

MINUTES

OF THE

SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

OF

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

September 6, 2011

(Approved November 3, 2011)

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

September 6, 2011

CONVENE

Chairman Richard A. Box convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, at 9:03 a.m., Tuesday, September 6, 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. Jim Wilson
Mr. Fernando Treviño (Student Regent)

Chairman Box said that 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 five items.

Item 1 – Appointment of Mr. John Sharp as Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System

Item 2 – Appointment of General Counsel, The Texas A&M University System

Item 3 – Authorization to Administer Government Classified Contracts, The Texas A&M University System

Item 4 – Approval for the Placement of the “Rachel’s Garden” Memorial, Texas A&M University-Commerce

Item 5 – Adoption of the New Proposed University Flag, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:05 a.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, including Items 1 and 2. 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 9:05 a.m. until 9:24 a.m.)

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Chairman Box reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:24 a.m. and announced that the Board had met in executive session from 9:05 a.m. until 9:24 a.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2011, and considered executive session Items 1 and 2 and conferred with System attorneys on personnel and legal matters.

Chairman Box presented Item 1.

Regent Mendoza moved for adoption of the minute order. Vice Chairman Phil Adams 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 (206):

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**MINUTE ORDER 206-2011 (ITEM 1)**

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

Mr. John Sharp is hereby appointed Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, effective September 6, 2011. The Chairman of the Board of Regents is hereby delegated authority to confirm the terms of the employment with Mr. Sharp.

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Chancellor Sharp thanked Interim Chancellor Jay Kimbrough for his “steady hand” on the A&M System during the interim, and said he had been invaluable during this short period. Chairman Box said that Mr. Kimbrough had done an outstanding job and the Board appreciated the time that he had served the A&M System in that capacity.

Chairman Box presented Item 2.

Vice Chairman Adams 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 (207):

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**MINUTE ORDER 207-2011 (ITEM 2)**

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. RAY BONILLA AS GENERAL COUNSEL,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Mr. Ray Bonilla is hereby appointed General Counsel of The Texas A&M University System at an initial salary of \$275,000, effective September 6, 2011.

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Chairman Box welcomed Mr. Bonilla and thanked him for his willingness to serve the A&M System. Chancellor Sharp thanked Deputy General Counsel Scott Kelly for his service during the interim. Chairman Box said the Board appreciated the good work of Mr. Kelly.

Chairman Box said they were delighted to have Chancellor Sharp, a dedicated public servant who had done many important and noteworthy things for Texas and the nation during his career. He said Mr. Sharp had begun as an officer in the Army reserves and served in the State House of Representatives and Senate, where he served on the Finance Committee and was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission. He added that while serving on the Texas Railroad Commission, Chancellor Sharp helped reform state trucking regulations, improved railroad safety and developed new markets for Texas' abundant supply of clean-burning and efficient natural gas.

Chairman Box said as the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Mr. Sharp accomplished many things for Texas, including organizing the Texas Performance Review, an ongoing audit of state government. He said Mr. Sharp had established the Texas Workforce Commission, which consolidated the state's scattered work force; the Council on Competitive Government; the Lone Star card, a computerized credit card replacing food stamps to reduce fraud and abuse in the food stamp program; the Family Pathfinders, which linked welfare families with local civic clubs, congregations and businesses to help get jobs and leave the public assistance rolls. Chairman Box said John Sharp started the Texas School Performance Review, which had shown public school districts how to save over \$350 million while keeping scarce education funds in the classroom where they belonged, easing the burden on local taxpayers. He added that Mr. Sharp started the Texas Tomorrow Fund, a prepaid tuition plan for higher education and was involved in the Texas Lottery, where he commanded the most successful state lottery start-up in history.

Chairman Box said Chancellor Sharp had received numerous awards: Outstanding Freshman by *Texas Monthly* while he was in the Texas House of Representatives, and the only Texas Quality Award ever presented to a government agency while in the Comptroller's Office. He added that Mr. Sharp had done many things in the public and private sector, serving as a principal with Ryan & Company. Chairman Box said with all the things Chancellor Sharp had to offer the A&M System, they were truly honored and delighted to have him and looked forward to working with him for many years. Chairman Box said great things would happen with Chancellor Sharp at the helm of the A&M System.

