

**MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**HELD IN**

**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

**December 14, 2013**

*(Approved January 30, 2014)*

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**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
December 14, 2013**

**CONVENE**

Chairman Phil Adams convened a special meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, at 10:06 a.m., Saturday, December 14, 2013, in the Board Meeting Room on the campus of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. The following members of the Board were present:

Mr. Phil Adams, Chairman  
Mr. Cliff Thomas, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Anthony Buzbee  
Mr. Morris Foster  
Ms. Elaine Mendoza  
Ms. Judy Morgan  
Mr. Charles Schwartz  
Mr. Jim Schwertner  
Mr. John D. White

The following member of the Board was not present:

Mr. Nicholas Madere (Student Regent)

Chairman Adams announced that a quorum was present.

**RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Adams announced that the Board would recess to executive session as permitted by Chapter 551, Sections 71 and 74 of the Texas Government Code, including Item 1. He said 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 10:08 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.)*

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Adams reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:53 a.m. and announced that the Board met in executive session from 10:08 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. and discussed possible action regarding appointment of an interim president of Texas A&M University. He said they also conferred with Chancellor John Sharp and System attorneys. Chairman Adams said that under Board policy, this Board may appoint an interim president upon the recommendation of the Chancellor. He advised that Chancellor Sharp had submitted an agenda item for the Board's consideration, recommending the appointment of Dr. Mark Hussey as Interim President of Texas A&M University, effective January 14, 2014, at an initial salary of \$425,000.

Chairman Adams called for a motion to accept the Chancellor's recommendation to appoint Dr. Hussey to the position of Interim President of Texas A&M University.

Regent Schwertner said he would like to make the motion to accept Dr. Mark Hussey as the Interim President. He said Dr. Hussey was a world-class Dean and Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M. He added that he was well respected throughout the academic and agricultural communities in the state of Texas and in the world. He said he didn't think they could find a better individual to serve as interim president for this great institution at this time. Regent Morgan seconded the motion.

Chairman Adams announced that a motion and a second had been made and the motion was now open for any possible discussion.

Regent Buzbee said this decision had generated a great deal of interest. They had heard from the Distinguished Professors, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Council of Principal Investigators, the Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education and even Texags.com. He said the Board appreciated that input as it told him and all the Board members that this was a very important decision – it's an interim decision, but it set the table and sent a message. He said that's one of the reasons that he personally asked the Chairman and they indulged him to have the meeting – just to gather some information. He said now that they had heard from the Chancellor, there was no doubt that he had personally vetted Dr. Hussey and thought through this in some detail. He said he had multiple reasons and they agreed that Dr. Hussey was the right person. He said he was in full support of Dr. Hussey's appointment to this position and he wished him the very best and great success. He said we all understand that this is a very important decision and he wanted everyone watching or hearing to know that each of the Board members had considered this very carefully. He added that he was very proud of the way the Board had operated and discussed this topic. He said they couldn't always expect the Board to be unanimous, they were a governing body, each person voted his or her own conscience. He said he was proud to be a member of this group with each of the other regents and proud to have been a part of this process.

Chairman Adams thanked Regent Buzbee for his most thoughtful and welcomed comments.

Chancellor Sharp said Dr. Hussey asked him to say in a public forum that he would not be a candidate for the permanent position.

Chairman Adams asked for any additional comments. He said he was very pleased that this Board was together in making this important decision. He said he thought Dr. Hussey was an outstanding choice for interim president. He said President Bowen Loftin was wrapping up four years of very important and wonderful service to Texas A&M.

Chairman Adams said he thought it was a credit to this university, to Aggies everywhere and to the people of Texas that this Board had named someone so capable and with such an outstanding record in Texas Agriculture and nationally. He said members of the Board felt honored and privileged to be a part of this process. He added that Governor Rick Perry honored them in a great way by giving them the opportunity to serve these institutions in this System that they loved so much. He said after Dr. Loftin's departure in mid-January, the university would be in good hands with Dr. Hussey as the Interim President. Chairman Adams said they could not do better and Dr. Hussey was a credit to Texas A&M and a credit to agriculture on any level -- nationally and internationally -- and a credit to the people of this state.

There were no further comments or discussion.

Chairman Adams said he would call each regent's name so that their vote was properly recorded. The record of the regents' vote is as follows: Buzbee – yes, Foster – yes, Mendoza – yes, Morgan – yes, Schwartz – yes, Schwertner – yes, Thomas – yes, White – yes and Chairman Adams voted “yes.” The following minute order was approved (287).

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**MINUTE ORDER 287-2013**

**APPOINTMENT OF DR. MARK A. HUSSEY  
AS INTERIM PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, the Board of Regents hereby appoints Dr. Mark A. Hussey Interim President of Texas A&M University, effective January 14, 2014, at the initial salary of \$425,000.

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**ADJOURN**

On motion of Regent Buzbee, seconded by Regent Mendoza and by a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m., the same day.

Vickie Burt Spillers  
Executive Director, Board of Regents

VBS:kdI

*(These minutes were transcribed by Darlene Levens, Assistant to the Board of Regents.)*