

TEXAS WOMAN’S UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 14, 2020

Videoconference

Roll Call:

Present Committee Members:

Regents Shepard (Chair), Coleman, Doggett, Gallardo, Jester (Ex-Officio), and Tyson (Non-Voting)

Present Administrators:

Dr. Carine M. Feyten, Chancellor and President; Ms. Katherine Antwi Green, General Counsel, Secretary to the Board, and Associate Vice President of Compliance; Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Monica Mendez-Grant, Vice President for Student Life; Dr. Kimberly Russell, Vice President for University Advancement; Mr. Jason Tomlinson, Vice President for Finance and Administration

I. Call to Order:

With a quorum being present, Regent **Shepard**, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee called the meeting to order at **9:06 a.m.**

Regent **Shepard** reminded everyone that the meeting is being streamed live and asked that everyone speak loudly and clearly as they make comments during the meeting. She additionally commented that due to the ongoing pandemic, the meeting is being conducted via video conference.

Regent Shepard said the decision to conduct the board meeting through a virtual platform was not a decision taken likely by Texas Woman’s University. She indicated that there was a great deal of deliberation and thought put into the planning of the meeting. She said that in light of this unprecedented time, it was necessary to balance the desire to return to an in-person meeting format with the safety of all involved, taking into account the current constraints of travel and recommendations made by relevant authorities. Regent Shepard expressed that TWU staff and the board’s executive leadership considered all options, including conducting an in-person meeting, a virtual meeting, and a hybrid model. With careful evaluation, it was determined that conducting the meeting in-person would entail the difficulty of surmounting the logistical challenges involved with following current social distancing guidelines. Regent Shepard further stated that it was clear that a hybrid format, which would include the mixture of some board members attending in-person with a camera and microphone in the room, and others attending through a virtual format would create significant technological issues, which would likely have undermined the quality of the meeting and its true accessibility to the public. She said that the board therefore felt it was best to proceed with this meeting in a fully virtual format.

Regent Shepard then expressed her appreciation to the technology team for their diligent work to ensure that the meeting go as seamlessly as possible. She indicated that the team had been very gracious to help everyone.

Regent Shepard further instructed the board that procedural modifications are necessary to ensure that the meeting minutes are recorded as accurately possible. She first asked that each board member state their name before asking a question or making a comment. She reminded the board that only the members of

the Academic Affairs Committee may vote on items during the meeting, and as such she re-iterated that members of the Academic Affairs Committee are asked to state their name before making a motion or seconding a motion.

Regent Shepard indicated that each committee vote will be conducted via roll call rather than via a collective voice designation of “Aye” or “No” by the committee. She then stated that members are asked to refrain whenever possible from talking over fellow board members or at the same time as other board members.

Regent Shepard reminded all agenda item presenters to mute their microphones and turn off their cameras when they are not presenting to ensure that background noise and visual distractions are kept to a minimum. She further requested that all attendees in the meeting who are not anticipated to present or be available for questions to please turn off their cameras and mute their microphones for the entire meeting.

Regent Shepard performed roll call noting the presence of Regents Shepard, Coleman, Doggett, Gallardo, Jester, and Tyson.

Regent Shepard introduced TWU’s newest student regent, Dawna-Diamond Tyson, from Frisco, who was appointed by Governor Abbott in June. She said that Ms. Tyson earned her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Texas Woman’s University and is currently pursuing her master’s degree in political science at TWU. Regent Shepard further stated that Student Regent Tyson served as an officer on the Student Senate and was a participant in a summer residency institute, New Leadership Texas, an intensive workshop which teaches women about leadership roles in politics.

Regent Tyson expressed that she is looking forward to this year, and meeting everyone and learning more.

Regent Shepard welcomed Regent Tyson and said she would be a great addition to the Board.

Regent Shepard indicated that additionally, Kimber Summers, who joined TWU in the Office of General Counsel in July and is serving as an Assistant General Counsel. Regent Shepard said that Ms. Summers will be working closely with the Board Secretary on Board related matters, and on other things. She said that Ms. Summers comes from corporate industry to TWU with 19 years of legal experience.

Ms. Summers said she is happy to be at Texas Woman’s University and looks forward to serving in the Office of the General Counsel.

Regent Shepard welcomed both Regent Tyson and Ms. Summers to the meeting.

II. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of May 15, 2020

Motion to Approve Minutes: Regent **Doggett**, motioned and Regent **Gallardo**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

The minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of **May 15, 2020** were approved as submitted.

