

**MINUTES**

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**HELD IN**

**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

**November 8, 2023**

*(Approved February 8, 2024)*

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

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**CONVENE**

Chairman Bill Mahomes convened a special workshop meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System at 1:03 p.m., Wednesday, November 8, 2023, Room 102, Les W. Bunte Jr. Administration Building, Brayton Fire Training Field, College Station Texas. The following members of the Board were present:

Mr. Bill Mahomes, Chairman  
Mr. Robert L. Albritton, Vice Chairman  
Mr. David Baggett  
Mr. John Bellinger  
Mr. Randy Brooks  
Mr. Jay Graham  
Mr. Michael A. Hernandez  
Mr. Michael J. Plank  
Mr. Sam Torn  
Ms. Elizabeth (Annie) Valicek, Student Regent

Chairman Mahomes said the purpose of this meeting was for consideration of System governance issues. He said the agenda included briefings by and updates from System executives and invited guests on issues relating to the governance of institutions of higher education.

Chairman Mahomes called on Dr. James Hallmark, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Interim President Mark A Welsh, who presented information on current policies and practices of the A&M System and Texas A&M University.

Chairman Mahomes stressed that the Board's role is to set direction.

Next, Chairman Mahomes called on Tyson Langford with the Alliance Defending Freedom to present on academic freedom and shared governance.

Chairman Mahomes recessed the meeting at 3:36 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Next, Chairman Mahomes called on Ray Bonilla, General Counsel, for a presentation on the history and legal considerations related to the A&M System structure.

Chairman Mahomes called on Dr. Hallmark to present information on the governance and organizational structure of the A&M System, other university systems within Texas, and the process for retaining a consulting firm to look at the organizational structure.

Regent Torn said he feels that it is important to hire a firm using system personnel for the legwork and that it should be board directed. Regent Graham agreed with Regent Torn and said that it should be board designated, not delegated.

After discussion, regents said that there should be good communication with regents and staff and they need to study successful systems that are comparable to the A&M System -- look at best practices.

Regent Bellinger said the strategic plan should bond the team.

Regent Torn said this falls squarely on the shoulders of the Board and needs to be thorough and there should be input from each regent, the chancellor, institutions and agencies.

Regent Hernandez said he wants unfiltered and straightforward information and wants to know what is going on.

Chairman Mahomes said this organizational review is overdue and timely. He said he would appoint a working group on this issue. Chairman Mahomes added that he feels the work can be accomplished within a year.

*(Note: Presentations on file in the Office of the Board of Regents.)*

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Mahomes adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers  
Executive Director, Board of Regents