

MINUTES

OF THE

SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

OF

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

DECEMBER 8, 1999

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**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
DECEMBER 8, 1999**

A special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, was convened by Mr. Don Powell, Chairman of the Board of Regents, at 3:05 p.m., on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, 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 in the Board Room:

Mr. Don Powell, Chairman
Mr. Frederick D. McClure, Vice Chairman

The following members of the Board were telephonically present:

Ms. Anne Armstrong
Dr. Dionel E. Avilés
Mr. R.H. Stevens, Jr.
Dr. Susan Rudd Wynn

The following members of the Board were not present:

Mr. Robert H. Allen
Mr. Erle Nye
Mr. Lionel Sosa

Mr. Powell said the purpose of the meeting was to consider four agenda items. Mr. Powell presented Item 1 and the Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 269-1999 (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

**APPROVAL OF  
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR  
DR. RICHARD N. BUCHANAN,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**

On motion of Dr. Wynn, seconded by Dr. Avilés and a unanimous vote, the following minute order was adopted:

The employment contract between The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center-Baylor College of Dentistry and Dr. Richard N. Buchanan is in the best interest of The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center and is hereby approved. Authority is hereby granted, upon review for legal form and sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, to the President of The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center to execute the employment contract with Dr. Richard N. Buchanan, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes as **Exhibit A.**

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

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Mr. Powell introduced Item 2 and Mr. McClure read the item. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 270-1999 (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE  
1999 BONFIRE TRAGEDY AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF  
PRESIDENT BOWEN AND THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE 1999 BONFIRE,  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

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

Whereas, Texas A&M University tragically lost eleven students and one former student and had twenty-seven students injured when the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapsed during construction on November 18, 1999; and

Whereas, the tragedy has had a profound effect on the students, former students, faculty and staff of the University; and

Whereas, the effects of the accident have been most keenly felt by the families and friends of the students and the former student; and

Whereas, our hearts go out to everyone who has been directly affected by this tragedy; and

Whereas, we take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to all the individuals and organizations that have expressed support and offered condolences during this painful time for the Texas A&M family; and

Whereas, we also take this occasion to express our admiration for the students of Texas A&M University who responded to this tragedy in a highly supportive manner, ably led by Mr. Will Hurd, Student Body President; and

Whereas, the employees of Texas A&M University are to be commended for helping the institution bear the effects of this tragedy with compassion and dignity and with determination to conduct a thorough fact-finding inquiry into the cause of the accident; and

Whereas, Mr. Leo Linbeck of Houston has graciously agreed to serve as Chairman of the Special Commission on the 1999 Bonfire that will conduct the fact-finding inquiry, and he has, in turn, selected four other distinguished Texans to serve with him on the Special Commission, to wit, Ms. Veronica Kastrin Callaghan of El Paso, Mr. Hugh G. Robinson of Dallas, Mr. Allan Shivers, Jr., of Austin, and Dr. William E. Tucker of Fort Worth; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, add our deepest condolences to those already expressed to the families and friends of the deceased victims of the Bonfire tragedy, and to those students who were injured in the accident; and, be it

Resolved, that we fully support the efforts of President Ray M. Bowen and the members of the Special Commission on the 1999 Bonfire in determining the cause of the collapse of the Bonfire and examining all related information; and, be it, further

Resolved, that copies of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes, and copies thereof, signed by the Chairman of the Board, be presented to President Ray M. Bowen and to Student Body President Will Hurd and to each member of the Special Commission on the 1999 Bonfire, and to the Archives of Texas A&M University, as a permanent record of support for the leadership and dedicated work that each of them has performed, and will undoubtedly continue to perform, in the wake of this tragedy.