III. Recess Academic Affairs Committee into Executive Closed Session

Regent Shepard announced that the Board would recess into Executive Closed Session for the purposes of Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code for Consultation with Attorney and Section 551.074

for Deliberations Regarding Personnel Matters Related to Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Officers or Employees. The Board recessed at **9:17 a.m.** She said specifically the board would engage in consultation with attorney and will hear recommendations to approve emeritus faculty as well as faculty for tenure and promotion.

VI. Presentation Conferring Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Former Regent George Schrader

Regent Shepard reconvened the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee into open session, a quorum being present at **10:04 a.m.**

Regent **Shepard** indicated that Dr. Carine Feyten, Chancellor and President, and Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, would make a presentation conferring an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to former Regent George Schrader.

Dr. Feyten told the Board that it was her pleasure to recognize Mr. Schrader, who has provided unparalleled service to TWU and the Dallas Fort Worth community. She said he is a pillar of the community and was instrumental to the development of the city of Dallas as the City Manager, taking large part in projects such as the Dallas City Hall, the DFW airport and many other iconic institutions. She indicated that Mr. Schrader is a principal of Schrader & Kline, LLC and owner of Schrader Investment Company. She further described Mr. Schrader's extensive accomplishments including being the City Manager of Dallas, Mesquite and Ennis. She described him as having significant impact on site for Symphony Hall and the shaping of the Dallas Arts District. She also indicated that Mr. Schrader had tremendous impact on shaping downtown Dallas, and other areas surrounding Dallas. He held numerous noteworthy roles and served on many boards, and is a lifetime member of the Circle 10 Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Feyten indicated that Mr. Schrader has given TWU many years of service and support, serving on the Board of Regents from 2007 to 2019. He helped to propel our school forward to a new age. She indicated that he was of great support to her during her transition to Texas Woman's University. She said Mr. Schrader always encouraged TWU's leadership to look not only at the present but many years into the future. She indicated that he was instrumental in establishing TWU's Dallas and Houston campuses, and his understanding of best business practices put TWU at an advantage, one from which TWU has benefitted immensely. Dr. Feyten said that Mr. Schrader has given so much to the community, she was thrilled to be able to recognize him for this momentous achievement.

Dr. Feyten then read various lines from his letters of nomination, indicating that in addition to being known as a shaper of Dallas, Mr. Schrader has been a mentor and a friend to many, a man of quality and integrity. Dr. Feyten said it is with great pleasure that on behalf of the state of Texas and under the authority vested in her by the Board of Regents of Texas Woman's University, she conferred an honorary doctor of humane letters to Mr. George Schrader. Dr. Schrader then was hooded.

Dr. Feyten then thanked Dr. Schrader and presented him with the diploma. She asked Dr. Schrader if he would like to address the board.

Dr. Schrader thanked Dr. Feyten for the privilege of being here in this meeting and noted that it was purely a pleasure for him to acknowledge receipt of this honorary doctorate. He said that nothing will ever exceed its importance to him. Dr. Schrader thanked the Board of Regents, the Chancellor and members of the faculty for the honor they bestowed on him. He also thanked his wife, his family, former associates and his friends present in the meeting – from coast to coast, from Charlotte to Santa Barbara.

Dr. Schrader described many impactful moments of his career, and shared with the Board highlights of numerous noteworthy projects and opportunities he worked on through his very distinguished career and accomplished life.

Regent Shepard said to Dr. Schrader that she has admired him over the years and has enjoyed serving with him as a Board member. She said she appreciated his commitment to TWU. She then asked if there were other regents who would like to add some words.

Regent Wu thanked Dr. Schrader for his guidance, wisdom and input. She thanked him for all he has done for TWU and the city of Dallas as well.

Regent Doggett said she appreciated that Dr. Schrader asked the hard questions and made people come up with the answers. She said she appreciated the fact that he approached everything that same way. She admired the fact that he made a difference.

Regent Coleman then thanked Dr. Schrader for all his service. She said Dr. Schrader made her feel so welcome when she joined the Board. She commented it was such an honor to serve on the board with him.

Regent Wilson thanked him for being a friend and mentor. She indicated that she was so proud that Dr. Schrader has helped TWU keep the campus beautiful.

