

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
FULL BOARD MINUTES
May 15, 2020

Videoconference

Roll Call:

Present Full Board Members:

Regents Jester (Chair), Coleman, Doggett, Gallardo, Hyde, McDavid, Shepard, Wilson, Wu, and D'Abrosca (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; Mr. Jason Tomlinson, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Dr. Monica Mendez-Grant, Vice President for Student Life; Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Randall Langston, Vice President for Enrollment Services; Dr. Kimberly Russell, Vice President of University Advancement

I. Call to Order:

With a quorum being present, Regent **Jester**, Chair of the Board of Regents, called the meeting to order at **11:21 a.m.**

Regent **Jester**, reminded everyone that the meeting is being streamed live and asked that everyone speak loudly and clearly as they make comments during the meeting.

Regent Jester conducted a roll call to note the presence of Regents Jester, Coleman, Doggett, Gallardo, Hyde, McDavid, Shepard, Wilson, Wu, and D'Abrosca.

II. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Full Board Meeting of February 21, 2020

Motion to Approve Minutes: Regent **Gallardo** motioned and Regent **Wu** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**. Regent **Doggett** provided her vote via the Board Secretary as she was experiencing technical difficulties.

The minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting of **February 21, 2020**, were approved as submitted.

III. Consent Agenda

Regent Gallardo requested to pull Items B and C for further discussion.

Motion to approve items A, D, and E on the Consent Agenda as presented in their respective Committees: Regent **Shepard** motioned and Regent **Wu** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**. Regent **Doggett** provided her vote via the Board Secretary as she was experiencing technical difficulties.

Item A. Approval of Updates to the Audit Plan

Item D. Approval of TWU Grants awarded from January to March of 2020

Item E. Approval of New Degree Plan: Ph.D. in Education, Leadership, and Organization

Regent Jester clarified that the pulled items, B and C, would be voted on separately after discussion.

Motion to Approve Increase to TWU Residential Housing Rates: Regent **Wu** motioned and Regent **Shepard** seconded.

Regent Gallardo reiterated his concern that now is not the time to increase housing rates due to the economic impact of COVID-19 on the funds available for families with students.

Mr. Jason Tomlinson responded that the business plans, models, and increases were previously approved by the Board in August, and this current vote is a technical requirement in response to audit requirements rather than a new request for an increase.

Regent Shepard asked whether TWU has requested flexibility from Collegiate Housing, the vendor with whom a contract has required the request for increases. Dr. Mendez Grant responded that Collegiate Housing has not granted flexibility in light of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the economy.

Regent Gallardo asked Dr. Mendez-Grant whether students are aware about the rate increases, and Dr. Mendez-Grant answered in the affirmative; the information was made to the students on TWU's website and through several informational forums. Regent Gallardo asked if students' parents were made aware. Dr. Mendez-Grant noted that TWU has begun increasing attempts to communicate directly with parents related to these issues.

The motion passed with a vote of **8-1-0**. Regent **Doggett** provided her vote via the Board Secretary as she was experiencing technical difficulties.

Regent Jester – Aye
Regent Wu – Aye
Regent Shepard – Aye
Regent Wilson – Aye
Regent Coleman – Aye
Regent Doggett – Aye
Regent Gallardo – Nay
Regent Hyde – Aye
Regent McDavid - Aye

Motion to Approve Increase to TWU Residential Board Rates: Regent **Shepard** motioned and Regent **Wu** seconded.

Regent Gallardo noted that his concerns for this item were the same as those for Item B, Approval of Increase to TWU Residential Housing Rates.

The motion passed with a vote of **8-1-0**. Regent **Doggett** provided her vote via the Board Secretary as she was experiencing technical difficulties.

Regent Jester – Aye
Regent Wu – Aye
Regent Shepard – Aye
Regent Wilson – Aye
Regent Coleman – Aye

Regent Doggett – Aye
Regent Gallardo – Nay
Regent Hyde – Aye
Regent McDavid - Aye

IV. Presentations and Recognitions

The Board recognized Student Regent, Lexi D’Abrosca, for her service on the Board for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Regent D’Abrosca expressed that this current Board is probably the best board that TWU has been lucky enough to have serving. She has appreciated the opportunity to serve and looks forward to her future adventures and utilizing what she has learned at TWU in facing those opportunities.

