

**MINUTES**

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

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**HELD IN**

**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

**September 4, 2015**

*(Approved April 27, 2016)*

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

**September 4, 2015**

Chairman Clifton L. Thomas convened a special workshop meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System at 8:32 a.m., Friday, September 4, 2015, in the Board of Regents Meeting Room, on the campus of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. The following members of the Board were present:

Mr. Clifton L. Thomas, Chairman  
Ms. Elaine Mendoza, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Phil Adams  
Mr. Robert L. Albritton  
Mr. Morris E. Foster  
Mr. Bill Mahomes  
Mr. Charles W. Schwartz  
Mr. Gabriel Pereira (Student Regent)

The following members of the Board were not present:

Mr. Anthony G. Buzbee  
Ms. Judy Morgan

Chairman Thomas announced that a quorum was present. He added that no Board action would be taken. Chairman Thomas called on Mr. Billy Hamilton, Executive Vice Chancellor, and Mr. Joseph Duron, Executive Director of Budgets and Accounting, who presented an update regarding the implementation of recommendations from the PricewaterhouseCoopers administrative costs study.

Mr. Hamilton also discussed the budget planning process for Fiscal Year 2017, including a review of reserve balances.

Next, Chairman Thomas discussed the strategic planning process. He said one of his priorities was to develop a strategic plan for the System that would help the Board govern and manage this large, complex set of institutions. He said to make this process as efficient as possible, he had asked Chancellor Sharp to issue a request for proposal (RFP) to retain a consulting firm to facilitate this process. Chairman Thomas said he planned to appoint a strategic plan task force to include Regents Adams and Albritton, Vice Chairman Mendoza and a small group of System CEOs to work with the Chancellor and his team to put together a draft plan for the full board to consider.

Chairman Thomas discussed and outlined the terms of his plan going forward. He said System member universities and agencies would submit their updated strategic plans to the Chancellor's Office. The Chancellor's team would then review the System member plans to identify themes, options and approaches for the Board to consider as it develops the overall System plan. He said he then planned to convene the Board for a couple of strategic planning retreats in the next year to work with the Chancellor and the outside consulting firm to build a plan.

Chairman Thomas said the Board had a lot of work ahead of it, but he was confident that at the end of this process they would have a tool that would help the Board perform the important work governing this wonderful System.

Chairman Thomas then called on Mr. Hamilton who provided additional information about the strategic process.

Next, the Board received briefings regarding several strategic opportunities from Chancellor John Sharp, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Katherine Banks (Vice Chancellor for Engineering), Dr. James Hallmark (Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs) and Dr. Karan Watson (Provost and Executive Vice President at Texas A&M).

The last item discussed was an overview of System staffing, revenue, expense and performance indicators. Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Duron and Dr. Hallmark presented this overview.

After discussion, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers  
Executive Director, Board of Regents