

MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

OF

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

December 6-7, 2007

(Approved January 24-25, 2008)

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December 6-7, 2007**

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**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
December 6-7, 2007**

CONVENE – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007

Mr. Bill Jones, Chairman, convened a regular meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) at 10:35 a.m. on Thursday, December 6, 2007, in the Board of Regents Meeting Room, Texas A&M University (TAMU), College Station, Texas. The following members of the Board were present:

Mr. Bill Jones, Chairman
Mr. John D. White, Vice Chairman
Mr. Morris Foster
Mr. Lupe Fraga
Mr. J.L. Huffines
Mr. Erle Nye (*joined meeting at 10:41 a.m.*)
Mr. Gene Stallings
Ms. Ida Clement Steen
Mr. Jim Wilson
Ms. Cassie Daniel, Student Regent

Mr. Jones announced that a quorum of the Board was present. He presented Item 29 and the Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 261-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 29)**

**GRANTING OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE  
REGENTS PROFESSOR AWARDS AND THE  
REGENTS FELLOW SERVICE AWARDS FOR THE 2006-07 FISCAL YEAR,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Fraga seconded by Mr. Huffines and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System hereby grants the designation of “Regents Professor” for 2006-07 to the following seven faculty members, effective December 6, 2007:

Dr. David A. Bessler, *Texas A&M University*  
Dr. John Rush Gold, *Texas A&M University and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station*  
Dr. W. John Lee, *Texas A&M University and Texas Engineering Experiment Station*  
Dr. Marcia G. Ory, *The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center*  
Dr. Gilbert Thomas Rowe, *Texas A&M University at Galveston*  
Dr. Michael E. Tewes, *Texas A&M University-Kingsville*  
Dr. Sherry J. Yennello, *Texas A&M University*

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System hereby grants the designation of “Regents Fellow” for 2006-07 to the following four agency service, extension and research professionals, effective December 6, 2007:

Mr. Thomas G. Boggus, *Texas Forest Service*  
Dr. Billy J. Higginbotham, *Texas Cooperative Extension*  
Dr. Charles M. Rush, *Texas Agricultural Experiment Station-Amarillo*  
Mr. Robert A. Whitney, *Texas Cooperative Extension.*

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RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Jones announced that the Board would recess to executive session to consider matters as provided in Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code: Section 71, for consultation with System attorneys regarding legal matters or pending and/or contemplated litigation or settlement offers; Section 72, for deliberations regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; Section 73, for deliberations regarding negotiated contracts for prospective gifts or donations; and Section 74, for deliberations regarding personnel matters relating to appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal or to hear complaints against an officer or employee (including Items 42 through 50).

Mr. Jones said that in accordance with the law, no final action, decision, or vote with regard to any matter considered in the executive session would be made or taken.

(Secretary’s Note: The Board met in executive session from 10:40 a.m. until 3:47 p.m.)

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007

Mr. Jones announced that a quorum of the Board was present.

Mr. Jones reconvened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. in Room 292 of the Memorial Student Center (MSC). He announced that the Board had met in executive session on Thursday, December 6, 2007, from 10:40 a.m. until 3:47 p.m. Mr. Jones said that in executive session the Board had considered Items 42 through 50 and would take action on those items at the end of the meeting during the reports from the standing committees.

Mr. Jones said that they also conferred with the Chancellor, several System and university administrators and System attorneys on personnel, land, and legal matters.

INVOCATION

Mr. Jones called on Mr. Matt Authier, an accounting major in the professional program at the Mays Business School, who presented the invocation.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Jones announced that the Aggie family was saddened by the loss of one of its members, Dr. Richard Ewing. He said that the A&M family lost one of its most beloved and outstanding scientists, administrators and friends. He said that Dr. Ewing was a world-renowned scientist in mathematics, engineering and computational sciences and had served many years at TAMU as the vice president for research overseeing creative scholarships, graduate studies and sponsored research throughout the university. He came to Texas A&M in 1992 as the dean of the college of science, a position he held until 2000. He had recently returned to the college of science where he held the Mobil Technology Company chair in computational science and was a distinguished professor of mathematics and applied mathematics, as well as a professor of engineering and a Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) distinguished research chair. Dr. Ewing served as the director of the Institute of Scientific Computation, which he founded and gained international recognition under his leadership. Mr. Jones said with a vision and commitment to international education and research, Dr. Ewing led the institute and TAMU to forge a number of long-term strategic research alliances with many foreign partners including Mexico, China and Qatar. Dr. Ewing earned his doctor of philosophy, Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin. Over the years, he made profound discoveries in key contributions in his field of research. He authored and co-authored over 350 publications and 15 books. He made more than 500 invited talks and presentations in 35 countries. Dr. Ewing served on the editorial board for 12 major national and international scientific journals, received honorary doctoral degrees from universities all over the world, and held membership in numerous international math and science organizations. He received over 27 honors and awards including the prestigious Alexander von Humbolt Research Award in 2005 from Germany, for senior U.S. scientists. Mr. Jones said that last year the Richard Ewing Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Economic Development was established to recognize his many accomplishments. Dr. Ewing had extensive experiences in forging industrial partnerships through his research collaborations and he served on the boards of directors of numerous organizations including the National Space Biomedical Research Institute, the Texas Institute for Genomic Medicine (TIGM), the Houston Technology Center, the Texas A&M Research Foundation, the Associated Western University's Group, Southwestern University's Research Association and the Texas Healthcare in Biosciences Institute.

Mr. Jones said that Dr. Ewing was a gentleman and a scholar who truly exemplified our Aggie core values of integrity, honor, loyalty, respect, selfless service

and excellence. On behalf of the Board of Regents and the entire Aggie family, Mr. Jones extended his deepest condolences to the Ewing family, close friends and colleagues. He said that Dr. Ewing would be missed.

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

Dr. Michael D. McKinney, Chancellor, expressed his sympathy and commented that Dr. Ewing was the embodiment of the word “meekness,” which means power under control. He said that Dr. Ewing spent more time listening than he did talking.

Dr. McKinney said they closed the books on 2007 and the A&M System was the first university system in Texas to post comprehensive expenditure reports on the internet. He said the 2007 financial reports were available online and a full-year comprehensive expenditure report would be posted soon. Dr. McKinney said the 2007 revenue report showed total revenues of \$3.09 billion for the year. He said that net assets increased to \$3.5 billion, state appropriations revenue increased by 5.6 percent (\$902 million), net student tuition fee revenue increased 13 percent, and of all the expenditures, 58.2 percent were related to compensation and employee benefits.

Dr. McKinney said we currently have three ongoing presidential searches -- Texas A&M University-Texarkana (TAMU-T), Tarleton State University (TSU) and Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMU-C.) He said that he and Dr. Frank Ashley, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, recently traveled to each of these universities to meet with the search advisory committees. He called on Dr. Ashley who gave a brief update on the searches. Dr. Ashley said they hoped to present a list of the candidates to the Chancellor in March at the latest and to the Board by April. He said they were working very diligently and each committee was composed of faculty members, representatives from the community and a system representative.

Mr. Nye asked if given the holidays, Dr. Ashley was comfortable with the March/April time schedule. Dr. Ashley responded that he felt that they would be done by that time.

Dr. McKinney said the strategic plan process was ongoing and that they continued to make excellent and timely progress. He said each of the Regents had received a handout that included a copy of the A&M System's compact report. He said this was a contract between the chief executive officers (CEOs) of the different system members, agency heads, presidents, and the chancellor's office. Dr. McKinney said the report covered a two-year period of time with the short-term objectives in support of long-term goals. He said that he would keep the Board apprised of their progress and how they are meeting the demanding objectives which they have set for themselves. Dr. McKinney said he appreciated the feedback from the Board on the draft of the system office strategic plan and that a final copy of the system office strategic plan would be presented at a later date. He said with the completion of the system member compacts and the pending system office strategic plan, they would turn their attention to the much bigger project of a strategic plan for the system as a whole.

Dr. McKinney announced that Dr. Pierce Cantrell, Vice President and Associate Provost for Information Technology at TAMU, had agreed to serve as the system chief information officer (CIO).

