

MINUTES

OF THE

SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

OF

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

APRIL 10, 1997

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**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
APRIL 10, 1997**

Mr. Don Powell, Chairman of the Board of Regents, convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System on Thursday, April 10, 1997, at 10:07 a.m., 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 telephonically present:

Mr. Don Powell, Chairman
Mr. T. Michael O'Connor, Vice Chairman
Mr. Robert H. Allen
Ms. Anne Armstrong
Mr. John H. Lindsey
Mr. Frederick D. McClure
Mr. Erle Nye
Ms. M. Guadalupe L. Rangel

The following member of the Board was present in the Board Meeting Room in College Station, Texas:

Dr. Dionel Avilés

Mr. Powell said the purpose of the special meeting was to consider the recommendations of the Task Force on the Feasibility of a System wide Health Science Center; authorize the Chancellor to seek legislative authorization to consolidate the principal health-related components of the System into a single administrative unit; and approve Committee assignments. Mr. Powell called on Dr. Barry B. Thompson, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS), to present Item 1. Dr. Thompson read the minute order and said as a result of the task force study he believes this is the appropriate approach. He said Representative Dianne White Delisi will sponsor the resolution in the House and Senator Teel Bivins will sponsor the resolution in the Senate.

Mr. Allen clarified that the Board is being asked to grant approval to provide a stand-alone entity subject only to final details concerning operating matters. Dr. Thompson said that is how the agenda item is written. He added that the administration will be very careful in how they move forward because they want to be sure that it is in the best interest of the people of the state, economically feasible and academically justifiable. Mr. Allen said he is concerned that this is moving forward at a pace that is much greater than the work done to date should support. He is concerned that a basic assumption has been made that there is a need for this and that we can fill that need. Mr. Allen added that he is also concerned that we will remove these components from the various institutions and departments in our system and will put them

into this new entity and the indicated amounts of financial support is somewhere around \$60 million. He said he is concerned about the financial involvement of this and whether or not we have done sufficient work to support it. He suggested that the project be supervised by one of the Board's committees.

Mr. O'Connor asked the legislative procedure regarding this issue. Dr. Stanton Calvert, Chief of Legislative Affairs, said the action being contemplated is to combine the existing health related units into a single administrative structure for the purposes of leadership and articulating the future goals and strategy of broad based initiatives in a collaborative way to fund these units. He said we are not merely seeking legislative authorization but instead seeking legislative support so as to make them partners in the future endeavors that this activity will contemplate.

Mr. O'Connor asked what about the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and its involvement. Dr. Charles Lee, Vice Chancellor for Research, Planning and Continuing Education, said it will be necessary for the administration to present to the Board (of Regents) and the THECB a detailed proposal for the operation of such a facility including degree programs to be offered, the research emphases and other kinds of things related to resources. That document will flow first to the Board and then to the THECB. The Health Science Center for the University of North Texas (UNT) was created by legislative action in the last biennium and subsequent to that the institution had to proceed through its board to the THECB with documentation of the intended action. Mr. O'Connor asked if there is any likelihood that the THECB would not approve this. Dr. Lee said he has no basis for believing that they would deny it. He said this is a much more comprehensive health science center than was approved last session for UNT.

Ms. Rangel asked for clarification. Mr. Powell said we are asking the Legislature to approve the idea from a concept standpoint. Ms. Rangel said then the task force will come back to the Board and it will have further opportunity to scratch the whole project if it sees that it is not feasible or not affordable. Dr. Thompson said that is correct. He said this is going to take thousands of hours to put together a comprehensive plan. The Board owns the final gun and will have to be certain that it is feasible, cost-effective and above all that it serves those intended.

Mr. Lindsey asked if there is any question about where the headquarters of this organization will be. Dr. Thompson said the current resolution specifically mentions College Station, but he added that might be premature. Mr. Lindsey asked if Dr. Dominick DePaola, President of Baylor College of Dentistry, is still on board on this project. Dr. DePaola said he is enthusiastically behind this project.