Regent Jester also said it was an honor and privilege to have served with him. Dr. Schrader's commitment to public service was shown both in and out of board meetings. She noted that this recognition is well deserved and told Dr. Schrader it was an honor privilege to be able to be a part of today, his was a job well done.

Dr. Schrader told the board he could not be more honored and that he never even dreamt of this honor. He said his life was an adventure and achievement of a good many dreams, including helping Dallas become one of the great cities of the world. He indicated he would always have dreams, he has one now, and he wanted to leave the Board with that.

Dr. Schrader indicated that he quoted from the Broadway play, "The Man from La Mancha." He said, "I'll always dream the impossible dream and yes I'll reach the unreachable star. Thank you very much."

Regent Shepard told Dr. Schrader that the board applauds him and wishes him all the very best.

Chancellor Feyten commented that Dr. Schrader had received a standing ovation.

Regent Shepard then indicated that the board would return to closed session and adjourned the meeting to reconvene to executive closed session at **10:38 a.m.**

Returning from the Executive Closed Session, Regent Shepard reconvened the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee into open session, a quorum being present at **12:14 p.m.**

Upon reconvening, Regent Shepard noted that as a result the a need to proceed with a presentation in the Finance and Audit Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee would now adjourn and the board would convene into the Finance and Audit Committee meeting. Regent Shepard adjourned the meeting at **12:14 p.m.**

IV. Reconvene to Open Session and Take Any Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Closed Session

At the conclusion of the Executive Closed Session, Regent Shepard reconvened the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee into open session, a quorum being present at **12:27 p.m.**

Upon reconvening, Regent Shepard noted that as a result of what was presented in the closed session, the Board would be voting whether or not to approve moving the items of the approval of Emeritus/Emerita faculty and approval of certain faculty for promotion and tenure to the Board's Consent Agenda.

Motion to Move Emeritus/Emerita Faculty Approval Item to Consent Agenda: Regent **Gallardo**, motioned and Regent **Coleman**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

Motion to Move Faculty Promotion and Tenure Item to Consent Agenda: Regent **Gallardo**, motioned and Regent **Doggett**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

V. Agenda

Motion to Take up Agenda Items: Regent **Coleman**, motioned and Regent **Gallardo**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

Item A. Recommend Approval of Distance Delivery of Existing Master of Arts in Sociology Degree

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus indicated to the Board that before she began her presentation she wanted to share some good news with the Board. She indicated that while everyone was aware that the TWU gymnastics team is a group of talented athletes, the group has now been recognized for their high academic achievement. She informed the Board that the TWU Gymnastics, has been recognized by the NCAA as having the top team GPA among all 3 divisions, with a team grade point average of 3.8.

Dr. Feyten clarified that the grade point average was actually a 3.888 and that the team was number one in the entire country, with the highest athletic GPA across all divisions in the whole country. She said that they were national champions as athletes and now they are national champions as students as well.

Dr. Kapinus then indicated that additionally, thanks to the work of Dr. Joshua Adams, Assistant Provost for Student Success, and Dr. Theresa Lyndsay, Director of Student Success Programs, TWU has just been awarded two TRIO grants at \$1.3 million each for a total of \$2.6 million over a period of 5 years. She explained that the grants are federally funded grants and will help us increase student retention and graduation rates for low income, first-generation students as well as students with disabilities.

Dr. Kapinus explained that receiving these competitive TRIO grants opens the door for other opportunities for TWU as well.

Dr. Kapinus then indicated that approval is sought for three programs for distance delivery. She indicated that this is distinct from the pandemic, where most classes went online. These three programs would be ongoing, post COVID. She informed the Board that they are all graduate programs. She explained that the growth and demand in graduate education is online. Delivery of these programs in distance modality will allow us to meet that demand. The faculty in these three areas are very experienced at delivering distance education.

She added that online delivery will happen through the course management software, Canvas, as well as being supported by other areas of the University and these programs will have same assessments practices as the in-person programs.

Dr. Kapinus requested that the board approve the offering of the existing Master of Arts degree in Sociology via distance delivery.

Dr. Kapinus noted that the Department of Sociology is requesting approval to offer its existing Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology degree program via online delivery. She said that adding an online version of the MA program will increase TWU's appeal to prospective non-traditional students employed full-time and/or with family responsibilities. She said that current students would also find the program attractive in an online format. Dr. Kapinus indicated that the course would appeal to those seeking an online masters in sociology as well as those wanting a concentration in criminal justice. It is a 30 semester-hour program with projected enrollment of 20 additional students annually over the next 5 years. She indicated the administrative oversight would be in the Department of Sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Kapinus further indicated that no additional resources are needed at this time. The anticipated cost of training, course preparation, and development/transmittal are currently covered by the department in the form of release time, program fees, and department funds.

