

**MINUTES**

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

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**HELD IN**

**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

**June 15, 2020**

*(Approved August 20, 2020)*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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

**June 15, 2020**

CONVENE.....	1
RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION .....	1
RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION .....	2
MINUTE ORDER 120-2020 (ITEM 1) APPROVAL OF THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM'S \$100 MILLION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO ASSIST SYSTEM ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS REFLECT THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM .....	3
ADJOURN .....	3

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING  
BOARD OF REGENTS, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**June 15, 2020**

**CONVENE**

Chairman Elaine Mendoza convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System at 10:00 a.m., Monday, June 15, 2020.

Chairman Mendoza said the Board had one agenda item for consideration and action as shown in the agenda materials posted with the Secretary of State. She said that each party to the conference call should clearly identify himself or herself prior to speaking.

The following members of the Board were present by phone:

Ms. Elaine Mendoza, Chairman  
Mr. Tim Leach, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Phil Adams  
Mr. Robert L. Albritton  
Mr. Jay Graham  
Mr. Michael A. Hernandez  
Mr. Bill Mahomes  
Mr. Michael J. Plank  
Mr. Clifton L. Thomas, Jr.  
Mr. Levi McClenny (Student Regent)

Chairman Mendoza congratulated Student Regent McClenny on his recent appointment by Governor Abbott to be the student representative on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Mendoza said the Board would recess to executive session to consider matters as permitted by Chapter 551, Section 71 of the Texas Government Code. She 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.

*(Note: The Board met in executive session from 10:02 a.m. until 11:03 a.m.)*

### **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Mendoza reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:04 a.m. and announced that the Board had met in executive session from 10:02 a.m. until 11:03 a.m., and conferred with Chancellor Sharp, administration and attorneys on legal matters including Item 1.

Chancellor Sharp said that the Strategic Plan calls for the A&M System to ensure that cost and a lack of support for diverse students does not prevent qualified students from attending and finding success at one of the A&M System's institutions. He said that the proposed scholarship program had been in the works and they had planned to bring it before the Board later in the year but the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated that the project be accelerated. He said many students' families, particularly low-income families, need financial help to attend college now more than ever. Chancellor Sharp said that too often the A&M System institutions are being outbid for great kids by out-of-state schools that can make larger scholarship offers. He said the goal of the \$100 million scholarship fund is to make the A&M System's 11 universities look like Texas and ensure that qualified students are not turned away because of the financial hardships of COVID-19 in particular. He said that system-wide the 11 universities are within a few percentage points of reflecting the State's demographics; the student population on some individual campuses is not where they wanted them to be. Chancellor Sharp said the Strategic Plan calls for all universities to better represent the population of the State of Texas and they intend to do that with this scholarship fund. He said it would address diversity issues as well as concerns of students who are first-generation or from low-income families.

Regent Mahomes commended Chancellor Sharp and those working with him for finding a way to get this done. He said that while the timing is great, even greater is that it meets the need that the Board has been talking about for a long time. He said this is something they all want and this will be good, not just for scholarships but will also help the State of Texas meet its goal of serving underserved students, as well as help with diversity goals.

Chairman Mendoza said that she not only applauded Chancellor Sharp but also the steadfast commitment that the Board has to diversification and serving underrepresented groups. She said this has been a part of the Strategic Plan and has cumulated into a great strategy by which they can serve Texans at this time.

Chairman Mendoza called for a motion on Item 1. Regent Mahomes moved for adoption of the minute order contained in Item 1. Regent Graham seconded the motion. Chairman Mendoza called each regent's name for the vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Adams – yes, Albritton – yes, Graham – yes, Hernandez – yes, Leach – yes, Mahomes – yes, Plank – yes, Thomas – yes, and Chairman Mendoza voted “yes.”

The following minute order was approved (120).

Chairman Mendoza thanked the Board, Chancellor Sharp and his team for their active showing and demonstration of their commitment to the people of Texas during this time of need. She said that they are showing that System institutions will reflect the state by

aggressively reaching out to underserved groups from all parts of the state. She said they will move forward not only with the scholarship program and efforts to recruit and retain students but also all the infrastructure needed for persistence, reducing time to graduation.

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**MINUTE ORDER 120-2020 (ITEM 1)**

**APPROVAL OF  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM'S  
\$100 MILLION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO  
ASSIST SYSTEM ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS  
REFLECT THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The Texas A&M University System's \$100 million scholarship program is approved, and the Chancellor is delegated authority to create the scholarship program criteria and distribution methods.

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**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, on motion of Regent Adams, seconded by Vice Chairman Leach, Chairman Mendoza adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers  
Executive Director, Board of Regents

*(Minutes transcribed by Jackie Bell, Office of the Board of Regents.)*