RECESS

Mr. Jones recessed the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

(Secretary's Note: The Committee on Finance convened at 9:21 a.m. and recessed at 9:22 a.m)

RECONVENE

Mr. Jones reconvened the meeting at 9:22 a.m. He called on Dr. McKinney to introduce Mr. Billy Hamilton who presented a presentation on the affordability of Texas public higher education. He said Mr. Hamilton is a consultant in tax, fiscal policy, and related issues and an adjunct professor in the LBJ School of public affairs at UT. Prior to January 2007, he was the chief deputy comptroller of public accounts of Texas. From 1991 to 1998, he served as deputy comptroller.

Dr. McKinney said that Mr. Hamilton was known and respected by legislators and administrators in Austin. He said that Mr. Hamilton was also known as a “numbers person” with a straightforward presentation who did not have his own agenda. Dr. McKinney said that Mr. Hamilton had a paper that was commissioned to take a look at the cost of education. Dr. McKinney asked Mr. Hamilton to present his report.

THE BALANCE WHEEL: A REPORT ON TUITION, APPROPRIATIONS AND THE AFFORDABILITY OF TEXAS PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. Hamilton said that he had the good fortune to retire from state government a year ago and the even greater fortune of being approached by the university systems to take a look at what has happened in public education finance over the past few years.

Mr. Hamilton said that he approached the idea without any preconceived notion but with suspicions about what had happened in state financing over the past 30 years. He said that he called this the “balance wheel” because of the relationship between general state spending on higher education, tuition and fees and the cost to individual families. He said that he began with three general questions.

Mr. Hamilton said the first question was the one he thought confronts higher education nationally; are higher education costs out of control? The second question was irrespective of whether they are out of control or not, are they driving the increases in tuition statewide? Third, what are the effects of these rising prices on the affordability of higher education for Texas families?

Mr. Hamilton said he reached the conclusion that university spending was not out of control. He said that from 1986 to 2007, spending for basic educational operations by the public universities grew by 5.5 percent a year. This takes into account construction costs, administrative costs, student services and the whole range of spending in basic education. Mr. Hamilton said that this was lower than the combined rate of growth in inflation plus state population growth of about 6 percent a year. He said it was lower than the average spending growth at public universities in aggregate nationally, and lower than the state budget overall growth of 7.5 percent a year. If you adjusted for inflation, basic educational operations grew by 1.9 percent a year, which was lower than the growth in student population over that period.

Mr. Hamilton said that over the ten-year period, per student costs for appropriations grew at a rate of approximately 2.5 percent. Higher education costs generally grew at a rate of 3.9 percent and the student cost grew at a rate of 11.5 percent. He said in 2003, when the state was facing economic problems, the per student appropriation began to fall back from its historical trend, dipped below it and has remained flat. Mr. Hamilton said during the same period, tuition moved upward rather dramatically to fill the gap. He said this was a trend that had developed in public universities nationally. He said the feeling in the legislature was that the universities have their own resources and have some control over tuition and in times of budget uncertainty, they have allowed tuitions to rise to fill the gap that was previously covered by appropriations.

Mr. Hamilton said Texas was unique in that 90 percent of students that go to colleges and universities attend “public” colleges and universities. No other state approaches that number. He said public colleges and universities are important in the Texas economy and that Texas public higher education was approaching the national average for public university tuition and fees. Mr. Hamilton said that families must look at tuition, fees and other associated costs such as housing and transportation when considering higher education. This means that higher education is increasingly difficult to afford for low and middle-income students, without incurring large amounts of debt or securing financial aid.

Mr. Hamilton said the conclusion of his report raised a series of questions for policy that this board, the legislature and other boards of regents must struggle with. He said these are important issues for Texas families and not just simply an issue that comes down to the appropriations process.

Mr. Hamilton said the first critical question was what was the right balance between state appropriations and family support? He said this balance was changing and becoming destabilized and he felt that the state needed to figure out what the appropriate balance was.

Mr. Hamilton said the next question was how do these goals affect the goals of *Closing the Gaps*? How was it affected by the balance or how does the affordability changes that are going on affect participation rates in schools and the goals that

universities have set statewide? The next question he asked was what was the appropriate balance between financial aid for needy students and general state support for higher education? Mr. Hamilton said to him, it boiled down to what degree do we help the student and to what degree do we help the state by taking care of higher education and general appropriations? Fourth, he asked how did Texas best ensure stable future base funding for higher education and the 90 percent of students who chose public colleges and universities? Mr. Hamilton said it seemed to him that the appropriate course of state policy was to set an appropriate level of appropriations that the universities could reasonably plan from and hold tuition costs to a reasonable level. Mr. Hamilton said the final question that the universities must ask themselves was how would they ensure continued cost responsibility?

Mr. Jones said that he would like to see an extended copy of Mr. Hamilton's report. He suggested that this would be helpful information for them all. Mr. Jones asked about the national average spending growth at public universities. Mr. Hamilton responded approximately 7 percent. Mr. Jones commented that we are 1.5 percent below that and Mr. Hamilton responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Nye said the question of whether or not tuition and fees are better set by boards of regents and people close to the universities or by the legislature still remained. Mr. Hamilton said he believes that pricing was best set at the level where the decisions are made. He said that in his tax work he argues extensively for the federal government to leave the states alone and the states to leave local government alone and let them make the correct pricing decisions. He said the implication of this study was that actions have consequences. Mr. Hamilton said he understands that the legislature has difficult decisions to make, but those decisions also have implications for higher education. He suggested that tuition and appropriations cannot be separated.

Mr. Nye said this board and this staff were very conscientious of the importance of keeping costs down, being productive and efficient. He said that at the end of the day they also recognized that there were quality implications when you go too far. He said it's a balancing act, but it seemed to him that the people closest to the issue, as long as they demonstrate their commitment to keeping costs down and being productive, that's where the judgment should be made.

Mr. Jones commented that UT had just decided to cap its tuition increases over the next two years to 4.95 percent. He asked if Mr. Hamilton had any thoughts on this one way or the other or the effects of that decision. Mr. Hamilton responded that he did not actually see the newspaper report and was not sure he could comment. He said that he thought the reason that he was engaged to do this report was that there needed to be a clear dialogue with the legislature so that the universities and the legislature did not engage in a tug of war. He said he thought that UT was conscience of their students and the students' parents and were trying to do the right thing, but it was a balancing act.

Mr. White asked who engaged Mr. Hamilton to do this study and how would it be disseminated and to whom. Mr. Hamilton responded that he was asked to do the study by the university systems.

Dr. McKinney said that a group of five chancellors engaged Mr. Hamilton to compile this information. He said this was good information which he thought should be disseminated to everybody.

Mr. White said he agreed with the chancellor, but there was always the issue of what motivates any report. Dr. McKinney said the chancellors and presidents were trying to work to the benefit of higher education in Texas.

Mr. Jones commented that during the interim, there would be several opportunities to present the statistics and numbers to legislators.

Dr. McKinney said he would send a copy of the report to each of the Board members.

Ms. Daniel said Mr. Hamilton had talked about the difference between Texas versus the cost of an education nationally. She wondered how financial aid was balanced against this and if some of the states that had a more costly tuition had more financial aid per student. Mr. Hamilton responded that most states have more financial aid. He said that Texas had taken some important steps in the last several years to provide financial aid, but if you look at the ranking of the colleges nationally, Texas is still very low in financial aid support. He said that although progress had been made over the last five years, we still lag behind partly because the cost of higher education in Texas had been low relative to other states.

Ms. Daniel commented on Mr. Hamilton's statement on how he had kids in school and over four years how do you plan to pay and can you estimate how much tuition would increase each year. She said there have been some ideas in the legislature to cap tuition for four years and some institutions want to do at least a two-year cap. Ms. Daniel asked Mr. Hamilton for his opinion. Mr. Hamilton said he argued for many years, to no great avail, that we should make general earmarks of appropriations tentatively on a five-year basis so that agencies can plan. He said that he was generally not in favor of tinkering with the mechanisms of the marketplace. Mr. Hamilton said the reality was that approximately 60 percent of the costs are people and these costs are going to rise relentlessly. He said the state would mandate this, but the university should have the flexibility to respond. He said it seemed to him that Texas always gets into problems, in general, whenever it sees a problem and it responds by trying to put stopgaps into the mechanism to make problems go away, when there is a larger problem. He said the larger problem here is that we need a stable base of appropriations relative to a reasonable growth in tuition, not that we need some sort of stopgap controls. He said that price controls do not work anywhere and never have.