Regent Shepard reminded Board members to state their name before asking a question, and asked if there was any discussion. She then asked if there is a cost for the program.

Dr. Kapinus said that online delivery of this program was revenue neutral.

Motion to Move Approval of Item to Consent Agenda: Regent **Doggett**, motioned and Regent **Gallardo**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

Item B. Recommend Approval of Distance Delivery of the Master of Education Degree in Teaching, Leadership, and Collaboration

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus requested that the board approve the offering of the Master of Education in Teaching, Leadership, and Collaboration degree via distance delivery.

Dr. Kapinus informed the Board that there is good demand for education degrees at the graduate level in an online format. She explained that many who pursue a graduate credential in education do so while working. Offering our existing Masters of Education in Teaching, Leadership, and Collaboration in a distance format will allow us to appeal to more people – professionals seeking a graduate credential in education, leadership, higher education and educational non-profit organizations.

Dr. Kapinus said that the mode of delivery is completely online, the program is 30 semester credit hours, and the projected enrollment is 15 additional students annually over next 3 years. She said that the administrative oversight is the Department of Teacher Education and the College of Professional Education. She then added that the program is revenue neutral and will not require additional resources.

Regent Shepard asked if there was any discussion.

Regent Coleman asked if TWU is the first university in Denton to offer the online masters of education

degree. Dr. Lisa Huffman, Dean of the College of Professional Education, indicated that TWU is not the first to offer a masters of education online. She explained that what is unique about this course is it will be the first to offer one that has a breadth of covering those who want to further their education in teaching, develop their leadership and think about non-profit higher education.

Regent Coleman said the program would be wonderful, as there are many working teachers who can take advantage of the program and the opportunity to get their MED and continue on in a leadership role.

Motion to Move Approval of Item to Consent Agenda: Regent **Doggett**, motioned and Regent **Coleman**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

Item C. Recommend Approval of Distance Delivery of Existing Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus requested that the Board approve distance delivery for an existing post-master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate.

Dr. Kapinus said that the school recently began a fully online family nurse practitioner program at the master's level. She explained that adding this certificate would allow those online students to also complete a certificate. She said that the audience is RN's who have completed a previous master's degree in nursing and wish to become licensed as a family nurse practitioner, treating patients through the lifespan, infancy through adulthood.

Dr. Kapinus said that the mode of delivery will be 100% online, the program length is 34 semester credit hours, and the enrollment projections are approximately 13 additional students per cohort, with 3 cohorts during the year. She added that the administrative oversight would be the College of Nursing, with the program also being revenue neutral.

Regent Gallardo asked if there is any practical portion of the program where the family nurse practitioner would actually be receiving patient experience as a family practitioner trainee.

Dr. Damon Cottrell, Associate Dean of Nursing, informed the Board that the participants would have practical experience – the same clinical requirements as the in-person master's degree. Additionally, Dr. Cottrell indicated that there is an on-campus intensive that has them demonstrate skills that could not be done in an online format.

Regent Shepard asked if there were any questions.

Regent Gallardo asked if it was anticipated that many nurses that have masters degrees would apply to this program, and if it was thought that the program had a very strong future for attendance.

Dr. Cottrell responded that the school is currently admitting about 120 students per cohort in the master's program, so about 13 to 14 additional students three times per year is a small percentage. He said that expected interest comes from those who have a nurse practitioner certificate in another area of specialty and would come into this program to expand their scope of practice to another certificate.

Regent Gallardo then asked if there are other universities that have this similar type of program.

Dr. Cottrell responded that it is a very common pairing to have the master's degree and the certificate schema. He added that a handful of schools that have them in an online format in each state.

Regent Gallardo said he thought there would be nothing but positives coming from this program. He said there is a shortage of good qualified RN's and this program would attract great students and will really improve our medical community as a result.

Regent Shepard asked if there was any other discussion.

Motion to Move Approval of Item to Consent Agenda: Regent **Gallardo**, motioned and Regent **Doggett**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

VII. Adjourn

With no further business coming before the Academic Affairs Committee, Regent **Shepard** adjourned the Academic Affairs Committee meeting at **12:49 p.m.**