

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

September 1, 2016

(Approved November 10, 2016)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

September 1, 2016

CONVENE..... 1

*MINUTE ORDER 218-2016 (ITEM 1) ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING
PROFESSOR JOHN J. MCDERMOTT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING DEDICATION TO TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
AND RECOGNITION AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PHILOSOPHERS,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY*..... 1

ADJOURN 2

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CONVENE

Chairman Clifton L. Thomas, Jr. convened a special meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, at 3:34 p.m., Thursday, September 1, 2016, in the Bethancourt Ballroom of the Memorial Student Center, on the campus of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. The following members of the Board were present:

Mr. Clifton L. Thomas, Jr., Chairman
Ms. Elaine Mendoza, Vice Chairman
Mr. Phil Adams
Mr. Robert L. Albritton
Mr. Anthony G. Buzbee
Mr. Morris E. Foster
Mr. Bill Mahomes
Ms. Judy Morgan
Mr. Charles W. Schwartz
Ms. Stephanie Y. Martinez (Student Regent)

Chairman Thomas called on Mr. Michael Young, President of Texas A&M, to present Item 1.

President Young said this item requested Board approval of a resolution honoring Dr. John J. McDermott as one of the world's most influential professors.

On motion of Regent Buzbee, seconded by Regent Albritton, and by a unanimous vote, the following minute order was approved (218):

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**MINUTE ORDER 218-2016 (ITEM 1)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING  
PROFESSOR JOHN J. MCDERMOTT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING  
DEDICATION TO TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AND RECOGNITION  
AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PHILOSOPHERS,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System adopted the resolution set forth in the attached exhibit.

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Dr. McDermott thanked everyone present, on the campus and in the wider community. He added that he was deeply appreciative of the affection -- not just acknowledgement -- shown to him by this resolution. He said be assured that he reveled in these festivities not only for himself but on behalf of his colleagues in the humanities for they too did splendid and influential work.

Dr. McDermott said when Jack Kennedy won the presidency, he paid a celebratory visit to Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston. He added that Cardinal Cushing said, “Jack, you are half Harvard and half Irish and never forget that the best part of you is Irish.” Dr. McDermott said he did not see a cardinal today, but if so they would say, McDermott you are half professional philosopher and half Texas A&M, and never forget that the best part of you is Texas A&M.”

Chairman Thomas and the Board congratulated Dr. McDermott on this honor and presented him with the framed resolution.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Regent Morgan, seconded by Vice Chairman Mendoza, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers
Executive Director, Board of Regents

(Minutes were transcribed by Gwen Kirby, Office of the Board of Regents.)

Resolution

Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

WHEREAS, Professor John J. McDermott joined the faculty of Texas A&M University in 1977 as professor and department head of Philosophy following a distinguished career at Queens College in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Professor McDermott has utilized his passion for teaching to instill in his students a philosophy which extolls the virtue of personal growth from every life experience, including over 25,000 students during his 65 years of teaching, 40 years of which he has spent here at Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, Professor McDermott is internationally recognized for his editorial supervision of the critical editions of the Works and Correspondence of William James, which combined with his personal writings on possibility and experience in the journey of life has generated countless citations and has profoundly affected the field of American philosophy; and

WHEREAS, he is the recipient of numerous honors and recognitions for his teaching, research and service, including the national Harbison Award for gifted teaching from the Danforth Foundation in 1970, as well as designation as University Distinguished Professor in 1981, Presidential Professorship for Teaching Excellence in 2005, Regents Professor in 2009 and Distinguished Service Award from the College of Liberal Arts in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Professor McDermott's commitment to the improvement of Texas A&M University includes the founding of the Faculty Senate in 1983, serving as the charter Speaker of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, since his arrival he has been deeply committed to the land-grant values of Texas A&M University, extending his talents and care beyond the classroom to the community through personal mentorship, education for learners whether they be pre-school children, incarcerated adults, the disabled, or retired professionals, including the formation of the Community of Faculty Retirees in 2013 which instills a spirit of connectedness of, for and by retired faculty; and

WHEREAS, Professor McDermott was recently recognized as among the "Top 50 Most Influential Living Philosophers in the World" by TheBestSchools, noting his influence in the classroom, to the community and in the field of American philosophy; 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 Professor McDermott, as a faculty of the highest merit, and applaud his remarkable efforts to enhance the excellence that defines Texas A&M University; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes, and official copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, and be presented to Professor McDermott and to the Archives of Texas A&M University as an expression of great appreciation and respect for Professor John J. McDermott.

ADOPTED, this 1st day of September 2016.