Ms. Daniel said there are some universities that are setting up a policy of having students whose families' income are a particular amount (\$25,000 or less) get a four-year, free ride scholarship and then tuition increases for middle income families. She asked how Mr. Hamilton thought this would affect education in the long term for middle-income families. Mr. Hamilton said it seemed to him that this was still a balancing act. He said at the micro level, we are trying to educate kids and at the macro level, we are trying to create an educated workforce. He said the statistics in this report show that for a family with a median income of less than \$25,000 a year, the cost of going to college can be over 100 percent of their annual income. He said it was very reasonable to him, as a matter of state policy, that whether the legislature does it or the board of regents does it, to set aside a certain amount of money to support young adults who might not be able to attend college otherwise; just the way they set aside a certain amount of money to run their computers or a certain amount of money to plant flowers. He said he would think that as long as it was done in a reasonable way, it would not be an overall burden. Mr. Hamilton said it was a balancing act between helping the student and helping the state. He said you cannot go so far that it hurts the middle income families, but you do not want to ignore students who might not be able to attend school otherwise.

Dr. McKinney said the income level was \$25,000-\$35,000 and if you add in PELL Grants and the Texas Grants that they would qualify for, they would receive almost a full scholarship. He said he knew of some schools that advertise this program and the advertisement costs more than the scholarship.

Mr. Jones said they appreciated Mr. Hamilton taking the time to come talk with them and they looked forward to reviewing the entire report.

RECESS

Mr. Jones recessed the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

(Secretary's Note: The Committee on Finance reconvened at 9:52 a.m. and adjourned at 10:01 a.m. The Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant convened at 10:01 a.m. and adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The Committee on Academic and Student Affairs convened at 1:03 p.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.)

RECONVENE

Mr. Jones reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. He announced that the Board had not received any requests for public testimony.

Mr. Jones called on Mr. White to present the report from the Committee on Audit.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON AUDIT

Mr. White, Chairman of the Committee on Audit, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, December 6, 2007. He said they received updates on enterprise risk management programs around the system, reviewed the audit tracking reports and responses. Mr. White said there was no action for the Board to consider.

(Secretary's Note: Mr. Nye was not present for the reports and votes on Items 7 through 28.)

Mr. Jones called on Mr. Foster to present the report from the Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS AND PHYSICAL PLANT

Mr. Foster, Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant, reported that the Committee met earlier the same day. He said they had discussions concerning the System's capital plan, construction project presentations and a number of facility naming requests and real estate items. He said the Committee unanimously approved Items 7 through 21.

Mr. Jones reminded the Board that the vote on Item 18 was not only as Board members but also as trustees of the Stiles Farm Foundation.

The Board took action as set forth below:

(Secretary's Note: Mr. Nye was not present for the vote on Items 7 through 28.)

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**MINUTE ORDER 262-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

**APPROVAL OF THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-FISCAL YEAR 2012,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The System Capital Plan for FY 2008 – FY 2012, as shown in **Exhibit A**, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes, is approved and authorization to appropriate up to 10 percent of the planning amount indicated for all FY 2008 proposed projects is granted.



To the extent projects are funded by the Revenue Financing System, and as required by Section 5(a) of the Master Resolution of the Revenue Financing System, the Board hereby determines that it will have sufficient funds to meet the financial obligations of The Texas A&M University System, including sufficient pledged revenues to satisfy the annual debt service of the Revenue Financing System and to meet the financial obligations of the Board relating to the Revenue Financing System and that the participants, on whose behalf the Bonds are to be issued, possess the financial capacity to satisfy their direct obligations.

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System (Board) reasonably expects to incur debt in one or more obligations for this project, and all or a portion of the proceeds received from the sale of such obligations is reasonably expected to be used to reimburse the account(s) for amounts previously appropriated and/or expended from such account(s).

**MINUTE ORDER 263-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 8)**

**APPROVAL OF THE REVISED PROJECT BUDGET AND  
APPROPRIATION FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE  
ROSS STREET UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The revised project budget for the Ross Street Utility Improvements at Texas A&M University is approved.

The amount of \$323,800 is appropriated from Account Number 01-083536, Revenue Financing System Debt Proceeds, for construction services and related project costs.

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System (Board) reasonably expects to incur debt in one or more obligations for this project, and all or a portion of the proceeds received from the sale of such obligations is reasonably expected to be used to reimburse the account(s) for amounts previously appropriated and/or expended from such account(s).

As required by Section 5(a) of the Master Resolution of the Revenue Financing System, the Board hereby determines that it will have sufficient funds to meet the financial obligations of The Texas A&M University System, including sufficient Pledged Revenues to satisfy the Annual Debt Service Requirements of the Revenue Financing System and to meet all financial obligations of the Board relating to the Revenue Financing System and that the Participants, on whose behalf the debt is issued, possess the financial capacity to satisfy their Direct Obligations.

**MINUTE ORDER 264-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 9)**

**APPROVAL OF THE REVISED PROJECT BUDGET AND  
APPROPRIATION FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE  
WELLBORN ROAD PEDESTRIAN PASSAGEWAY AT  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The revised project budget of \$14,959,239.06 for the Wellborn Road Pedestrian Passageway is approved.

The amount of \$96,322.42 is appropriated from Account No. 02-085008, Designated Tuition-Capital, for the Wellborn Road Pedestrian Passageway at Texas A&M University.

**MINUTE ORDER 265-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

**NAMING OF THE  
“DAVE AND ASHLEY COOLIDGE FOOTBALL PRACTICE FIELDS,”  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The football practice fields on the campus of Texas A&M University are hereby named the “Dave and Ashley Coolidge Football Practice Fields.”

**MINUTE ORDER 266-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

**NAMING OF THE  
“RANIA AND JAMAL DANIEL PRESIDENTIAL DINING ROOM,”  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Presidential Dining Room at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on the campus of Texas A&M University is hereby named the “Rania and Jamal Daniel Presidential Dining Room.”

**MINUTE ORDER 267-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

**NAMING OF  
“THE HAGLER FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM,”  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The 300-seat auditorium at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on the campus of Texas A&M University is hereby named “The Hagler Foundation Auditorium.”

**MINUTE ORDER 268-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

**NAMING OF THE  
“JACK AND LOU FINNEY CONCERT HALL,”  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Concert Hall inside the new music building on the campus of Texas A&M University-Commerce is hereby named the “Jack and Lou Finney Concert Hall.”

**MINUTE ORDER 269-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

**NAMING OF THE  
“GEORGE AND BARBARA BUSH STATE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING,”  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Texas A&M Health Science Center Administration Building, which will be located on the Bryan campus, is hereby named the “George and Barbara Bush State Headquarters Building for the Texas A&M Health Science Center.”

**MINUTE ORDER 270-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE GROUND LEASE WITH  
THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following review and approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to negotiate with The Association of Former Students and execute an amendment to ground lease and any other documents required resulting in an increase of land leased under the existing ground lease from 5.0 acres to 6.687 acres, more or less, and to provide The Association of Former Students with an option on an additional 1.313, acres, more or less. All other terms of the existing ground lease will remain the same.

**MINUTE ORDER 271-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE LAND AND  
IMPROVEMENTS IN GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to present information and documents as requested by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the purchase approval process and to execute all documents necessary to purchase 8.387 acres of land, more or less, and improvements being a part of the Eneas Smith Survey, Abstract 190, Galveston County, Texas, and being municipally referred to as 1001 Texas Clipper Road, Galveston, Texas. The purchase price of \$3,650,000, less rental credits plus closing costs, is hereby approved.

**MINUTE ORDER 272-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 13)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A  
CONDITIONAL ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT TO THE  
CITY OF COLLEGE STATION IN BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to execute all documents necessary to grant a Conditional Road Right-of-Way Easement to the City of College Station, across a portion of property owned by The Texas A&M University System in the Richard Carter Survey, Abstract No. 8, Brazos County, Texas. This Conditional Road Right-of-Way Easement will be a variable width easement (60 to 80 feet in width) and approximately 525 feet in length. The easement will remain in full force and effect for as long as the property is used by the City of College Station as a road right-of-way. The conditional road right-of-way easement to the City of College Station is granted without further consideration.