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

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Mr. Powell introduced Item 3 and Mr. McClure read the item. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 271-1999 (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION  
TO THE ADMINISTRATION, STUDENT BODY, ATHLETIC PROGRAM  
AND MARCHING BAND OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

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

Whereas, Texas A&M University suffered an unthinkable tragedy on November 18, 1999, when 11 students and one former student lost their lives and 27 others were injured during the construction of the annual Bonfire; and

Whereas, the Bonfire is a 90-year-old tradition at Texas A&M held each year before the Texas A&M University and University of Texas at Austin football game; and

Whereas, when news of the tragic event spread quickly across the state, the people who call the University of Texas at Austin home stepped forward quickly to offer some of the most touching words of condolences and support; and

Whereas, members of the University of Texas at Austin administration and representatives of the student body were on hand during a memorial service in College Station the day of the tragedy; and

Whereas, the University of Texas at Austin held an emotional candlelight unity service in place of their own traditional pre-game festivities as a show of sympathy for all of Aggieland and those affected by the tragedy; and

Whereas, Texas A&M University has received hundreds of kind letters from University of Texas faculty, staff, students and alumni expressing their prayers, thoughts and condolences; and

Whereas, members of the University of Texas Marching Band paid special tribute to the Bonfire tragedy victims during their halftime performance in the annual rivalry football game with an unforgettably moving ensemble of music and integrity; and

Whereas, members of the University of Texas at Austin's coaching staff and football players demonstrated enormous maturity, class and respect in the days preceding the annual rivalry and during the game on November 26; and

Whereas, the Texas A&M University family would like to formally thank the administration, faculty and staff, student body, athletics department and marching band; and

Whereas, no one affiliated with Texas A&M is likely to forget the University of Texas' show of support, sympathy and concern during this most difficult time; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System with great gratitude expresses its appreciation to all who make up the University of Texas at Austin; and, be it, further

Resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes and official copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents and be presented to University of Texas at Austin President Larry Faulkner and to the archives of The Texas A&M University System and Texas A&M University.

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

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Mr. Powell introduced Item 4 and Mr. McClure read the item. The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 272-1999 (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING  
MR. RANDY MATSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
TEXAS A&M ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS,  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

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

Whereas, Randy Matson graduated from Pampa High School in 1963 and from Texas A&M University in 1967 with a bachelor's of business administration degree; and

Whereas, among his high school athletic achievements were two shot and discus state championships and several new records in the sports; and

Whereas, as an athlete in the 1960s, he brought recognition to Texas A&M with his feats in track and field, breaking world records four times in throwing the shot put and setting a NCAA record in throwing the discus; and

Whereas, he earned Olympic fame by winning a silver medal in 1964 and a gold medal in 1968; and

Whereas, Mr. Matson received such recognitions as Texas Athlete of the Year in 1967, Sullivan Award for outstanding amateur athlete in the nation in 1967, I. DeBenedetto Memorial Award for best single performance in 1967, Helms Hall of Fame Athlete of the Continent in 1967, *Track and Field News* Athlete of the World in 1970,

and induction into the Texas A&M, Texas Sports, National Sports, National Track and Field and National High School Sports halls of fame; and

Whereas, Mr. Matson joined the Texas A&M Association of Former Students in 1972 as Director of its Annual Fund; and

Whereas, he became Executive Director of the Association in 1980; and

Whereas, under Mr. Matson's leadership, the Association's Annual Fund had grown from \$1.75 million to \$5.5 million by the end of last year, and the number of staff members has doubled; and

Whereas, The Association of Former Students' budget has more than tripled since Matson became Executive Director; and

Whereas, in 1985, Mr. Matson began overseeing the construction of the Association's first permanent home—a majestic 58,000-square-foot structure on the campus of Texas A&M; and

Whereas, in 1997, Texas A&M added Mr. Matson's name to its list of Distinguished Achievement Award winners, recognizing his many years of dedicated service to the students and former students of Texas A&M, and Texas A&M's Lowry Mays College of Business named him an "outstanding graduate" in 1998; and

Whereas, Mr. Matson will retire from his role of Executive Director of The Association of Former Students effective December 31, 1999; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System with great appreciation recognizes the outstanding service provided by Randy Matson throughout his 27 years with The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University, thanks him for bringing global recognition to the university through his accomplishments in track and field, and grants its best wishes upon his retirement; and be it further



Resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes and official copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents and be presented to Mr. Matson and to the archives of The Texas A&M University System and Texas A&M University as a sincere expression of his dedication and leadership to the citizens of Texas and to the students and former students of Texas A&M University.

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

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Mr. Powell adjourned the special telephonic meeting of the Board at 3:15 p.m., the same day.

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

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