

MINUTES

OF THE

SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

OF

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

August 15, 2011

(Approved November 3, 2011)

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

August 15, 2011

CONVENE

Chairman Richard A. Box convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, at 3:00 p.m., Monday, August 15, 2011, in the Board Meeting Room on the campus of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Chairman Box called each Regent's name to confirm that a quorum was present. The following members of the Board were present by telephone:

Dr. Richard A. Box, Chairman
Mr. Phil Adams, Vice Chairman
Mr. Morris Foster
Ms. Elaine Mendoza
Ms. Judy Morgan
Mr. Jim Schwertner
Mr. Cliff Thomas
Mr. John D. White
Mr. Fernando Treviño (Student Regent)

The following member of the Board was present in the Board Meeting Room:

Mr. Jim Wilson

Chairman Box said this special telephonic meeting had been duly posted with the Secretary of State.

Chairman Box said the purpose of this special telephonic meeting was for consideration and action on 15 items as listed on the posted agenda.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:02 p.m., Chairman Box announced that the Board would recess to executive session to consider matters as permitted by Section 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code. He said 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.

(Secretary's Note: The Board met in executive session from 3:05 p.m. until 4:01 p.m.)

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Chairman Box reconvened the meeting in open session at 4:01 p.m. and announced that the Board had met in executive session from 3:05 p.m. until 4:01 p.m., Monday,

August 15, 2011, and considered executive session items and conferred with System attorneys on personnel and legal matters.

Chairman Box presented Item 14 and called on Regent Foster.

Regent Foster said the advisory group had, after careful and deliberate consideration, canvassed and interviewed a significant number of candidates. He said they recommended Mr. Sharp for the position of Chancellor of the A&M System, adding that Mr. Sharp was a successful businessman with a long and honored public service role.

Chairman Box asked if there were other finalists and Regent Foster said that Mr. Sharp was recommended as the sole finalist.

Regent Foster moved for adoption of the minute order. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The record of each regent’s vote is as follows: Adams – yes, Foster – yes, Mendoza – yes, Morgan – yes, Schwertner – yes, Thomas – yes, White – yes, Wilson – yes. Chairman Box voted “yes.” The following minute order was approved (191):

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**MINUTE ORDER 191-2011 (ITEM 14)**

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. JOHN SHARP  
AS THE SOLE FINALIST FOR THE POSITION OF CHANCELLOR,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Mr. John Sharp is hereby named as the finalist for the position of Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. As required by state law, final action will be taken after 21 days have expired.

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Chairman Box said the A&M System was fortunate to have someone of Mr. Sharp’s ability and prestige to take over the A&M System. He said Mr. Sharp was well respected in Texas with extensive experience and knowledge in state government, beginning with the Legislature and the House. He said Mr. Sharp was an effective and respected member of the Senate, a member of the Texas Railroad Commission, and that as State Comptroller, he had acquired vast experience in state government finance. He said Mr. Sharp would be proactive in the academic community and supportive of the A&M System’s core missions of education, research and service.

Chairman Box presented Item 15.

Regent Schwertner moved for adoption of the minute order. Regent Thomas seconded the motion. The record of each regent’s vote is as follows: Adams – yes, Foster – yes, Mendoza – yes, Morgan – yes, Schwertner – yes, Thomas – yes, White – yes, Wilson – yes. Chairman Box voted “yes.” The following minute order was approved (192):

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**MINUTE ORDER 192-2011 (ITEM 15)**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS RELATING TO TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY’S ATHLETIC CONFERENCE ALIGNMENT, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Authority is hereby granted, upon review for legal form and sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, to the President of Texas A&M University to take all actions relating to Texas A&M University’s athletic conference alignment, including but not limited to withdrawing from its current conference alignment and establishing a new conference alignment.

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Chairman Box presented Item 1 and said the A&M System’s operating expenditures of approximately \$3.3 billion represented a budget reduction of 2%, or \$71 million over the FY 2011 projections. He said the regents had been provided an executive summary and had been contacted by the A&M System office staff for budget reviews to address any concerns.

Chairman Box presented Items 2 and 3.

Regent Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, said they had been preparing for this budget for several years. He said they had received a good forecast of what the state budget would be and the constraints the budget would cause the A&M System universities. He said several years ago Regent Foster had initiated the cost savings programs and they had been looking forward to this day. He said many budget cuts had already been done and reported that Ms. B. J. Crain, Chief Business Officer, had gone over all the A&M System members’ budget cuts with each regent and they were given the opportunity to ask questions at that time.

