

Meeting No. 1,231

THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

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December 6, 2022

Austin, Texas

MEETING NO. 1,231

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened a special called meeting in Open Session on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. via telephone conference call, in the Board Room, Second Floor, The University of Texas System Building, 210 West Seventh Street, Austin, Texas, with the following participation:

ATTENDANCE.--

Present

Chairman Eltife
Vice Chairman Longoria
Vice Chairman Weaver
Regent Crain
Regent Hicks
Regent Jiles
Regent Perez
Regent Stedman
Regent Warren
Regent Mutyala, Student Regent, nonvoting

CONVENE THE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION TO RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.--
At 2:01 p.m., in accordance with a notice being duly posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum present, Chairman Eltife called the meeting to order in Open Session, then recessed the Board to Executive Session, pursuant to *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, and 551.089 to consider the matters listed on the Executive Session agenda.

RECONVENE THE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION TO CONSIDER ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS AND AGENDA ITEMS.--Chairman Eltife reconvened the Board in Open Session at 2:23 p.m. to consider action on the following items.

1a. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion with Counsel on pending legal issues

No action was taken on this item.

1b. U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal matters concerning Stephen F. Austin State University joining the U. T. System

See related Open Session Item 1 for action taken in Open Session.

2. Deliberations Regarding the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, Sale, or Value of Real Property – Section 551.072

No action was taken on this item.

3a. U. T. System Academic Institutions: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed negotiated gifts, including potential naming features

No action was taken on this item.

3b. U. T. System Health Institutions: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed negotiated gifts, including potential naming features

No action was taken on this item.

4a. 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 including interim presidents); 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); Board members; and U. T. System and institutional employees

No action was taken on this item.

4b. U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding individual personnel matters concerning Stephen F. Austin State University joining the U. T. System

See related Open Session Item 1 for action taken in Open Session.

5. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding safety and security issues, including security audits and the deployment of security personnel and devices

No action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM

1. U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Stephen F. Austin State University joining the U. T. System

Chairman Eltife made remarks on the recent historic decision of the Stephen F. Austin State University Board approving the selection of U. T. System for affiliation.

Remarks from Chairman Eltife, as summarized:

Regents, the historic decision last week by the Board of Regents of Stephen F. Austin State University to affiliate with U. T. System brings us together today to recognize and take appropriate action on this very exciting event. Stephen F. Austin has a rich tradition and successful history that our Regents and leadership deeply admire and respect. We are honored and enthusiastic about taking the next steps in the process with confidence that this union will make each of us stronger. We will help the university build upon its programs, traditions, and culture that have made the university unique for nearly a century, all the while preserving the name, colors, and traditions of this great university. We were excited and honored to be asked to submit a proposal to Stephen F. Austin [SFA] for affiliation. All of our institutions at the U. T. System benefit from the PUF [Permanent University Fund] and from the beginning we have always approached our proposal that if SFA chose to affiliate with the U. T. System they would also become part of the PUF like our other institutions and we will begin working on that enabling legislation that will be needed to accomplish that. We believe that our affiliation will greatly benefit the students, families, and the entire Nacogdoches region. The Chancellor, Jonathan Pruitt, and I met with SFA subcommittee on alignment and we thank their Chair Karen Gantt, and Regents Winston, Alders, and Mason for working with us as we work through this process. We want to thank the entire SFA Board of Regents and we look forward to working with them over the next few months. A huge priority for our alignment is faculty pay, which needs attention and will be dealt with early on in this process. Just some of the benefits that SFA will receive with this affiliation are approximately a million dollars a year from our Promise Program to beef up their scholarships which will greatly help families attending SFA. LERR funding, STARs funding, direct and indirect campus support from the System will greatly help Stephen F. Austin going forward and of course PUF funding for much needed infrastructure improvements. Again, our proposal that we put forth to the SFA Board of Regents was modeled after them being part of our System and part of the PUF just like our other institutions. We are beyond excited about this affiliation and will continue working with SFA Board of Regents to make this a smooth, seamless affiliation and working with our legislators for the enabling legislation.

At this time, I would like to call on the Chancellor to make any comments at this point.

Remarks from Chancellor Milliken

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I have little of substance to add. I will say that I came to this meeting from a gathering of 500 of our U. T. System colleagues from all thirteen existing campuses and I announced there that I was wearing a purple tie to recognize our newest institution, Stephen F. Austin State University, and the response was great applause and cheering. I mention that because I think it recognized the overwhelming support for the addition of Lumberjack Nation to the University of Texas System Family. I learned a great deal about SFA in the last few of months working with Chairman Eltife and our colleagues that had the opportunity to visit the campus. It is a beautiful campus. It has rich traditions, talented faculty, and outstanding students. Upon action by the Board of Regents, I look forward to working with interim President Westbrook and his team as we seek legislative approval and successful integration of two historic Texas institutions.

Chairman Eltife called for questions or comments. Hearing none, he then made the following motion:

I move that the U. T. System Board of Regents authorize Chancellor Milliken to work with the leadership of Stephen F. Austin State University to take all actions necessary, consistent with relevant requirements of state and federal laws and constitutions, agencies, and accreditation bodies, to create a new U. T. System institution of higher education with Permanent University Fund eligibility.

The motion was seconded by Regent Warren and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.--There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

/s/

Tina Montemayor
Secretary to the Board of Regents
December 6, 2022