

Meeting No. 1,207

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

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July 14, 2020

Austin, Texas

MEETING NO. 1,207

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened in Open Session on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 4:33 p.m. via telephone conference, with the below meeting participation. This special called meeting of the Board was held via telephone conference call as authorized by Governor Abbott's Executive Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, effective March 16 2020, to address and mitigate the effects of 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 Ojeaga, Student Regent, nonvoting

CONVENE THE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION.--At 4:33 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.

AGENDA ITEM

1. U. T. Austin: Discussion and appropriate action related to response to broad input concerning campus actions to promote a better campus environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors

Chairman Eltife called on Interim President Hartzell to make remarks related to this item. President Hartzell introduced his plan for making U. T. Austin a more diverse and welcoming campus. He described a two-part plan to 1) recruit, attract, retain, and support talented and diverse students, faculty, and staff, and 2) reconsider how to best reflect U. T. Austin's values, both in the symbols and names on the campus and the openness with which the institution's history is told.

Chairman Eltife expressed his gratitude to President Hartzell, faculty, staff, students, and all of Longhorn nation for being a part of these conversations, and to the Joe Jamail family for the gracious offer to rename the Joe Jamail Field as the Campbell/Williams Field.

Regents Hicks, Beck, Perez, and Student Regent Ojeaga expressed their appreciation and support for the proposed plan. Chancellor Milliken likewise expressed his gratitude, and Chairman Eltife then called on Regent Jiles for a motion.

Motion by Regent Jiles

The University of Texas at Austin is meaningfully addressing important issues regarding race on campus. President Hartzell has undertaken a tremendous effort to listen to the concerns of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others. He is leading the university with patience and wisdom during these difficult times. I am appreciative to Chairman Eltife for supporting President Hartzell throughout this process.

Therefore, I move that the U. T. System Board of Regents endorse and approve the recommendations from President Hartzell in response to broad input solicited from students, alumni, and others regarding campus actions to promote a better environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors through a series of efforts to attract, recruit, retain, and support a talented and diverse group of students, staff, and faculty. These efforts include expansion of programs to benefit students such as the important 4EverTexas program in Texas Athletics which will be part of a new effort to improve the ability of students to position themselves for post-graduation success.

I further move that the Board of Regents approve President Hartzell's recommendations concerning campus symbols and facilities as follows:

1. Rename Robert L. Moore Building as the Physics, Math, and Astronomy Building,
2. In honor of Heman Sweatt,
  - a) modify the current main entrance to T. S. Painter Hall and name it the Heman M. Sweatt Entrance;
  - b) erect a statue of Mr. Sweatt outside of Painter Hall; and
  - c) dedicate a major space in the building as an exhibit and gathering place where the University will tell the story of the Supreme Court case Sweatt v. Painter,
3. Honor the historic Precursors group with a monument on the East Mall;
4. Erect educational plaques at locations such as the Littlefield Fountain and the Hogg statue;
5. Add a statue in honor of Julius Whittier to the campus; and

6. Rename Joe Jamail Field at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (at the request of the Jamail family) in honor of Earl Campbell and Ricky Williams.

In addition, I move that the Board support the implementation of all the actions as expeditiously as possible, beginning today.

And, finally, I move that the Board express appreciation for the many individuals who provided input, opinions, and advice to the Board of Regents, President Hartzell, and Chancellor Milliken concerning these critically important issues.

At the suggestion of Regent Beck, the motion was noted as seconded by all members of the Board and approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.--There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

/s/ Tina E. Montemayor  
Secretary to the Board of Regents  
July 15, 2020