

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

APRIL 11, 2008

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
HELD IN HOUSTON, TEXAS ON APRIL 11, 2008**

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Glenn Lewis called the regular meeting of the Texas Southern University Board of Regents to order at 11:00 a.m., on Friday, April 11, 2008.
2. **ROLL CALL.** Regents Present: Mr. Glenn Lewis, Chairman; Mr. Richard Salwen, Vice Chair; Mr. Gary Bledsoe, Mr. Samuel L. Bryant, Mr. Richard Holland, Mrs. Curtistene McCowan, and Ms. Tracye McDaniel

Regents Absent: Mr. E. Javier Loya, Mr. Richard Knight Jr. and Mr. Larry Taylor

Others Present: Dr. John Rudley, President; Ms. Wendy Adair, Vice President of University Advancement; Ms. Gita Bolt, General Counsel; Mr. Brian Dickens, Executive Director for Human Resources; Dr. James Douglas, Interim Provost; Ms. Karen Griffin, Executive Director for Board Relations; Mr. James Hooton, Reorganization Plan Administrator; Dr. Willie Marshall, Vice President for Student Services; Ms. Janis Newman, Chief of Staff; Ms. Yolanda Nimmer-Williams, Interim Director of Internal Audit; Mr. Billie Owens, Sr. Vice President of Business & Finance; Mr. Lance Ross, Vice President of Facilities Planning & Operations; Ms. Lana Shadwick, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Ms. Gloria Walker, Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Shannon Broussard, Director of Student Activities & Special Events, and Martha Morgan, Transcriber

3. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** Chairman Lewis called the Regents' attention to the Conflict of Interest Statement and advised them to complete the statement form if there is a conflict and submit it to Ms. Griffin in the Office of Board Relations.
4. **NEXT BOARD MEETING.**

Chairman Lewis stated that the next board meeting is on Friday, May 9, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

5. **BOARD OF REGENTS' BUSINESS**

A. Approval of Minutes

Regent Salwen requested that the minutes be amended to show an insert heading, on page three, that states B - Reorganization Plan and the discussion text on the reorganization plan follows.

March 14, 2008 Regular Board Meeting Minutes - On motion by Regent McCowan, seconded by Regent Salwen, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 14, 2008 as amended.

B. Discussion of Admissions Policies

Chairman Lewis turned the floor over to Dr. Rudley to discuss the admissions policies.

Dr. Rudley stated that it is the intent of the administration to have dialogue with the students, faculty and staff in a forum setting. Individuals from around the country who has dealt with the issue [enrollment standards] have been invited along with the Raymund Paredes, commissioner of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as well as the local legislative delegation and TSU board members. In that forum different sides of the issue will be heard and discussed.

He stated that the legislators had one basic theme and that is to let them know the details so that they can help with articulating TSU's position on the issue.

The forum was scheduled for this past Wednesday, April 9, 2008; unfortunately, the legislature had to convene in Austin on that day; consequently, the members were not available. Therefore, the meeting was deferred and will have to be rescheduled.

Dr. Rudley assured the regents that there will be an open discussion about TSU's enrollment standards before a recommendation is made to the board. He also said that Dr. Douglas had additional information to share during his presentation. Dr. Rudley also stated that at this point the administration is pretty excited about the fact that they are getting a lot of support for the initiative with respect to applying standards and that the regents will be pleased when they see some of the recommendations as well.

In addition, Dr. Rudley reported that he had met with the Houston Community College executives; both the system head as well as the president of the downtown campus. They are enthusiastic about a relationship with Texas Southern, which is a part of TSU's strategy. Also, it will recognize the fact that the community college serves a major function; that is to take students who are somewhat not prepared for university level work and put them in a position where they can be competitive and will be able to matriculate to a university- not just Texas Southern. They are doing a good job of that so they need to be recognized for it.

Lastly, he stated that he is "excited about the fact that we have our colleagues at the community colleges ready to work with us on our plans."

