

MINUTES

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS**

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

September 6, 2014

(Approved November 6, 2014)

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
September 6, 2014**

Chairman Phil Adams convened a special workshop meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, at 10:05 a.m., Saturday, September 6, 2014, 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 G. Buzbee
Ms. Elaine Mendoza
Ms. Judy Morgan
Mr. Charles W. Schwartz
Mr. Jim Schwertner
Mr. John D. White
Mr. Colton Buckley (Student Regent)

The following member of the Board was not present:

Mr. Morris Foster

Chairman Adams announced that a quorum was present. He said the Board would receive briefings regarding, and engage in discussion of, administrative staffing issues pending at Texas A&M and key issues pertaining to higher education with significant implications for the A&M System, including the impact of technology on higher education and financial trends affecting higher education. He added that no Board action would be taken.

Chairman Adams called on Dr. Mark Hussey, Interim President of Texas A&M, and Dr. José Bermúdez, Associate Provost for Strategic Planning for Texas A&M, who presented a report on administrative staffing issues at Texas A&M, including a status report regarding review and implementation of the recommendations contained in the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) study. They discussed challenges and opportunities identified by PwC including recommended budgetary and related actions.

Next, Mr. Billy Hamilton, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, introduced the following panelists who provided a national overview of key issues with significant implications for the A&M System: Ms. Molly Broad, President of the American Council on Education; Mr. Patrick M. Callan, President of the Higher Education Policy Institute; Dr. Robert W. Lawless, former President of Texas Tech University and the University of Tulsa; and Mr. Doug Lederman, Editor of *Inside Higher Ed*. Mr. Callan discussed funding issues, the need for clear goals, university rankings and measures for success. Ms. Broad discussed changing demographics, online education, mission and goals, and the role of faculty in academic policy and academic excellence.

The meeting was recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

The panelists continued their overview. Mr. Lederman's discussion included college rankings, technological factors and adaptive learning. Dr. Lawless discussed responsibilities of systems, challenges for boards and rankings.

Chairman Adams thanked Chancellor Sharp, Mr. Hamilton and the panelists for their excellent and thoughtful presentations and discussion.

There being no further business, Chairman Adams adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m., the same day.

Vickie Burt Spillers
Executive Director, Board of Regents