The Chancellor, or designee, is further authorized to accept an access easement across the adjacent property, thereby allowing access from the University Services Building to Copperfield Parkway.

**MINUTE ORDER 273-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 14)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL  
ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT AND TWO TEMPORARY  
CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND  
IMPROVEMENTS TO THREE ROADS IN  
COLLEGE STATION, BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to grant a Conditional Road Right-of-Way Easement to the City of College Station, across a portion of property owned by The Texas A&M University System from Luther Lane to George Bush Drive in College Station, Texas. This Conditional Road Right-of-Way Easement will be 80 feet in width and will remain in full force and effect for so long as the property is used by the City of College Station as a road right-of-way.

The Chancellor, or designee, is further authorized to negotiate and grant a 24-month Permit to the City of College Station for construction of a road providing access from Raymond Stotzer Parkway to the Texas Institute for Preclinical Studies. The Chancellor, or designee, is authorized to approve expenditures for the design and construction of this road to the extent such expenditures exceed \$2 million, but in no event more than \$225,000.

The Chancellor, or designee, is further authorized to negotiate and grant a 24-month permit to the Texas Department of Transportation for improvements that will be made along University Drive from Wellborn Road to College Main.

**MINUTE ORDER 274-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 15)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO SELL AN ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE,  
GRANT AN EASEMENT, AND ASSIGN AN EASEMENT AND  
PERMIT TO BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following review and approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to negotiate with Bryan Texas Utilities and execute all documents required to achieve the following:

1. Sale of the infrastructure for an aerial 138 kV electric transmission line from the Texas A&M University electrical substation near the northeast corner of University Drive and Agronomy Road to an abandoned electric switching station on a 1.708 acre tract of land situated west of FM 2818 and north of Turkey Creek Road.
2. Grant of an easement on the 1.708-acre tract of land described above. The term of this easement will be for ten (10) years.

3. Assignment into Bryan Texas Utilities of an easement granted to Texas A&M University from Elmo Neal, Sr. and his wife Marvelyn Neal, dated December 13, 1982.
4. Assignment by Texas A&M University and Assumption by Bryan Texas Utilities of a *Notice of Proposed Installation Utility Line on Non-Controlled Access Highway* with the Texas Department of Transportation, dated May 6, 1982.
5. Grant a 70-foot wide easement along the route of the aerial 138 kV line from the Texas A&M University 138 kV electrical substation to a point near the intersection of Villa Maria Road and FM 2818. The term of this easement will be for ten (10) years.

Total consideration to be paid by Bryan Texas Utilities for the asset, easements and permit will be \$978,322.

**MINUTE ORDER 275-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 16)**

**ACCEPTANCE OF A RESTRICTED GIFT OF LAND  
FROM THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following review and approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to take all steps necessary to accept a restricted gift of land from the City of Corpus Christi containing 140.39 acres, more or less, in Nueces County, Texas. This gift may be consummated over time through two transactions and will be subject to a right-of-first refusal, in favor of the City, to purchase all or any portion of the property that is no longer used for a public purpose related to higher education or that is offered for sale by the Board. In the event the City elects to exercise its right-of-first refusal to purchase, the City will be given a credit relative to the sales price for the value of the land. If the City elects not to exercise its right-of-first refusal to purchase, and the land is sold to a third party, the City will be paid, at closing, the value of the land at that time as determined by fair market appraisal.

The Chancellor, or designee, is further authorized to lease a portion of this property to the City of Corpus Christi for a period of five years, with consideration being \$1.00 per year, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Chancellor, or designee, shall deem advisable.

**MINUTE ORDER 276-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 17)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE A LEASE FOR  
WET LABORATORY AND OFFICE SPACE WITHIN  
THE BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION AREA,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement for the purpose of leasing approximately 16,959 square feet of wet laboratory and office space in the Gateway Building located at 101 Gateway Boulevard, College Station, Texas. The primary term of this lease will be four (4) years with the option to extend for one (1) additional year. The base rental, not including utilities, will be \$30,780.59 per month for the primary term.

**MINUTE ORDER 277-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 18)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO SELL LAND AND GRANT AN EASEMENT ACROSS  
LAND IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS, STILES FARM FOUNDATION,  
TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following review and approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to execute all documents necessary to sell a tract of land to Williamson County, Texas, containing 0.311 acres of land, more or less, across a portion of the Stiles Farm, and being out of the Jehu Bevil Survey, Abstract No. 59, Williamson County, Texas. Total consideration to be received for this sale is \$4,306.

Further, the Chancellor, or designee, following review and approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to execute, at no cost, an aerial electric line easement for the purpose of relocating an electric line along the new right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 79.



**MINUTE ORDER 278-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 19)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY  
EASEMENT TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY 59, ANGELINA COUNTY, TEXAS,  
TEXAS FOREST SERVICE**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following review and approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to execute all documents necessary to grant a conditional road right-of-way easement to the Texas Department of Transportation, across a portion of the Texas Forest Service district headquarters in Lufkin, Texas, situated in the McKinney & Williams Survey, Abstract No. 463, Angelina County, Texas, and containing 0.608 acres, more or less. Total consideration to be received for this easement is \$237,703. The conditional road right-of-way easement will remain in force for as long as the property is used as a road right-of-way.

**MINUTE ORDER 279-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 20)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GIFT OF 2.0 ACRES,  
MORE OR LESS, IN SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY, TEXAS,  
TEXAS FOREST SERVICE**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following review and approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to take all steps necessary to accept a gift of land containing 2.0 acres, more or less, in San Augustine County, Texas. This gift will be subject to a reversionary interest in favor of the grantor.

**MINUTE ORDER 280-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 21)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO SELL 0.813 ACRES,  
MORE OR LESS, IN RUSK COUNTY, TEXAS,  
TEXAS FOREST SERVICE**

On motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following review and approval for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to take all steps necessary to sell the surface estate of a tract of land containing approximately 0.813 acres, more or less, in Rusk County, Texas, to the City of Henderson.

A request for waiver of Board Policy 41.07 [*Real Property Disposition (1.3)*], is granted and consideration for this sale will be \$1.00 with a covenant that the sale will not trigger a reversionary interest on the remainder of the property.

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Mr. Jones called on Ms. Steen to present the report from the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Ms. Steen, Chair of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, reported that the Committee met earlier that same day. She said that they considered and approved Items 22 through 28. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 281-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 22)**

**APPROVAL OF REVISED GUIDELINES FOR  
AWARDING TEXAS PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL GRANTS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Ms. Steen, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The requests for revisions to the guidelines for awarding Texas Public Educational Grants as shown on **Exhibit B**, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes, are hereby approved subject to the subsequent approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**MINUTE ORDER 282-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 23)**

**APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH THE STATE OF TEXAS  
EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTER WITHIN THE  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Ms. Steen, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The State of Texas Education Research Center is hereby established as an organizational unit of the Teaching, Learning and Culture Department in the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University.

**MINUTE ORDER 283-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 24)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER  
SELECTED DEGREE PROGRAMS BY DISTANCE EDUCATION,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

On motion of Ms. Steen, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Having complied with all of the requirements of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Guidelines for Distance Education, Texas A&M University-Commerce is hereby authorized to offer the following degree programs by distance education:

Face-to-Face delivery of courses toward completion of a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) degree (last two years) on the Collin County Community College District, McKinney, Texas campus.

Face-to-face delivery of the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree (last two years) on the Northeast Texas Community College, Pittsburg, Texas campus.

The Board of Regents finds that the program offerings authorized by this minute order are within the role and scope and capacity of the institution and will benefit students.

**MINUTE ORDER 284-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 25)**

**APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH A  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI, AND AUTHORIZATION  
TO SUBMIT THIS ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE REQUEST TO  
THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI**

On motion of Ms. Steen, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Board of Regents approves Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's request to establish a Department of Military Science in the College of Education.

The Board also authorizes submission of this request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met.

**MINUTE ORDER 285-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 26)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER THE  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING DEGREE  
VIA DISTANCE EDUCATION (THE INTERNET),  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE**

On motion of Ms. Steen, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Having complied with all of the requirements of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Guidelines for Distance Education, Texas A&M University-Kingsville is hereby authorized to offer the following degree program via distance education (the Internet), effective spring 2008.