Chairman Lewis added that he and President Rudley had a discussion about Tarrant County Community College students and others in the area could take advantage of this kind of relationship. The chairman stating that they are most anxious to begin discussions with Texas Southern.

Also, Chairman Lewis spoke with Mr. Denver McClendon, husband of State Representative Ruth McClendon who is an alumnus of Texas Southern. He sits on the board of the community college in San Antonio and is also eager to engage in discussion with TSU as well.

After a brief discussion among members of the board regarding standing committees, Chairman Lewis stated each committee will elect a chair. The Student Regent will join the standing committees as an ex-officio member. Details of the Standing Committees and meeting calendar would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

6. **PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT/REPORTS**

A. Report – BOR Meeting Schedule Options, Including Cost Per Meeting

Dr. Rudley reported back to the board on the meeting dates and times of other Texas institutions boards and what their schedules look like. The President outlined in chart form what other universities were doing. His presentation was in PowerPoint as he presented a follow-up using University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University System, University of Houston, Texas State University System, Stephen F. Austin, and Sam Houston.

Chairman Lewis commented that one of the reasons why the board does not meet at nine o'clock is because there are so many of them that live out of town; it is to allow them time to get here. However, if the board meetings go to a format where the committee meetings are held the day before they can start in the afternoon to allow members plenty of time to get here. If you have a full board meeting the next day and all of the members are already in town then it is very possible that the board meeting can start at nine o'clock.

Regent Salwen added that there may be a good reason to have two meetings during the summer and that is because the summer is when you are doing things like passing budgets. He said that there are a whole lot of approvals that go on in the summertime and that the best way for the board to get their work done is to meet both July and August and then maybe have three other meetings during the year like in November February and May.

He also stated that going to two days and having the committee meetings on the first day is a good idea. However, you have to have everything that is in front of the committees also be on the agenda for the full board because of posting. Also, if the committees do not make a recommendation on one item or another then you can pull that off the agenda when you get to the board meeting the following day.

Regent Salwen also noted that the way the board's committee structure is set up, they would probably need to have time on the first day to hold two two-hour or sessions because each regent has overlapping committees. So, in order to get all the committees to meet the committees could convene at maybe one o'clock and run until three for the first meetings. Then convene at four to six for the second meeting and then perhaps have dinner together.

Regent McDaniel stated that she thinks that the board will need at least three sessions or three blocks of time the way the committees are structured now.

Chairman Lewis said that a decision did not have to be made this day but he would like for the board members to consider that with the understanding that the regents are now committing two days for board meetings rather than one day which, they are now doing. However, it would be fewer board meetings because there would not be a meeting every month.

Regent Holland asked if the board would need to be more regular with the committee meetings in order to get things that the President needs to be heard and decided on. He stated that the board will probably need to make sure that they are flexible enough to accommodate that for the next six to nine months because the board is still working through a couple of issues.

The Chairman stated that the board still has the ability to call meetings whenever it is deemed necessary to call a meeting.

Dr. Rudley commented that he liked the idea of five meetings, which means that there would be special call meetings. He also talked about the cost involved with having board meetings- spending appropriated money and local money. Dr. Rudley presented a power point that detailed where the money was being spent. The chart also showed the average cost of board meetings as compared to other Texas universities.

More discussion ensued about the meeting dates, time and posting of the committee and board meetings in addition to what constitutes a quorum at those meetings. It was reported by General Counsel that based on the Board's current bylaws on committee structure three members of any standing committee would constitute a quorum, which means that the meetings would have to be posted.

Chairman Lewis explained that a decision could not be made on this item because it was posted as a discussion item and not an action item.

Regent McDaniel recommended that the President work with the Chairman in establishing a grid that meets the needs of where we [TSU] are going over the next year. Then based on the recommendation from the President to the Chairman, the Board would come back with recommendations on what the year would look like as far as having meetings.