Regent Foster asked if the budget being put forth would allow them to hold tuition flat, except for what they had provided for in earlier meetings. Mr. Joseph Duron, Executive Director, Budgets and Accounting, replied in the affirmative. Regent Foster said this would again demonstrate to the parents of students who were paying the tuition bills, as well as the State Legislature that the A&M System was working hard to hold down the cost of education.

Regent Wilson moved for the adoption of Items 1 through 3. Regent Morgan seconded the motion. The record of each regent’s vote is as follows: Adams – yes, Foster – yes, Mendoza – yes, Morgan – yes, Schwertner – yes, Thomas – yes, White – yes, Wilson – yes. Chairman Box voted “yes.” The following minute orders were approved (193 through 195):

MINUTE ORDER 193-2011 (ITEM 1)

**APPROVAL OF FY 2012 OPERATING BUDGETS,
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The operating budgets, attached to the official minutes as **Exhibit A**, as submitted by the members of The Texas A&M University System for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012, are hereby approved and adopted subject to the provisions contained in System Policy 27.04 (*Budget Authorizations, Limitations, and Delegations of Authority*).

MINUTE ORDER 194-2011 (ITEM 2)

**APPROVAL OF FY 2012 SERVICE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS,
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The service department accounts for the members of The Texas A&M University System for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012, attached to the official minutes as **Exhibit B**, are hereby approved, subject to the provisions contained in System Regulation 21.01.05 (*Service Departments*).

MINUTE ORDER 195-2011 (ITEM 3)

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXCEED LIMITATIONS
ON STATE EMPLOYMENT LEVELS,
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System hereby approves the request by the members of The Texas A&M University System, attached to the official minutes as **Exhibit C**, for an exception to the limitations on state employment levels specified in House Bill 1, 82nd Legislature.

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Chairman Box presented Items 4 through 13.

Regent Wilson moved for adoption of Items 4 through 13. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The record of each regent’s vote is as follows: Adams – yes, Foster – yes, Mendoza – yes, Morgan – yes, Schwertner – yes, Thomas – yes, White – yes, Wilson – yes. Chairman Box voted “yes.” The following minute orders were approved (196 through 205):

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MINUTE ORDER 196-2011 (ITEM 4)

**APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC TENURE, AUGUST 2011,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy 12.01 (*Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure*), hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at Texas A&M University-San Antonio as set forth in **Exhibit D**, Tenure List No. 11-07.

MINUTE ORDER 197-2011 (ITEM 5)

**APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC TENURE, AUGUST 2011,
THE TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy 12.01 (*Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure*), hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center as set forth in **Exhibit E**, Tenure List No. 11-07.

MINUTE ORDER 198-2011 (ITEM 6)

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING
MS. SHERAN A. RILEY ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FOR
OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SERVICE FROM 1981 TO 2011,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

Whereas, Sheran A. Riley has diligently served Texas A&M University and the Office of the President from 1981 to 2011, during the administrations of six Texas A&M University Presidents – Frank E. Vandiver, William H. Mobley, Ray M. Bowen, Robert M. Gates, Elsa A. Murano and R. Bowen Loftin – and two interim Presidents - E. Dean Gage and Eddie J. Davis; and

Whereas, Ms. Riley’s wide-ranging duties have included overseeing the internal affairs and day-to-day operations of the President’s Office, solving problems, consulting with and advising administrators, faculty, staff and students on a myriad of issues and coordinating special projects; she is probably best known for her outstanding coordination of special events and programs; and

Whereas, throughout her career at Texas A&M University, she has worked closely with The Association of Former Students, the Texas A&M Foundation, the Athletic Department, the Memorial Student Center and other friends of Texas A&M University; she demonstrated her greatest devotion and compassion working with students and parents following the collapse of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Bonfire in 1999; and

Whereas, Ms. Riley is beloved by the faculty, staff and students with whom she has worked over the course of the past 30 years, she has been recognized for her service with the Charles W. Plum Non-Student Distinguished Service Award and The Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Staff Support and by being named a Fish Camp Namesake; and

Whereas, Ms. Riley served on numerous Texas A&M University committees, she was notably the chair of the Brown Foundation-Earl Rudder Award Committee and a member of both the President’s Advisory Committee on Art Policy and the Faculty Senate Rules and Regulations Committee; she is also active in the Bryan-College Station community, having served on the boards of the United Way of Brazos County, the St. Joseph Services Corporation and the St. Joseph Hospital and Health Center; and

Whereas, Ms. Riley earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Memphis State University and, before joining the Aggie Family, served in her hometown of New Madrid, Missouri, as a social worker and then held progressively responsible positions with RepublicBank in Dallas, Texas; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, gratefully recognize Ms. Riley’s dedication and service to Texas A&M University from 1981 to 2011, and for her role in developing leaders of character dedicated to serving the greater good, and wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life; and, be it, further

Resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes, and copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, and be presented to Ms. Riley and to the Archives of Texas A&M University as an expression of appreciation and respect for Sheran A. Riley.

