MEETING NO. 901

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1997.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 1997, in the Regents’ Meeting Room on the ninth floor of Ashbel Smith Hall at 201 West Seventh Street in Austin, Texas, with the following in attendance:

ATTENDANCE.--

Present
Chairman Evans, presiding
Vice-Chairman Clements
Regent Lebermann
Regent Oxford
Regent Riter
Regent Sanchez
Regent Smiley

*Absent
Vice-Chairman Loeffler
Regent Hicks

Executive Secretary Dilly
Chancellor Cunningham
Executive Vice Chancellor Burck
Executive Vice Chancellor Duncan

In accordance with a notice being duly posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum present, Chairman Evans called the meeting to order. He announced that the sole purpose of this special meeting was to consider the two items set forth in Interim Agenda 97-2 which had been previously distributed to the Board. Chairman Evans reported to the Board that these two items were of sufficient urgency that they needed to be resolved prior to the regular meeting of the Board on May 8, 1997.

*Vice-Chairman Loeffler and Regent Hicks were excused because of previous commitments.
1. U. T. Board of Regents: Approval of Chairmen of the Standing and Special Committees; Appointments to the Board for Lease of University Lands, Board of Directors of The University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMCO), and Board of Directors of the Texas Growth Fund; and Report of Appointments to the Standing Committees, Special Committees, and Other Liaison Groups by Chairman Evans Effective Immediately.—In accordance with the requirements of the Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter I, Section 7, Chairman Evans requested the concurrence of the U. T. Board of Regents of his appointments to the (1) chairmanship of the Standing and Special Committees, (2) Board for Lease of University Lands, (3) Board of Directors of The University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMCO), and (4) Board of Directors of the Texas Growth Fund as set forth below. Without objection, approval was given to his request.

Chairman Evans’ appointments to the Standing Committees, Special Committees, and other liaison groups, which do not require Regental approval, are also set forth below for information and are all effective immediately.

These appointments will remain in effect until the succeeding Board Chairman shall reconstitute the committees in 1999.

a. STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Mr. Donald L. Evans, Chairman
Mr. Tom Loeffler, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Rita C. Clements, Vice-Chairman

Business Affairs and Audit Committee

Mr. A. W. “Dub” Riter, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Thomas O. Hicks
Mr. Patrick C. Oxford

Academic Affairs Committee

Mr. Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Rita C. Clements
Mr. A. W. “Dub” Riter, Jr.
Ms. Martha E. Smiley
Health Affairs Committee

Mr. Tom Loeffler, Chairman
Mrs. Rita C. Clements
Mr. Patrick C. Oxford
Mr. A. R. (Tony) Sanchez, Jr.

Facilities Planning and Construction Committee

Mrs. Rita C. Clements, Chairman
Mr. Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr.
Mr. A. R. (Tony) Sanchez, Jr.

Note: Chairman Evans is an ex officio member of all standing committees.

b. BOARD FOR LEASE OF UNIVERSITY LANDS

Mr. Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr.
Ms. Martha E. Smiley

c. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special Committee on Telecommunications and Minorities and Women

Ms. Martha E. Smiley, Chairman
Mr. Patrick C. Oxford
Mr. A. R. (Tony) Sanchez, Jr.

Joint Conference Committee of Board of Regents of The University of Texas System and Trustees of Hermann Hospital (Health Affairs Committee)

Mr. Tom Loeffler, Chairman
Mrs. Rita C. Clements
Mr. Patrick C. Oxford
Mr. A. R. (Tony) Sanchez, Jr.

Santa Rita Award

Mr. Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Thomas O. Hicks
Ms. Martha E. Smiley

Note: Chairman Evans is an ex officio member of all special committees.
2. U. T. El Paso - Renovation of the Commons/Conference Center (Project No. 201-909): Authorization to Increase Total Project Cost; Approval of Preliminary Plans; Authorization to Prepare Final Plans, Bidding, and Award of Contracts with Management by the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction; Submission of the Project to the Coordinating Board; and Appropriation Therefor.--

Upon recommendation of the Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, and President Natalicio, the Board:

a. Approved an increase in the total project cost for the Renovation of the Commons/Conference Center at The University of Texas at El Paso from $1,000,000 to $1,500,000

b. Approved preliminary plans at the increased total project cost of $1,500,000

c. Authorized preparation of final plans, bidding, and award of all contracts within the total project cost with management by the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction

d. Authorized submission of the project to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
e. Appropriated $1,000,000 from Gifts and Grants and $500,000 from Unexpended Plant Funds for total project funding.

The FY 1996-2001 Capital Improvement Program and the FY 1996-1997 Capital Budget were amended in October 1996 to include a project for the Renovation of the Commons/Conference Center at U. T. El Paso.

The original total project cost estimate reflected a $1,000,000 gift provided by El Paso Natural Gas Company, to be paid in the amount of $200,000 per year for five years, to create a conference center at the Commons by refurbishing existing interior space. The original assessment was made without a thorough engineering examination of the building’s mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. The engineering review and design have now been completed and have shown that these existing systems are either incapable of supporting the remodeled facility or cannot be expected to provide service for a reasonable period after completion of the project. The poor condition of the facility is due to inadequate maintenance during the many years that it was used by a privately contracted food service.

The most recent cost estimates have indicated that, with the inclusion of this mechanical systems work, the project cost will exceed the original total project cost. An increase in total project cost to $1,500,000 is required to upgrade existing elements of the building’s infrastructure in order to support the remodeled facility and to extend the facility’s useful life to meet its current needs.

The current proposed construction schedule shows construction to commence in May 1997 and to be completed by September 1997 in order to minimize the disruption of food service for University Housing.

The total project cost of $1,500,000 will be funded by $1,000,000 from Gifts and Grants and $500,000 from Unexpended Plant Funds.

Approval of this item amends the FY 1996-2001 Capital Improvement Program and the FY 1996-1997 Capital Budget.
ADJOURNMENT.--Chairman Evans announced that the purpose for which this special meeting was called had been completed and the meeting was duly adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

/s/ Arthur H. Dilly
Executive Secretary

April 10, 1997