Chancellor Sharp said it was an honor to be selected and he would work very hard to be worthy of it. He added that he believed there were many university systems in the country that

had peaked, but the A&M System was young and would be better and grander than them all. He said they should aspire to that goal and he looked forward to working with the stakeholders of the A&M System and the students, faculty and members of the Board to implement the ideas to make the A&M System the best. He said they had given him an honor and he would do everything he could every day to be worthy of it. Chancellor Sharp said he appreciated the opportunity for public service.

Chairman Box said General Counsel Bonilla was an exceptional attorney and the Board was delighted to have him serve as General Counsel for the A&M System. He said Mr. Bonilla had represented a wide range of governmental entities, businesses and individuals on issues involving state and local taxation open government, elections, ethics and procurement. Chairman Box said Mr. Bonilla had served in Washington on the national level, in state government and in the private sector. He added that Mr. Bonilla had received the highest rating, “AV” by the Martindale Hubbell Law Directory and had accomplished many things in his career as an attorney. Chairman Box said they were delighted to have Mr. Bonilla with the A&M System.

Chairman Box asked if there were any objections to combining Items 3 through 5 for a vote, and there were no objections.

Regent Morgan moved for adoption of Items 3 through 5. 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 (208 through 210):

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**MINUTE ORDER 208-2011 (ITEM 3)**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ADMINISTER GOVERNMENT CLASSIFIED CONTRACTS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The individuals occupying the following positions at The Texas A&M University System have been or will be processed for a personnel security clearance for access to classified information, to the level of the facility clearance granted to the A&M System, as provided for in the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual. In addition, all replacements for such positions will be processed for security clearance.

Richard A. Box, Chairman  
*The Texas A&M University System*

John Sharp, Chancellor  
*The Texas A&M University System*

B. J. Crain, Chief Business Officer  
*The Texas A&M University System*

Kevin Gamache, Facility Security Officer  
*The Texas A&M University System*

Jeffrey R. Seemann, Chief Research Officer  
*The Texas A&M University System*

Diane Hurtado, Assistant Vice President for Federal Agency Advancement  
*Texas A&M University*

The Board of Regents delegates to the above named group all authority pertaining to the protection of classified contracts awarded to the A&M System by the Department of Defense or user agencies of its Industrial Security Program.

The members of the Board of Regents named below shall not have or require access to classified information disclosed to the A&M System. These board members can be effectively excluded from access to all classified information disclosed to the A&M System and do not occupy positions that would enable them to adversely affect the policies or practices of the member institutions, agencies, or health science center of the A&M System in the performance of classified contracts; therefore, these named members of the Board of Regents need not be processed for personnel clearance.

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

Phil Adams, Vice Chairman  
Morris E. Foster  
Elaine Mendoza  
Judy Morgan  
Jim Schwertner  
Cliff Thomas  
John D. White  
James P. Wilson  
Fernando Trevino, Jr.

**MINUTE ORDER 209-2011 (ITEM 4)**

**APPROVAL FOR THE PLACEMENT OF THE “RACHEL’S GARDEN” MEMORIAL,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

The President of Texas A&M University-Commerce is hereby authorized to approve the placement of the “Rachel’s Garden” Memorial, dedicated to the memory of Rachel Erin Rollings and Britney Lipsey. The memorial is a gift to Texas A&M University-Commerce by Rachel’s parents, Tom & Colleen Rollings, and will be located on the northern section of the campus, across from the University Field House as shown in the attachment (a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Board of Regents).

**MINUTE ORDER 210-2011 (ITEM 5)**

**ADOPTION OF THE NEW PROPOSED UNIVERSITY FLAG,  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System hereby adopts the new proposed Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi university flag, as shown in **Exhibit A**, effective immediately.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Vice Chairman Adams, seconded by Regent Morgan and by a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.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.)

Current Flag



Issues: The current flag does not adhere to the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's color specifications and graphic identity.

Proposed Flag



Notes: The proposed flag utilizes our graphic mark, employs Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's official school colors, and aesthetically recalls our institution's location on the water through a nautical design reference.