

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

**OF**

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**HELD IN**

**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

**JANUARY 19, 2000**

*(Approved January 27, 2000, Minute Order 029-2000)*

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**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
JANUARY 19, 2000**

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 3:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 19, 2000, 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. Frederick D. McClure, Vice Chairman  
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 this meeting was necessary because System Policy requires Board approval for any contract over \$300,000. Preliminary discussions have indicated that there may be a contract proposal (*relating to the investigation of the Bonfire Commission*) that exceeds the \$300,000 amount requiring Board approval. Mr. Powell said the proposed agenda item would permit the Chancellor to sign any contract in connection with the Bonfire Commission that exceeds the policy limit without the necessity of further meetings. Mr. Powell proposed an addition to the agenda item. He said the Board is concerned that the Commission have the Board of Regents' total support in the Commission's mission. The Board does not want, in any way, to impede the Commission's ability to do its job or its independence. Mr. Powell said the Board must always remember that it is a public institution responsible to the citizens of this state for being good stewards of our resources. Mr. Powell proposed the addition of the following language to the minute order: "The aggregate amount for all professional services and consultant contracts related to the Bonfire Commission shall not exceed \$1,000,000 without specific authorization by the Board of Regents." Mr. Powell asked Mr. Graves to discuss the agenda item.

Mr. Howard D. Graves, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, said they want to have the Bonfire Commission proceed in a timely and orderly fashion. At the same time, they want to be responsible as a public institution, responsible to the citizens of the state for being good stewards. Mr. Graves said there is a need to deal with the fact that Dr. Ray Bowen, President of Texas A&M University, is limited to the

authority to sign contracts for \$200,000, and he, as Chancellor, is limited to \$300,000. Mr. Graves said they are requesting authority to exceed that amount. He then read the proposed minute order with the amendment suggested by Mr. Powell. Mr. Graves asked Dr. Bowen to discuss the matter.

Dr. Bowen said this proposal does facilitate and expedite the work of the Commission, which is extremely important. He said Mr. Powell's amendment was entirely appropriate and he recommended the Board's approval. Dr. Bowen said as the Commission proceeds with its work, it is possible that they will identify other projects, other work, that needs to be done which would require that the administration come back to the Board. He added that if they did come back to the Board, he would anticipate that it would be a rather small increase, but he hoped that under the Commission's management, they would stay within the \$1,000,000. Dr. Bowen thanked the Board for its willingness to consider this matter and allow the Commission to expedite its important work.

Dr. Avilés asked the number of contracts. Dr. Bowen said there are five contracts at this time. There is a small one to McKinsey and Company that allows them to pay their out-of-pocket expenses. He added that McKinsey's work product was being provided pro bono. Dr. Bowen said the other contracts are with PII (Performance Improvement International), Kroll Associates, Fay Engineering and Packer Engineering. Dr. Avilés asked if these contracts have been completely negotiated. Mr. Powell said they are in the process of negotiating the contracts.

Mr. McClure asked if there was a mechanism in place where the Board would be made aware if Texas A&M University entered into other contracts. Dr. Bowen said that would be very convenient for him to do, if they found it necessary to add a contract other than the five entities previously mentioned.

The Board took action as set forth below:

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**MINUTE ORDER 01-2000 (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE CHANCELLOR  
TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE BONFIRE COMMISSION,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

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

For contracts in excess of \$300,000, authority is hereby delegated to the Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, to execute such contracts related to the engagement of professional services and consultants as deemed appropriate by the Bonfire Commission. The President of Texas A&M University shall recommend approval and certify that funds are available.

The aggregate amount for all professional services and consultant contracts related to the Bonfire Commission shall not exceed \$1,000,000 without specific authorization by the Board of Regents.

*(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 3:12 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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