Master of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering

The Board of Regents finds that the program offering authorized by this minute order is within the role and scope and capacity of the institution and will benefit students.

**MINUTE ORDER 286-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 27)**

**APPROVAL OF REVISED  
42 TO 44-SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR CORE CURRICULUM IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA APPROVED BY  
THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE**

On motion of Ms. Steen, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Board of Regents approves Texas A&M University-Kingsville's revised 42 to 44-semester credit hour Core Curriculum, as outlined in **Exhibit C**, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes, effective with the fall semester 2008.

**MINUTE ORDER 287-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 28)**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NUCLEAR POWER INSTITUTE,  
A JOINT TEXAS ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION AND  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE ADMINISTERED WITHIN  
TEXAS ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION,  
TEXAS ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION AND  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Ms. Steen, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Nuclear Power Institute, a joint Texas Engineering Experiment Station and Texas A&M University Institute, is hereby established, reporting to the Vice Chancellor for Engineering and Texas A&M University Vice President for Research.

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(Secretary's Note: Mr. Nye returned to the meeting at this time.)

Mr. Jones called on Mr. Nye to present the report from the Committee on Finance.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. Nye, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, reported that the Committee met earlier the same day. He said they considered and unanimously approved Items 1 through 6. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 288-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF  
THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
REVENUE FINANCING SYSTEM BONDS, SERIES 2008,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The resolution authorizing the issuance of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System Revenue Financing System Bonds, Series 2008, substantially in the form of **Exhibit D**, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes, is adopted.

The Associate Vice Chancellor and Treasurer, or other Designated Financial Officer, is hereby authorized to take such actions as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of the resolution, including those relating to the issuance, sale, security, and delivery of the Bonds, all in accordance with the provisions of the resolution and to submit, as required, a notice of intent to the Texas Bond Review Board relating to the bonds.

**MINUTE ORDER 289-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

**ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, DONATIONS, GRANTS, AND ENDOWMENTS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Board of Regents hereby accepts the gifts, donations, grants, and endowments made to the members of The Texas A&M University System concerned as shown on Gifts, Donations, Grants, and Endowments List No. 08-02, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes as **Exhibit E**.

**MINUTE ORDER 290-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ADMINISTER  
GOVERNMENT CLASSIFIED CONTRACTS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The individuals occupying the following positions at The Texas A&M University System have been or will be processed for a personnel security clearance for access to classified information, to the level of the facility clearance granted to the A&M System, as provided for in the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual. In addition, all replacements for such positions will be processed for security clearance.

Michael D. McKinney, Chancellor  
*The Texas A&M University System*

B. J. Crain, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budgets and Accounting  
*The Texas A&M University System*

Diane Hassel, Facility Security Officer  
*Texas A&M Research Foundation*

The Board of Regents delegates to the above named group all authority pertaining to the protection of classified contracts awarded to the A&M System by the Department of Defense or user agencies of its Industrial Security Program.

Members of the Board of Regents shall not have or require access to classified information disclosed to the A&M System. Board Members can be effectively excluded from access to all classified information disclosed to the A&M System and do not occupy positions that would enable them to adversely affect the policies or practices of the member institutions, agencies, or health science center of the A&M System in the performance of classified contracts; therefore, Members of the Board of Regents need not be processed for personnel clearance.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

Bill Jones, Chairman  
John D. White, Vice Chairman  
Morris Edwin Foster  
Lupe Fraga  
J.L. Huffines  
Erle Nye  
Gene Stallings  
Ida Clement Steen  
James P. Wilson, Jr.

**MINUTE ORDER 291-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

**APPROPRIATION OF AVAILABLE UNIVERSITY FUNDS FOR  
ADDITIONAL UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Board of Regents hereby appropriates Available University Funds in the amount of \$1,865,298 for the installation of infrastructure necessary to provide utilities for The Texas A&M University System facilities, located on property assigned to Texas A&M University, to include the Texas Institute for Genomic Medicine (TIGM) building, as well as other A&M System buildings located in the general vicinity.

**MINUTE ORDER 292-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 5)**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHANCELLOR TO APPROVE ALLOCATIONS  
FOR THE ACADEMIC SCHOLARS ENHANCEMENT (ASE) PROGRAM,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Revenue Financing System debt proceeds in the amount of \$2,000,000 are appropriated from Account 01-083536 and Permanent University Fund debt proceeds in the amount of \$8,000,000 are appropriated from Account 01-085330 for support of the Academic Scholars Enhancement (ASE) Program.

The Chancellor is delegated to approve allocations for the ASE Program in an aggregate amount up to \$10,000,000.

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System (Board) reasonably expects to incur debt in one or more obligations for this project, and all or a portion of the proceeds received from the sale of such obligations is reasonably expected to be used to reimburse the account(s) for amounts previously appropriated and/or expended from such account(s).



**MINUTE ORDER 293-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

**APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS  
FOR THE PURCHASE OF 25 TRANSIT BUSES,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

An amount of \$6,000,000 from Account No. 01-083536 Revenue Financing System debt proceeds (Transportation Fee) is hereby appropriated for the purchase of 25 transit buses.

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System reasonably expects to incur debt in one or more obligations for this project, and all, or a portion of the proceeds received from the sale of such obligations is reasonably expected to be used to reimburse the account(s) for the amounts previously appropriated and/or expended from such account(s).

As required by Section 5(a) of the Master Resolution of the Revenue Financing System, the Board hereby determines that it will have sufficient funds to meet the financial obligations of The Texas A&M University System, including sufficient Pledged Revenues to satisfy the Annual Debt Service Requirements of the Revenue Financing System and to meet all financial obligations of the Board relating to the Revenue Financing System and that the Participants, on whose behalf the Bonds are to be issued, possess the financial capacity to satisfy their Direct Obligations.

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OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Jones called on Dr. Davis to present Items 30, 32 and 33. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 294-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 30)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING  
MR. RODERICK D. STEPP  
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SERVICE  
AS TRUSTEE OF THE TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Whereas, Roderick D. Stepp, a member of the Class of 1959, has served Texas A&M University with honor and distinction in a variety of capacities; and

Whereas, Mr. Stepp earned his bachelor's degree in geological engineering from Texas A&M University, where he served as a member of the Corps of Cadets, the Ross Volunteers, and editor of the 1959 Aggieland; and

Whereas, Mr. Stepp is a leader of remarkable capability; serving in the United States Army from 1961 to 1963; later purchasing interest in his family's metal shop and developing M&M Manufacturing Company into a major manufacturer that creates state-of-the-art construction-related products; and

Whereas, Mr. Stepp has co-funded research projects at the Energy Systems Laboratory and Mays Business School at Texas A&M University, established the Claudia and Rod Stepp '59 Endowed Opportunity Award and the Claudia and Rod Stepp '59 Dance Excellence Fund, and given generously to the Eternal Aggie Band Fund, the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation and The Association of Former Students; and

Whereas, Mr. Stepp serves in leadership positions with the Texas A&M University Vision 2020 Advisory Council and Fort Worth/Tarrant County A&M Club; and has served as president of the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation, vice president of The Association of Former Students, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Texas A&M Foundation and is a member of the President's Board of Visitors and a recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, gratefully recognize the outstanding dedication and service of Mr. Stepp as a Trustee of the Texas A&M Foundation and his lifelong efforts to maintain the margin of excellence that defines Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M Foundation; and, be it, further

Resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes, and copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, and be presented to Mr. Stepp and to the Archives of Texas A&M University as an expression of appreciation and respect for Mr. Roderick D. Stepp '59.