Dr. Feyten presented Regent D’Abrosca with a beautifully wrapped gift as a thank you gift for her service, noting that it would be mailed to her at a later time. Dr. Feyten noted again that Regent D’Abrosca was the first student regent athlete, and that the athletes at the University have been hit particularly hard by this pandemic, as many sports events have been cancelled, which has obviously disappointed the student athletes who have worked so hard for their sport.

Regent Jester read the following resolution presented to Student Regent D’Abrosca by the Faculty Senate:

THE TWU FACULTY SENATE
presents a
Resolution of Appreciation

TWU Student Regent Lexi D’Abrosca

WHEREAS, Lexi D’Abrosca became the first student-athlete selected as Student Regent by the Governor of Texas in May of 2019, and has been an outstanding student in her Kinesiology degree program; and

WHEREAS, she has been honored by selection on the Lone Star Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll and the TWU Chancellor’s List; and

WHEREAS, she is a member of the TWU Honors Program, serving on the program’s recruitment committee; and

WHEREAS, she received the Dr. Bettye Myers Award, an award in recognition of a student-athlete who is making a significant contribution to her community through her time, actions, talents, and dedication to volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, this record of outstanding academic achievement and leadership culminated in her selection by the Governor of the State of Texas to serve as the TWU Student Regent for the 2019-2020 academic year; and

WHEREAS, as Student Regent she has been an outstanding advocate for her fellow TWU students to the TWU Board of Regents;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Faculty Senate of Texas Woman’s University commends Ms. D’Abrosca for her outstanding leadership in the University community.

May 15, 2020
Katherine Rose
Speaker – Faculty Senate

All regents expressed appreciation for Regent D’Abrosca’s service and recounted several anecdotes about her service, noting their pride and anticipation in seeing her future as a physical therapist.

V. Full Board Agenda:

Motion to Take up Agenda Items: Regent **Gallardo** motioned and Regent **Coleman** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**. Regent **Doggett** provided her vote via the Board Secretary as she was experiencing technical difficulties.

Item A. Report on the Legislative Update

Mr. Kevin Cruser, Director of Governmental Relations and Legislative Affairs, stated that much of the legislature is in a state of unknowing as we are in unprecedented times. He noted for the Board that much of the legislature and administrative staff are working from home and that because we are not currently in a legislative session, this has not created any major problems.

Mr. Cruser noted that there has been one major piece of legislation to pass, the CARES Act, which provides \$14.25 billion in direct aid to universities. TWU received \$8 million, 50% designated to aid for students, and 50% for university expenses.

At the federal level, the House of Representatives proposed the HEROS Act, a \$3 trillion stimulus package. Mr. Cruser noted that it was not likely to pass the Senate and that President Trump has signaled opposition to the bill. If passed, the bill would provide \$150 million for state supported nursing strike force teams and \$90 billion for states to aid with public and higher education to reimburse for expenses and unexpected expenditures dealing with COVID-19.

While legislature not currently meeting, TWU Finance and Administration and Governmental Relations are in regular contact and submitting regular reports.

Additionally, there is a proposed stand-alone bill to support primarily minority serving institutions.

Mr. Cruser concluded his report by noting that the Institute for Women in Leadership took the initiative to offer \$1 million in grants to women run businesses who had been impacted by the pandemic. TWU received over 5,000 applications, and one-hundred \$10,000 grants were ultimately awarded.

Item B. TWU Finance and Administration's Response to COVID-19

Mr. Jason Tomlinson, Vice President of Finance and Administration, noted that prior to COVID-19 interrupting normal academic and business operations of Texas Woman's University (TWU), the Risk Management department, with support from the State of Texas, began planning and implementing responses in late January.

Mr. Matt Moustakas, Executive Director of Risk Management, presented to the board that Finance & Administration supported Risk Management in their responses and adapted essential functions within Facilities Management and Construction, Public Safety, Human Resources, Budget, Procurement and the Controller's Office.

Regent Gallardo asked whether HR took on a call-center type of approach related to questions about benefits, sick leave, and faculty and staff issues. Mr. Tomlinson responded that all calls to the main office were set up to forward to HR staff home phones and created a staff response team to deal with pandemic specific questions. Additionally, student workers were utilized as much as possible remotely.