Mr. McClure asked if this will allow, after legislative action, for the Board to obtain some outside analysis. Mr. Powell answered in the affirmative. Dr. Thompson said the plan all along has been to seek expert counsel.

Mr. Nye said the Board retains the right to abort this situation if it finds it appropriate to do so. He said that gives him a good deal of comfort. He said there is a lot that appeals to him in terms of possible efficiencies, economies and synergy that might be delivered. There are a number of examples around the state of such centers related to this area of academic pursuit and also this is unique and potentially possibly better in terms of delivering services to the state. So in that respect, Mr. Nye said he is favorably disposed toward doing this. He said he thinks it is a good strategy to seek legislative consultation before spending a lot of money pursuing an opportunity. He agreed with Mr. Allen that it may be well to have one of the Board's committees follow this matter very closely, particularly since some of the payment/finance operations structure and procedures are not fully fleshed out. Mr. Nye moved that this item be approved with the understanding that the Chairman will appoint one of the committees at his discretion to follow this with the staff very closely and if necessary seek outside counsel. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 56-97 (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK LEGISLATIVE  
AUTHORIZATION TO CONSOLIDATE THE PRINCIPAL  
HEALTH-RELATED COMPONENTS  
INTO A SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

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

*(Secretary's Note: Mr. Powell called the roll to take the vote on this item. Mr. Powell asked to be shown as voting "aye.")*

The Board of Regents hereby authorizes the Chancellor to initiate appropriate actions, including legislative consultation and action as needed, to consolidate its major health-related components into a single stand-alone administrative unit, subject to final approval of a detailed operating plan by the Board and necessary approvals from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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Mr. Powell said Item 2 was the approval of Board Committees and other special appointments:

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**MINUTE ORDER 57-97 (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEES AND  
OTHER SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS,  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

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

*(Secretary's Note: Mr. Powell called the roll to take the vote on this item.)*

The following standing and special committees and special appointments for April 1997 through February 1999, are hereby approved:

STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee on Audit

Frederick D. McClure, Chairman  
Dionel E. Avilés  
John H. Lindsey  
M. Guadalupe L. Rangel  
*Don Powell (ex-officio, non-voting)*

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

M. Guadalupe L. Rangel, Chairman  
Anne L. Armstrong  
Frederick D. McClure  
Erle A. Nye  
*Don Powell (ex-officio, non-voting)*

Committee on Finance

Erle A. Nye, Chairman  
Robert H. Allen  
Anne L. Armstrong  
T. Michael O'Connor  
*Don Powell (ex-officio, non-voting)*

Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant

Dionel E. Avilés, Chairman  
Robert H. Allen  
John H. Lindsey  
T. Michael O'Connor  
*Don Powell (ex-officio, non-voting)*

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Legislative Committee

T. Michael O'Connor, Chairman  
Frederick D. McClure  
Erle A. Nye

Campus Art and Aesthetic Improvement  
Committee

John H. Lindsey, Chairman  
Anne L. Armstrong  
M. Guadalupe L. Rangel

Transportation Committee

T. Michael O'Connor, Chairman  
Robert H. Allen  
Erle A. Nye

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Texas A&M Foundation

John H. Lindsey

Prairie View A&M University Development Foundation

Frederick D. McClure

Texas A&M University Association of Former Students

Frederick D. McClure

Texas A&M Research Foundation

Dionel E. Avilés

Bill and Irma Runyon Art Collection Committee

John H. Lindsey

Texas Growth Fund Board

Erle A. Nye

Board for Lease of University Lands

T. Michael O'Connor

Executive Committee of the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum

Frederick D. McClure

T. Michael O'Connor

University of Texas Investment Management Corporation (UTIMCO)

Robert H. Allen

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There being no further business, Mr. Powell adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m., the same day.

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

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