

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

**OF**

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**HELD IN**

**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

**October 13, 2004**

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<p style="text-align:center"><b>MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS October 13, 2004</b></p>
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**CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING**

Mr. Lowry Mays, Chairman of the Board, convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, at 10:07 am, on Wednesday, October 13, 2004, in the Board of Regents Meeting Room, Memorial Student Center, on the campus of Texas A&M University (TAMU), College Station, Texas.

The following members of the Board were telephonically present:

Mr. Lowry Mays, Chairman  
Mr. Erle Nye, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Phil Adams  
Dr. Susan Rudd Bailey  
Dr. Wendy Gramm  
Mr. Bill Jones  
Mr. Lionel Sosa  
Mr. R.H. "Steve" Stevens  
Mr. John D. White

Mr. Mays said in accordance with the Texas Government Code, that allows governing boards to meet by telephone, each party to the conference call must clearly identify himself/herself prior to speaking. Mr. Mays said the purpose of the special meeting was for the consideration of any and all things leading to the selection of the Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS), including possible action in naming the finalist(s) for this position, as well as possible action leading to the selection of the Vice Chancellor and Dean, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES), including possible action in naming the finalist(s) for this position.

**RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Mays said that having convened in open session the Board would enter into an executive (closed) session to consider matters as permitted by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code: Section 71, for consultation with System attorneys regarding legal matters or pending and/or contemplated litigation or settlement offers; and Section 74, for deliberations regarding personnel matters relating to appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal, or to hear complaints or charges against an officer or employee, including deliberations regarding any and all actions leading to the selection of the Chancellor of TAMUS and

deliberations regarding any an all actions leading to the selection of the Vice Chancellor and Dean, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Director of the TAES.

Mr. Mays said that in accordance with the law, no final action, decision, or vote with regard to any matter considered in the executive session would be made or taken. Mr. Mays asked Mr. Delmar Cain, General Counsel, and Ms. Vickie Spillers, Executive Secretary to the Board, to stay for the closed session. Mr. Mays said that Dr. Robert Gates, President of TAMU, would also be standing by outside of the meeting room for comments as needed. He said that all other persons should leave the meeting room until the meeting was reconvened in open session.

*(Secretary's note: The Board met in executive session from 10:10 am until 11:06 am.)*

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Mays reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:07 am.

Mr. Mays said that there was a discussion of personnel matters in executive session. He asked if there was anyone who would like to make a motion for Chancellor. Mr. Stevens said that he would like to nominate Dr. Benton Cocanougher as the sole finalist for the position of Chancellor of TAMUS. Mr. Stevens said that Dr. Cocanougher has served as Interim Chancellor of the System for the past 14 months and has had a distinguished career in higher education, including excellent service at TAMU as Dean of the Mays School. He said in that last position, Dr. Cocanougher was primarily responsible for acquiring a lead gift for the school in the "Capturing the Spirit Campaign." He said as Interim Chancellor, Dr. Cocanougher had gained the respect of his staff, vice chancellors, and presidents from the various universities within the System, alumni of the various institutions, legislators, and student groups of the nine universities. Mr. Stevens said in addition, each of the regents had received numerous calls of support from each of those groups for Dr. Cocanougher and it was his pleasure to nominate him as the sole finalist for the position of Chancellor of TAMUS. Mr. Mays asked if there was a second to the motion. Mr. Sosa seconded the motion. Mr. Mays said he would call each regent's name so that their vote could be properly recorded. The regents voted as follows: Adams - no, Bailey – yes, Gramm - no, Jones - no, Nye – no, White – no. Mr. Mays said he voted "yes." The motion did not pass.

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**MINUTE ORDER 156-2004**

**NAMING OF  
DR. ROBERT D. MCTEER AS THE FINALIST FOR THE POSITION OF  
CHANCELLOR OF THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Dr. Gramm said that she would like to nominate Dr. Robert D. McTeer as the sole finalist for the position of Chancellor of TAMUS. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Mr. Mays said he would call each regent's name so that their vote could be properly recorded. The regents voted as follows: Adams – yes, Bailey – yes, Gramm – yes, Jones – yes, Nye – yes, Sosa – abstain, White – yes and Stevens – yes. Mr. Mays said that he voted that the Board make the vote unanimous. Mr. Sosa said he voted “yes” and the vote was unanimous, electing Dr. Robert McTeer as the sole finalist for the position of Chancellor of TAMUS.

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Mr. Nye said that he thought it was clear that everyone on the Board had a great respect for Dr. Cocanougher. He said that Dr. Cocanougher is a fine individual, an excellent administrator and has been of great service to the Board and to the System, and of course, he has a distinguished record in the System. Mr. Nye said that while the Board was not authorized under the agenda that was called to pass a resolution, he asked that a resolution be prepared expressing the Board's appreciation, admiration, and affection for Dr. Cocanougher, reciting the Board's views on his work and service to the System and expressing the Board's appreciation and thanks. Mr. Nye asked for the resolution to be prepared and presented at the next meeting of the Board.

Mr. Mays said that he would like for Mr. Stevens, Mr. Jones, and Mr. White to form a committee to meet with Dr. McTeer to discuss his compensation. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Mr. Mays asked if any one was opposed. There were none. Mr. Mays asked the task force to meet with Dr. McTeer to negotiate a compensation package for him.

Mr. Mays said the other item on the agenda was the position of Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Director of TAES.

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**MINUTE ORDER 157-2004**

**NAMING OF  
DR. ELSA A. MURANO  
AS THE FINALIST FOR THE POSITION OF  
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES,  
DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES AT  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Mr. Nye said he would like to place into nomination the name of Dr. Elsa A. Murano as the sole finalist for the position. He said she was a distinguished faculty member and holds tenure at TAMU, with a great career in agriculture and is currently serving at the highest levels of government. Mr. Nye said that she was interested in the position and shows enthusiasm for the job. Dr. Bailey seconded the motion. Mr. Mays said he would call each regent's name so that their vote could be properly recorded. The regents voted as follows: Adams – yes, Gramm – yes, Jones – yes, Nye – yes, Stevens – yes, White – yes, Sosa – yes, and Bailey - yes. Mr. Mays voted “yes” and the vote was unanimous.

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Mr. Mays said that he thought that the Board had selected two outstanding candidates for the future of the System and said the Board should be proud of its actions.

There being no further business, Mr. Mays adjourned the special telephonic meeting of the Board at 11:15 am, the same day.

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

VBS:aw