

MINUTES

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

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HELD IN

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

March 31, 2021

(Approved May 20, 2021)

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

March 31, 2021

CONVENE

Chairman Elaine Mendoza convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System at 4:31 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Chairman Mendoza said the Board had two agenda items for consideration and action as shown in the agenda materials posted with the Secretary of State. She said 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. Cahlen Cheatham (Student Regent)

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Mendoza said the Board would recess to executive session to consider matters as permitted by Chapter 551, Sections 71 and 74 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 4:33 p.m. until 4:52 p.m.)

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Chairman Mendoza reconvened the meeting in open session at 4:53 p.m. and announced that the Board had met in executive session from 4:33 p.m. until 4:52 p.m., and conferred with Chancellor Sharp, administration and attorneys on personnel and legal matters.

Chairman Mendoza presented Item 1 then called on Chancellor Sharp for additional comments. Chancellor Sharp thanked the search committee that was headed by Chairman Mendoza and Vice Chairman Leach. He said that the Committee had sorted through

dozens of outstanding candidates and after much review, he knew that Dr. Katherine Banks was the right choice for Texas A&M University.

Chancellor Sharp said that they have worked with Dr. Banks for many years and knew the things she had done to transform the engineering college into being among the biggest and best in the world -- and now the best in Texas according to *U.S. News & World Report*. He said that aided by her leadership in engineering, they were now over a billion dollars in annual research expenditures and among the top 20 public research universities in the nation.

Chancellor Sharp said that Dr. Banks was going to do for the university what she had already done for engineering and that she was going to be a great president. He said “in typical Kathy Banks fashion,” she wanted to take a reduction in compensation. He said that he offered Dr. Banks’ the same compensation received by Mr. Michael Young. Chancellor Sharp said that she countered his offer by reducing her salary, deferred compensation, and declining the housing allowance -- which would be a reduction of approximately \$350,000. He expressed his respect for Dr. Banks.

Chairman Mendoza called for a motion on Item 1. Regent Adams moved for adoption of the minute order contained in Item 1. Regent Plank 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 (044).

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**MINUTE ORDER 044-2021 (ITEM 1)**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
DR. M. KATHERINE BANKS  
AS PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
AND VICE CHANCELLOR OF NATIONAL LABORATORIES  
AND NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES  
AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHANCELLOR TO  
NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Effective June 1, 2021, Dr. M. Katherine Banks is hereby appointed President of Texas A&M University, at an initial salary of \$925,000, and to the position of Vice Chancellor of National Laboratories and National Security Strategic Initiatives.

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System is hereby delegated the authority to negotiate and execute an employment agreement with Dr. Banks, upon review for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel.

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Chairman Mendoza congratulated Dr. Banks and said that great things were expected to happen under her leadership. She thanked the 17 members of the presidential search committee which represented stakeholders from the university community. She said that this thoughtful, committed group stayed focused on bringing forth the most competitive candidates. Chairman Mendoza added that the search committee kept high standards toward the aspiration that the final candidates had an appreciation for traditions and the kind of leadership strengths necessary to elevate Texas A&M to an even higher echelon.

Chairman Mendoza commented that she and Vice Chairman Leach had enjoyed working with the search committee and that they also appreciated Dr. James Hallmark, A&M System Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and his Chief of Staff, Ms. Jill Woodall, for doing a tremendous job of supporting the search committee's efforts.

Chairman Mendoza announced that before they began discussion on Item 2, Chancellor Sharp would excuse himself from the meeting and any participation regarding the discussion of the item. She said that Chancellor Sharp asked that this step be taken since the naming involved his wife of more than 45 years -- Mrs. Charlotte Sharp.

(Note: Chancellor Sharp left the meeting at 4:59 p.m.)

Chairman Mendoza called on Mr. Phillip Ray, A&M System Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, who presented Item 2. Mr. Ray commented that he had blessed throughout his career to be involved in a number of truly special projects and that this project was extremely touching. He said based on System policy, the Board must approve the naming of buildings and primary parts of buildings. Mr. Ray described the location of the property and said that it was developed via a private-public partnership project (P3) delivery model. The land is owned by the A&M System and was leased to Hensel Park Partners via a long term ground lease. Mr. Ray said that the Chancellor had a vision for an intergenerational living and early childhood development for some time. He said that in late 2018, early 2019, they were able to execute a ground lease for Hensel Park Partners for approximately 2.5 acres from the A&M System. Since that time Hensel Park Partners financed and constructed a 26,000 square feet building where an early childhood learning center currently operates. Mr. Ray said that recently Hensel Park Partners contacted the System and proposed that their building be named the "Charlotte Sharp Children's Center" in honor of Mrs. Sharp's contributions to the A&M System as well as the Bryan/College Station community. Part of their decision also centered on Mrs. Sharp's work with Austin Catholic Schools and St. Joseph's Catholic School in Bryan, Texas. Mr. Ray said that each year Mrs. Sharp hosted a Christmas light show for youth in the community, assisted the Texas A&M Health Science Center with scholarships and led a number of initiatives. He said that Chancellor Sharp was very touched by the proposal from Hensel Park Partners to honor wife, Mrs. Charlotte Sharp. Mr. Ray said that Chancellor Sharp insisted that the proposal go through the proper process. As a condition of the naming, the Office of General Counsel

would enter into an appropriate naming agreement to protect the System's interest with approval from the Board.

Regent Mahomes commented that this was a very appropriate naming. He then asked if there would be a public dedication. Mr. Ray responded in the affirmative and said the plans, should the Board approve, was to schedule an event in mid-April.

Regent Adams said that he felt that this was a very special naming for a special woman and appreciated the Board's consideration.

Chairman Mendoza called for a motion on Item 2. Regent Adams moved for adoption of the minute order contained in Item 2. Regents Mahomes and Thomas 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 (045).

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**MINUTE ORDER 045-2021 (ITEM 2)**

**NAMING OF THE  
CHARLOTTE SHARP CHILDREN'S CENTER,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The building located at 1411 Hensel Street, College Station, Texas is hereby approved to be named the "Charlotte Sharp Children's Center," subject to the execution of a naming agreement with Hensel Park Partners I, LLC in a form approved by the Office of General Counsel.

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Chairman Mendoza commented that this was a most worthy naming and that it was their privilege as a Board to support the naming of this center.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Regent Adams, seconded by Regent Cliff Thomas, Chairman Mendoza adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers
Executive Director, Board of Regents

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