**MINUTE ORDER 295-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 32)**

**APPOINTMENT OF DR. NORA JANJAN  
FOR A SECOND TERM TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE RESEARCH CENTER,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Dr. Nora Janjan is hereby approved to be re-appointed to the Board of Directors of the Texas A&M University Private Enterprise Research Center, effective December 7, 2007.

~~~~~

Dr. Davis called on Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, Vice President and CEO at Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG), to present Item 33 A-D. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 296-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 33-A)**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
MR. THOMAS E. FARMER, SR. '72  
TO THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON BOARD OF VISITORS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Effective January 1, 2008, Mr. Thomas E. Farmer, Sr. is hereby appointed to the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors for a term of three years.

**MINUTE ORDER 297-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 33-B)**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
MR. JAMES E. POZZI '71  
TO THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON BOARD OF VISITORS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Effective January 1, 2008, Mr. James E. Pozzi is hereby appointed to the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors for a term of three years.

**MINUTE ORDER 298-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 33-C)**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
MR. ALBERT P. SHANNON  
TO THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON BOARD OF VISITORS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Effective January 1, 2008, Mr. Albert P. Shannon is hereby appointed to the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors for a term of three years.

**MINUTE ORDER 299-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 33-D)**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
MR. JONATHAN WHITWORTH '89  
TO THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON BOARD OF VISITORS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Effective January 1, 2008, Mr. Jonathan Whitworth is hereby appointed to the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors for a term of three years.

~~~~~

Mr. Jones called on Dr. Elsa Murano, Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences, to present Item 31. Dr. Murano said that within the A&M System we have

what she believes to be the distinct privilege to serve as the home of Texas 4-H. She said through Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) and the Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) Cooperative Extension Program, Texas 4-H impacts more than 650,000 young people across the state each year through the work of extension educators and almost 43,000 volunteers. Dr. Murano said this year marks the 100th anniversary of this truly remarkable program in Texas.

Dr. Murano introduced several special guests: Mr. Loni Woolley, State 4-H Council President from Grandview, Texas; Ms. April Johnson, public relations officer for San Antonio, Texas; Mr. Colton Conn from Hearne, Texas; Ms. Kelsi Gulick from Big Foot, Texas; Ms. Kayla Hahn, second vice president; Mr. Jim Reeves, executive director of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and Ms. Martha Couch, associate director for 4-H Youth Development for TCE.

Dr. Murano asked Dr. Edward G. Smith, Director of TCE, to come forward and discuss a very important partnership they have in celebration of the 4-H centennial.

Dr. Smith said they are very proud of the 4-H program. He said that we have the largest 4-H program in the U.S. He said they had formed a partnership in celebration of the centennial anniversary with Blue Bell Creameries. Dr. Smith said that Blue Bell had offered to produce a special brand of 4-H ice cream. He said that they are very grateful to the Kruse family for being willing to alter their brand in support of the 4-H program. Dr. Smith said that a portion of the proceeds would go toward the Texas 4-H Foundation.

The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 300-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 31)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING THE TEXAS 4-H CENTENNIAL, 1908-2008:  
100 YEARS OF EXTENSION EDUCATORS WORKING WITH  
TEXAS YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES,  
TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Ms. Steen and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Whereas, the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program began when the Jack County Boys Corn Club was founded in 1908 by Thomas M. Marks, who taught 25 farm boys how to grow corn using improved production methods; and

Whereas, the Milam County Girls Tomato Club was founded in 1912 by Edna Trigg to teach girls better production and canning methods for homegrown tomatoes; and

Whereas, learning opportunities for African-American youth were initiated in Waller County in 1914, whereby boys and girls learned how to supplement their family diet by growing vegetable gardens and poultry; and

Whereas, Texas 4-H evolved from these and other outreach efforts in the 1920s and today provides youth with opportunities to practice life skills, develop strong character, and improve their readiness for the workplace and college; and

Whereas, the 4-H pledge and motto extol wise and productive use of the four Hs, which stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, in order “To Make The Best Better;” and

Whereas, the members of 4-H and their families have made many worthwhile contributions to the citizens of Texas and this nation, and continue to do so through programs that help others affected by disability or hardship, such as youth who have a parent deployed with the military and participate in 4-H’s Operation Military Kids; and

Whereas, during its history in Texas, 4-H has involved millions of young people in educational and developmental programs, which have contributed significantly to the quality of life for these youth and their families; and

Whereas, these programs are conducted by Extension employees and Extension-trained volunteers under the administration of Texas Cooperative Extension and the Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program, both of which are part of The Texas A&M University System; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, recognize the centennial anniversary of 4-H in Texas and commend Extension educators and some 42,700 volunteers for enriching the lives of almost 659,000 Texas youth who participate in 4-H today, whose own spirit and service enrich the State of Texas; and, be it, further

Resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes, and copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents, be presented to the Archives of Texas A&M University, and be presented to the Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences to share with Extension faculty, staff and the youth and volunteers of Texas 4-H as a permanent mark of the high esteem in which they are held by the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System.

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Mr. Jones called on Dr. Nancy Dickey, President and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, to present Items 34 and 35. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 301-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 34)**

**APPROVAL OF THE BYLAWS FOR THE  
TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER COLLEGE OF  
MEDICINE MEDICAL SERVICES, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The bylaws of the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine Medical Services, Research and Development Plan, in the form attached as **Exhibit F**, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes, are hereby approved, and the College of Medicine is hereby authorized to implement the terms of such plan in accordance with the provisions contained therein.

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Mr. Nye asked to what extent this practice plan varied materially from others around the state. Dr. Dickey responded that it varies mostly where it said TAMU instead of the University of Texas (UT). She said that UT had a proven system and there was no reason to struggle trying to reinvent the wheel.

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**MINUTE ORDER 302-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 35)**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO SOLICIT DONATIONS OF  
DESIGNATED AMOUNTS FOR NAMING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN  
THE TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Board of Regents hereby approves potential naming opportunities within the Texas A&M Health Science Center at the funding levels set forth in **Exhibit G**, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes, subject to final approval.

~~~~~

Mr. Jones called on Dr. Ray Keck, President of Texas A&M International University (TAMIU), to present Item 51.

Dr. Keck said that the Sánchez family has a deep history of philanthropic activity and their presence at TAMIU has been truly transforming for their institution. He said 10 years ago, Mr. Sánchez established a lecture series which brought speakers such as Nobel Laureates and famous citizens of the world to Laredo. Mr. Sánchez also established the Sánchez scholars program which funds tuition, fees and books each year for 80 undergraduate students. Mr. Sánchez recently established, in the College of Business, a trading room to connect directly with the New York Stock Exchange, a high-tech class room and provided a \$10 million grant to a permanent endowment fund with the College of Business together with a \$10 million grant.

The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 303-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 51)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO NAME THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS IN LAREDO  
“THE A.R. SÁNCHEZ, JR. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS,”  
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Fraga and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The College of Business on the campus of Texas A&M International University in Laredo is hereby named “The A.R. Sánchez, Jr. School of Business.”

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Mr. Jones called on Dr. McKinney to present Items 36 through 39, 41 through 46 and 48 through 50. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 304-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 36)**

**APPROVAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF SYSTEM EMPLOYEES  
AND OTHERS TO SERVE AS BOARD MEMBERS OF A  
BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
RELATING TO THE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, LICENSING OR  
EXPLOITATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN WHICH  
THE SYSTEM HAS AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Board of Regents hereby approves the appointment of David R. Riddle, Director of Licensing & Intellectual Property; Billy F. McCutchen, Associate Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; H. Russell Cross, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Associate Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences; and Cesar Maldonado, Vice President of Systems Development for Maverick Engineering, Inc., to serve, on behalf of The Texas A&M University System, as members of the board of managers of AgFuture Energy LLC, a business entity that has an agreement with the System relating to the research, development, licensing, or exploitation of intellectual property in which the System has an ownership interest. Each appointee shall report to the Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization on matters related to AFE. David R. Riddle, Billy F. McCutchen, H. Russell Cross and Cesar Maldonado shall each serve for a term not to exceed two years. The Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization is authorized to reappoint any or all individuals for terms not to exceed two years each.

**MINUTE ORDER 305-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 37)**

**GRANTING OF THE TITLE OF EMERITUS/EMERITA,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

In recognition of long and distinguished service to The Texas A&M University System, the Board of Regents hereby confirms the recommendation of the Chancellor, and confers the title of “Emeritus/Emerita” upon the individuals as shown in **Exhibit H**, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes as Emeritus Title List No. 08-02, and grants all rights and privileges of this title.

**MINUTE ORDER 306-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 38)**

**CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT  
AND COMMISSIONING OF PEACE OFFICERS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

In accordance with System Policy 34.06 (*Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers*), the Board of Regents hereby confirms the appointment and commissioning of the peace officers by the Presidents of the respective members of The Texas A&M University System, as shown in **Exhibit I**, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes.

**MINUTE ORDER 307-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 39)**

**APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC TENURE,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy 12.01 (*Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure*), hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members as set forth in **Exhibit J**, Tenure List No. 08-02, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes.

**MINUTE ORDER 308-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 41)**

**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE CHANCELLOR  
OF THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TO  
APPROVE FOREIGN TRAVEL REQUESTS  
FUNDED FROM APPROPRIATED FUNDS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Effective immediately, the Chancellor, or designee, of The Texas A&M University System is hereby authorized to approve foreign travel requests funded from appropriated funds for all members of The Texas A&M University System. Foreign travel requests must be submitted far enough in advance of the anticipated trip to allow the Chancellor, or designee, to review and approve the request prior to the specified travel dates. Foreign travel for this purpose excludes travel to Canada and Mexico.

**MINUTE ORDER 309-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 42)**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO  
EXECUTE AMENDED EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT  
WITH ROB CHILDRRESS, HEAD BASEBALL COACH,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Authority is hereby granted, upon review for legal form and sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, to the President of Texas A&M University to execute amendments to the employment contract with the following person:

Rob Childress – Head Baseball Coach.

**MINUTE ORDER 310-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 43)**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
MS. STEPHANIE HOLLEY  
AS DEAN OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND RETENTION,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Effective immediately, Ms. Stephanie Holley is hereby appointed Dean of Enrollment Management and Retention at Texas A&M University-Commerce, at an initial salary of \$90,000.

**MINUTE ORDER 311-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 44)**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
DR. BRENT MANGUS  
AS DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Effective January 2, 2008, Dr. Brent Mangus is hereby appointed Dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce, at an initial salary of \$130,000.

**MINUTE ORDER 312-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 45)**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
DR. HEIDI TAYLOR  
AS DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES,  
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Effective January 1, 2008, Dr. Heidi Taylor is hereby appointed Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at West Texas A&M University, at an initial salary of \$125,000.

**MINUTE ORDER 313-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 46)**

**NAMING OF  
MR. GARY F. SERA  
AS THE SOLE FINALIST FOR THE POSITION OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Mr. Gary F. Sera is hereby named the sole finalist for the position of Director of the Texas Engineering Extension Service of The Texas A&M University System. As required by state law, final action may be taken after the 21-day notice is given.

**MINUTE ORDER 314-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 48)**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE  
SEPARATION AGREEMENT WITH DENNIS FRANCHIONE,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White, with Mr. Stallings voting “nay,” and by a majority vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Authority is hereby granted, upon review for legal form and sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, to the President of Texas A&M University to execute a separation and release agreement with the following person and corporation:

Dennis Franchione and Fran, Inc.

