

Meeting No. 1,203

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

Pages 1 - 3

March 27, 2020

Austin, Texas

MEETING NO. 1,203

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened an emergency special called meeting at 12:48 p.m. via telephone conference call on Friday, March 27, 2020, in the Board Room, Second Floor, The University of Texas System Building, 210 West Seventh Street, Austin, Texas, with the below participation.

This meeting was posted with the Secretary of State as an emergency meeting pursuant to Section 551.045 of the *Texas Government Code* as an urgent public necessity existed requiring immediate Board action because of an imminent threat to public health and safety resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATTENDANCE.--

Present

Chairman Eltife
Vice Chairman Longoria
Vice Chairman Weaver
Regent Beck
Regent Crain
Regent Hicks
Regent Jiles
Regent Perez
Regent Warren
Regent Dominguez, Student Regent, nonvoting

In accordance with a notice being duly posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum present on the telephone, Chairman Eltife called the meeting to order in Open Session to consider action on the following items.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion of issues related to COVID-19 and consideration of temporary delegation of authority to the Chancellor to take and approve certain actions required for U. T. institutions and U. T. System Administration to provide services and support and to maintain necessary and essential operations

Vice Chairman Weaver made the following motion:

I move that the U. T. System Board of Regents authorize the Chancellor to exercise additional authority, as described below, to take or approve actions required for U. T. institutions and U. T. System Administration to assure, to the extent possible, the continuity of all necessary and essential operations, while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of U. T. students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the public served by U.T. institutions, during the nation's response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

This motion specifically includes authority to approve contracts and agreements for necessary purchases and services related to the emergency response; to approve fund transfers within previously approved institutional operating budgets; and to approve modifications to policies such as, but not limited to, those covering academic matters, admissions criteria, and faculty evaluation schedules as necessary to serve and protect students, faculty, and staff. The delegation does not include authorization to allocate or appropriate funds from the Permanent University Fund, the Available University Fund, or the Internal Lending Fund.

I move that this delegation be effective immediately and continue in force until a determination by the Chairman that it is no longer needed and may be terminated.

And, finally, I move that the Chancellor shall consult with the Chairman before the exercise of such additional delegated authority and shall provide periodic written reports to the Board, at times determined in consultation with the Chairman, outlining the actions taken under this delegation of authority.

The motion was seconded by Regent Beck and passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

While the Chancellor has delegated authority from the Board under Regents' Rule 20101 to approve and implement specific actions required for the routine operation of the U. T. System, the Board considered the grant of additional delegation to ensure the continuity of necessary and essential operations at U. T. institutions and U. T. System Administration, while also protecting the health, safety, and welfare of U. T. students, faculty, and staff, during the coronavirus pandemic.

2. U. T. System: Approval of Dual Position of Honor, Trust, or Profit - Appointment by Governor Abbott of John M. Zerwas, M.D., Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, to the Supply Chain Strike Force relating to COVID-19

Following a motion by Vice Chairman Longoria, which was seconded by Regent Perez, the Board approved the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Regents make a finding in accordance with Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 30103 that the appointment by Governor Abbott of John M. Zerwas, M.D., Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, to the Supply Chain Strike Force relating to COVID-19 pandemic is of benefit to the State of Texas and the U. T. System, and that there is no conflict between the position and the U. T. System.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On March 22, 2020, Governor Abbott appointed John M. Zerwas, M.D. Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs to the newly created Supply Chain Strike Force to assist with hospital and health care preparedness relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been determined that the holding of this office or position is of benefit to the State of Texas and The University of Texas System and there is no conflict between holding this position and the appointment with the U.T. System.

Name:	John M. Zerwas, M.D.
Title:	Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
Position:	Special Advisor on Hospital and Healthcare Preparedness, Supply Chain Strike Force, COVID-19
Period:	March 22, 2020 for a term to expire at the pleasure of the Governor
Compensation:	None

ADJOURNMENT.--There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

/s/ Tina E. Montemayor
Secretary to the Board of Regents
March 27, 2020