MINUTE ORDER 199-2011 (ITEM 7)

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING
MS. SUSAN WATKINS AMBROSE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT
FOR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SERVICE FROM 1981 TO 2011,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

Whereas, Susan Watkins Ambrose has diligently served Texas A&M University and the Office of the President from 1981 to 2011, during the administrations of six Texas A&M University Presidents – Frank E. Vandiver, William H. Mobley, Ray M. Bowen, Robert M. Gates, Elsa A. Murano and R. Bowen Loftin – and two interim Presidents – E. Dean Gage and Eddie J. Davis; and

Whereas, President Vandiver referred to Ms. Ambrose as “the hub of the office wheel,” and one of Ms. Ambrose’s specialties is making arrangements for some one hundred fifty social events a year, planning everything from guest lists to seating arrangements to menus and flowers and another of her specialties is the planning and arrangements for commencement ceremonies and accompanying events, she is known by all for her kindness and organizational skills; and

Whereas, throughout her career at Texas A&M University, Ms. Ambrose has personified the highest standard of excellence; she has been an excellent supervisor for the many students who have worked in the President’s Office and, though firm and strict, she was always there with a caring heart when they needed her; and

Whereas, Ms. Ambrose is beloved by the faculty, staff and students with whom she has worked over the course of the past 30 years; she has been recognized for her service with The Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Staff Support; and

Whereas, Ms. Ambrose earned a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and Psychology from Texas A&M University, graduating magna cum laude, and has previously served the College Station Independent School District as a Classroom Teacher as well as in the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Personnel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, gratefully recognize Ms. Ambrose’s dedication and service to Texas A&M University from 1981 to 2011, and for her role in developing leaders of character dedicated to serving the greater good, and wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life; and, be it, further

Resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes, and copies thereof be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, and be presented to Ms. Ambrose and to the Archives of Texas A&M University as an expression of appreciation and respect for Susan Watkins Ambrose.

MINUTE ORDER 200-2011 (ITEM 8)

**AUTHORIZATION TO LIQUIDATE \$200,000
OF THE “MARIANNA SCHMITT QUASI-ENDOWMENT/#076106,”
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System authorizes the President of Texas A&M University to liquidate \$200,000 of the “Marianna Schmitt Quasi-Endowment/#076106.” These proceeds will be used to support the Stevenson Center expansion project.

MINUTE ORDER 201-2011 (ITEM 9)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH A QUASI-ENDOWMENT
ENTITLED THE “DR. DAVID E. SCHOB FUND,”
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System authorizes the President of Texas A&M University to establish a quasi-endowment entitled the “Dr. David E. Schob Fund.” The scholarship will be created with funds from the David E. Schob Trust. Endowment earnings from the quasi-endowment will be used to allow for maintenance, preservation and management at 906 Ashburn in College Station, Texas.

MINUTE ORDER 202-2011 (ITEM 10)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH A QUASI-ENDOWMENT ENTITLED THE
“ROBERT B. WIGGS QUASI-ENDOWMENT FOR VETERINARY DENTISTRY,”
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System authorizes the President of Texas A&M University to establish a quasi-endowment entitled the “Robert B. Wiggs Quasi-Endowment for Veterinary Dentistry.” The account will be created with funds from the estate of Robert B. Wiggs. Endowment earnings from the quasi-endowment will be used to support the study of veterinary dentistry within the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University.

MINUTE ORDER 203-2011 (ITEM 11)

**APPOINTMENT OF DR. GRADY PRICE BLOUNT
AS DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND AGRICULTURE,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

Effective September 1, 2011, Dr. Grady Price Blount is hereby appointed Dean of the College of Science, Engineering, and Agriculture at Texas A&M University-Commerce, at an initial salary of \$145,000.

MINUTE ORDER 204-2011 (ITEM 12)

**APPOINTMENT OF DR. SALVATORE ATTARDO
AS DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND ARTS,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

Effective September 1, 2011, Dr. Salvatore Attardo is hereby appointed Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts at Texas A&M University-Commerce, at an initial salary of \$145,000.

MINUTE ORDER 205-2011 (ITEM 13)

**APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC TENURE, AUGUST 2011,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy 12.01 (*Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure*), hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty member at Texas A&M University-Commerce as set forth in **Exhibit F**, Tenure List No. 11-07.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of Vice Chairman Adams, seconded by Regent Wilson and by a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m., the same day.

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

VBS:gak

*(These minutes were transcribed by Gwen Kirby, Senior Office Associate, Office of the Board of Regents.)*