~~~~~

Mr. Stallings asked that it be noted that he was opposed to Item 48. Mr. Jones said that it would be noted.

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**MINUTE ORDER 315-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 49)**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE  
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH  
MIKE SHERMAN AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Authority is hereby granted, upon review for legal form and sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, to the President of Texas A&M University to execute an employment contract with the following person:

Michael F. Sherman – Head Football Coach.

~~~~~

Mr. Stallings voiced his concerns. He said he felt Mr. Sherman was an excellent choice, but he was concerned that they had just gone through a seven-year contract that did not work, so why would they do it again. Mr. Stallings said this did not make sense to him. He said that he would like to see Mr. Sherman win a few games, then extend his contract.

~~~~~

**MINUTE ORDER 316-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 50)**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE  
AMENDED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH  
HENRY C. FRAZIER, III, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH,  
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. White and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

Authority is hereby granted, upon review for legal form and sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, to the President of Prairie View A&M University to execute an employment contract with Prairie View A&M University's Head Football Coach, Henry C. Frazier, III.

~~~~~

Mr. Jones asked Dr. George C. Wright, President of PVAMU, to introduce Coach Frazier. Dr. Wright said that Mr. Frazier was hired four years ago and they had a goal to turn that program around. He said that PVAMU had a 31-year losing streak; and consequently, last year they set two goals. He said they would have a winning season and four years in a row they had been defeated by Grambling University by a score of 52-7. Dr. Wright said this had to change and Mr. Frazier agreed. He said this year PVAMU lost to Grambling on the last play of the game, 17-14. He said that not only have they won—they have won in the appropriate way with no student athletes to cause any problems and they are graduating at a much higher rate.

Coach Frazier said he had been recruiting at several high schools prior to attending the meeting. He thanked Dr. Wright for the faith he had in him. He said that taking on the job at PVAMU was the greatest opportunity in all of college sports.

Mr. Jones said they appreciated all that Dr. Wright had done.

Mr. Jones presented Item 40. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 317-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 40)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE  
SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2007, BOARD MEETING,  
BOARD OF REGENTS, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. Nye, seconded by Ms. Steen and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The Minutes of the September 27-28, 2007, Regular Board Meeting, are hereby approved.

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Mr. Jones made a brief statement on the search process before entertaining a motion on Item 47. He said he knew that many people were interested in the next item and he wanted to begin his comments by addressing the process that was used in the selection of the next president of TAMU. He said there had been some questions about the process and he wanted to make sure that everyone understood what was done by the Board, the advisory search committee and others to ensure that the next president of TAMU was the right person.

Mr. Jones said that on January 5, 2007, Chancellor McKinney, who is in charge of presidential search committees for all universities within the System, announced that an advisory search committee would be formed to assist in finding the next president of TAMU. He said that he wanted to make it clear that the Chancellor was in charge of the process and the advisory committee was formed to assist him in the process.

On January 9, 2007, the Chancellor set forth his expectations to the advisory search committee. Those expectations included a nationwide, as well as international search, for the next president resulting in four to six candidates to be closely vetted and scrutinized by the committee resulting in three candidates or more to be recommended by the committee to the Chancellor. He said that all would be unranked, with no sole finalist. Mr. Jones said that the expectations of the advisory committee and the committee's charge never changed during the committee's existence. He said it was anticipated that the process would take six to nine months.

Mr. Jones said that after the advisory committee made their recommendations, the Chancellor would then make his recommendations to the Board. The Board would then interview the advisory committee's recommended candidates, as well as any other candidates the Board deemed appropriate to select one or more finalists. Mr. Jones said what actually happened was that the advisory search committee was formed, made up of former students, current students, community members, faculty and members of the Board of Regents.

Mr. Jones said the committee received over 140 names of possible candidates for the position--some submitted by the candidates themselves, others were submitted by interested parties on behalf of the candidates. A search firm was also utilized to assist in the process. Before any interviews were conducted, the advisory search committee reduced the number of candidates considered to a list of 10. From their top 10 list, the advisory committee sent teams of committee members made up of five to seven committee members to interview several candidates that agreed to be interviewed. He said those team members then came back with their recommendations and discussed them with the rest of the committee. Mr. Jones said from those discussions, three recommended candidates were submitted to Chancellor McKinney in August 2007. He said the committee worked hard, sacrificing personal time and resources to accomplish their results. He thanked them for their efforts. Mr. Jones said that Chancellor McKinney in turn submitted all three recommended names, unranked, to the Board for further consideration.

Mr. Jones said that arrangements were immediately made to interview all three recommended candidates by the full Board. He said that before arrangements could be completed, one of the three candidates withdrew their name from consideration, even after urging from Mr. Jones personally, to allow the interview to proceed as originally planned.

Mr. Jones said in September 2007, the two remaining candidates were interviewed by all Board members. The Board determined that one of the two candidates interviewed from the committee's recommendations should remain in consideration. He said the Board then reviewed other candidates that had been discussed by the committee who were not interviewed by the committee for various reasons, including withdrawal from consideration by the candidate, the timing of the availability of the candidate and the desire of the candidate to be considered for the position at the time. Mr. Jones said that each of these candidates was contacted directly by him and urged to make themselves available to discuss the position of president of TAMU with the Board of Regents.

Mr. Jones said that over the next two months, seven potential candidates were contacted by team members from the Board. He said three of those candidates declined to be considered, four of the candidates were subsequently interviewed by all Board members. He said the Board then met on Thursday, December 6, 2007, to discuss all interviewed candidates. Mr. Jones said the Board members worked hard, giving up time away from their families and their weekends to make initial contacts and interviews with the candidates and to participate in follow-up interviews.

Mr. Jones said it was never the Board's intent to exclude any group from the process; however, the individuals that were considered for this position were all highly placed and currently employed. He said that confidentiality was imperative in moving forward deliberately, yet efficiently.

Mr. Jones said the advisory search committee was helpful in this process, not only by virtue of their recommendations, but also by virtue of the names that were available for the Board's consideration as a result of their search efforts. He said the search committee provided them with a valuable resource of names for the next president of TAMU and he thanked them for that.

Mr. Jones said that he knew that many of them were anxious to hear of their efforts and to know where the Board was in the process since September. He said he trusted that they would understand that the Board was limited in its ability to disclose exactly what it was doing in the process or to whom they were speaking to about the position as the confidences of those individuals were important, since careers and families could be affected if the names and positions were disclosed. He said some of those individuals are sitting college presidents, high-ranking U.S. government officials and other high ranking and publicly known individuals.

Mr. Jones said that their goal throughout the entire process had been to ensure that they serve their ultimate client base—the students of TAMU, current, past and future. In addition, to continue the excellent tradition of research, teaching excellence, service to our community, state and country and all other programs of TAMU.

Mr. Jones recognized Mr. White and opened nominations for finalists for the position of president of TAMU.

