectively built first-rate undergraduate and graduate academic programs. Potential access to the GMT is already proving to be a prime attraction in the highly competitive recruitment of first-class junior faculty. The opportunity for U. T. Austin over the decades to have major access to the largest telescopes of the day has led to the recruitment and retention of considerable talent. As in every scientific field, the top talent is mobile. Mobility for observational astronomers is driven by access to the largest telescopes. Recognizing that development, construction, and funding of a telescope much larger than the Hobby-Eberly Telescope must take many years, and the

Astronomy program chose several years ago to join the consortium seeking to build the Giant Magellan Telescope.

This investment is synergistic with the McDonald Observatory which has the Hobby-Eberly Telescope. Intriguing questions about the Universe, however, lie beyond the reach of these telescopes. Telescopes with apertures of 25 to 40-meters can reveal the critical evolution of galaxies and black holes in the first billion years of the universe and characterize the planets around nearby stars. Investment in this telescope would position U. T. Austin as one of the best astronomy departments in the nation.