Mr. White said he would not repeat anything about the process, but would speak on some of the traits that they were looking for. He said they wanted someone who understood and embraced the values of TAMU—leadership, integrity and other values that they hold dear. He said that they wanted someone who was willing to listen, build consensus, be collaborative, but ultimately make the hard decisions. Mr. White said they were looking for someone with strong academic credentials, a history of research, who understands the global community in which we find ourselves and has experience in running complex organizations.

Mr. White said that the nominee that he would put before the Board had the academic credentials as an anaerobic biologist with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and a Ph.D. in food science and technology. He said that this person had run complex organizations as the undersecretary for food safety at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is the A&M System's Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas A&M's Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Mr. White then made a motion to nominate Dr. Elsa Murano as the sole finalist for the position of president of TAMU. Ms. Steen seconded the motion.

Mr. Jones announced that a motion and a second had been made to nominate Dr. Elsa Murano as the sole finalist for the position of president of TAMU. He said that this motion also included the state law that the Board would take final action on this

appointment after the expiration of 21 days as required by state law. He asked if there were any comments.

Mr. Nye said he wanted to add comments to what Mr. Jones had previously said about the process. He said that he was privileged to serve as one of two regents on the search committee and the committee worked very hard. He said he had served on a number of search committees over his career and this was as good as could be found. Mr. Nye said they worked hard and committed a lot of their personal time and worked on what turned out to be a much accelerated schedule. He said that they committed to what he believed to be an excellent process and maintained complete confidentiality over a long period of time, which he said was hard to do when you have that many people talking to that many people about a circumstance such as this. He said he thought their work was very thoughtful and excellent in many respects.

Mr. Nye said that circumstances resulted in a recommendation not being quite what they (the search committee) had hoped. He said nonetheless, this did not take anything away from the work of the committee or his great admiration for them and for their work. He personally expressed his appreciation to all the members of the search committee for letting him be a part of it and for what they did.

Mr. Nye said there was no secret that the process of the search had been the point of some dissention on this campus. He said he thought to a large extent because the Board had to operate under strict confidentiality, it made it worse when you cannot communicate about the process, talk about the care that was being taken, the kinds of candidates that were being examined, and how hard they were working to try to follow in the pattern that the committee had set and naturally suspicion arises and concerns are enhanced. Mr. Nye said he knew that it had been hurtful and he thought they all regretted it. He said on his own behalf and on behalf of the Board, he stated what he believed was self evident; that this Board has an extremely high regard for the faculty and staff that run this great university and that they know from their experience that their faculty includes distinguished scholars and educators, researchers of the first order, people of national esteem who are strongly committed to the excellence of this university, and more importantly, they understand and support the unique role of Texas A&M and what it represents for this state and nation.

Mr. Nye acknowledged the 12 months of dedication of Dr. Ed Davis, Interim President of TAMU, who he said had preformed in a masterful fashion under very difficult circumstances as he always had on behalf of this university. He said Dr. Davis' record of service to this university, to the student body, former students and his support of the faculty and staff was unparalleled. Mr. Nye said that he would match Dr. Davis' record with anyone and owed him a personal debt of gratitude for all he had done by carrying us through a very difficult legislative session under awkward circumstances. He said that Dr. Davis raised a substantial sum of money and is the ultimate Aggie and they were blessed to have him available during the past 12 months. Mr. Nye said that Dr. Davis would always have a special place at TAMU.

Mr. Nye said with all that had been thought and perceived that he prayed that everyone would gather around Dr. Murano. He said it was very important that everyone understood that this is too great of a university for them to be divided—too great a university for them to have differences. He said that all of them might be disappointed in one way or another; they all have different views and perspectives. Mr. Nye said that Dr. Murano was a fine, capable and great person and they were privileged to have access to her. He asked that all of his colleagues on the Board, all of the Board’s friends and colleagues on the faculty and staff would rally around Dr. Murano and make Texas A&M all that it could be. Mr. Nye said they could not afford to do less.

Mr. Jones announced that the motion was on the floor and asked who was in favor of the nomination and who was opposed. Mr. Stallings responded that he was opposed.

Mr. Stallings said that his vote was not opposed to Dr. Murano. He said that he just thought that they had a better choice. Mr. Stallings said that he had to vote his conscience and he would support a president in every way he could, but he would have to vote against it.

Mr. Jones announced that the nomination had been approved. The record of the vote is as follows:

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**MINUTE ORDER 318-2007 (AGENDA ITEM 47)**

**NAMING OF  
DR. ELSA MURANO  
AS THE SOLE FINALIST FOR THE POSITION OF  
PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY,  
BOARD OF REGENTS, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Steen, with Mr. Stallings voting “nay,” and by a majority vote (including Chairman Jones voting “aye”), the following minute order was adopted:

Dr. Elsa Murano is hereby named as the sole finalist for the position of President of Texas A&M University. As required by state law, final action will be taken after the 21-day notice is given.

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Mr. Jones explained that there was a 21-day period of time that was required by state law before the Board could vote her into office. He said that during that 21-day period, Dr. Murano would be made available to meet with any group on campus, off campus, student groups, faculty groups, dean groups, mothers’ clubs or anyone who had

an interest in talking to her and forming an evaluation of their own and letting the Board know their input on this decision.

Mr. White said that different people had described where A&M was at this point in time. He said they have a world-class individual that was going to lead this world-class institution forward. Mr. White said he was looking forward to it.

Mr. Jones said that if you wanted to see the epitome of globalization, talk to Dr. Murano about what she had been doing in agriculture in China, Brazil and other places in the world. He said that Texas A&M needed to be in the middle of this and should be at the front of it.

Mr. Jones called on Mr. White to present the report from the System Athletic Liaison.

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### **REPORT FROM THE SYSTEM ATHLETIC LIAISON**

Mr. White, System Athletic Liaison, congratulated Dr. Wright and PVAMU on their most football victories since 1964. He said they deserved the perseverance award. Mr. White said that coaching legend Billy Nicks was posthumously awarded the Trailblazer Award from the American Football Coaches Association.

Mr. White said that WTAMU had won four Lone Star Conference (LSC) championships in six National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championship appearances. He said the football team finished its third consecutive year as LSC championship and went to the NCAA second round. He said they won the second LSC championship in volleyball and was a NCAA national semifinalist. Mr. White said that men's soccer was the co-champion in the LSC and the NCAA regional finalist. He said the men's and women's cross country team went to the NCAA regionals. Mr. White said that WTAMU received student-athlete and coaching awards.

Mr. White reported that TAMU would be attending the Alamo Bowl on December 29, 2007. He said the Texas A&M men's basketball team was ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation and women's basketball was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

Mr. White reported that TAMUG won the sailing championship in the fall and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) came in fifth.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Jones announced that a press conference would be held immediately following the Board meeting in Room 206 of the MSC.

Mr. Jones announced that the next regular meeting was scheduled for January 24-25, 2008, on the campus of TAMU. He asked if there was any new business to come before the Board. There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Fraga, seconded by Mr. Nye and by a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers  
Executive Secretary to the Board  
The Texas A&M University System

VBS:jb