Regent Gallardo asked about plans to run a student survey to get feedback on their experience as a result of moving so many operations remotely. Mr. Tomlinson noted that some students have already responded to surveys and noted that many students are reach out with feedback independent of a formal survey. Dr. Mendez-Grant noted that students were provided with video meeting opportunities to talk with them and gather feedback. Dr. Feyten noted several Instagram live videos that she hosted to respond in real time to communications from students. Dr. Mendez-Grant also noted that in some respects, there have been noted increase in work from student workers

Item C. TWU Academic Affairs' Response to COVID-19

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus reported to the Board that Academic Affairs moved courses online, continued support to students and faculty, and supported specific responses by the College of Nursing and the College of Health Sciences. They postponed resuming classes after spring break by one week and resumed on Monday March 23, 2020. This gave faculty time to transition to online courses. From March 16-20, six instructional designers met with 330 faculty to make the transition happen and TWU's Teaching and Learning with Technology Center and Center for Faculty Excellence also helped faculty make the transition.

Dr. Kapinus noted that all tutoring and academic support services were available online, advisors and librarians began meeting with students remotely, and support was offered through the Pioneer Center for Student Success in the areas of academic coaching and additional assistance with transitioning to online courses.

Additionally, adjustments were made to assist students in dealing with the changes made during the pandemic, including implementing optional pass/credit/no credit course grades for all classes, extending the course drop deadline, encouraging faculty be flexible and adopt a "less is more" approach while preserving academic rigor, pausing academic penalties such as probation and suspension, and hosting a virtual commencement, with an in person commencement to be provided at a later time.

Dr. Kapinus introduced Dr. Rosalie Mainous, Dean of the College of Nursing, who reported to the Board on the specific efforts of the College of Nursing in responding to the pandemic. Dean Mainous highlighted the Graduate student response, noting several accomplishments in their assistance with COVID-19 response throughout the community. Dean Mainous noted that the World Health Organization issued a statement that 9 million more nurses are needed in the world to deal with the health needs around the globe.

Dr. Kapinus introduced Dr. Christopher Ray, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, who reported to the Board on the specific efforts of the College of Health Sciences in responding to the pandemic. Dean Ray highlighted several stories about the efforts within the college including Dr. Rhett Rigby's participation in a virtual competition held Texas Space Grant Consortium. Additionally, Dean Ray noted that the clinics available to the community have moved to using telehealth operations to diagnose and treat patients. Some departments worked to provide cloth masks for those in the TWU community who were in need. All departments are continuing to submit for grant funding to support their efforts.

Dr. Kapinus relayed to the Board that a number of faculty and staff have expressed appreciation for the administration's efforts and academic leadership teams efforts to assist in coping with the changes and adjustments required in response to the pandemic.

Regent Coleman thanked Dr. Kapinus for her outstanding leadership in such a time of crisis and noted that it was wonderful to read in the newspaper that TWU was named as one of the top educational institutions for their response during the pandemic.

Item D. TWU Student Life and Enrollment Management's Response to COVID-19

Dr. Monica Mendez-Grant, Vice President for Student Life presented to the board that Student Life worked to reduce the number of students living on campus, helped to implement the Student Emergency Fund, maintained communication with students and their parents and guardians, and transitioned Career Connections to offer more online resources to serve May graduates.

Dr. Mendez-Grant introduced Jill Eckhart, Executive Director of Housing, who explained to the board that students began moving out mid-March, using express check-out with no appointments, and leaving on their own schedule. Damages and cancellation fees were waived, and staff fielded questions about credits and refunds. Housing staff processed more than 1,000 student accounts in less than two weeks for room and board credit. Ms. Eckhart noted that the residence hall population dropped from nearly 2,000 on March 2nd to just under 400 as of April 13th. Remaining students who ran out of meals on their plans were provided bonus plans at no cost to the students. Additionally efforts were made to provide remaining students with additional entertainment activities. As of May, 76 students remain on campus. On May 31, Stark Hall and Parliament Village will welcome 120 students who are taking summer courses. They will be kept in single rooms at double room (less expensive) rates.

Dr. Mendez-Grant noted that TWU will soon be hosting its first virtual career fair and that response has been so positive, the decision has been made to have a virtual career fair in September, as well.

Dr. Mendez-Grant also provided a report on Enrollment Management, noting that the division implemented a virtual preview of TWU in lieu of campus tours, updated acceptance requirements, and is communicating with incoming students. Additionally, financial assistance is being adjusted to better accommodate students. Dr. Mendez-Grant also invited regents to view the virtual tour that is currently being provided to prospective students.

VI. Chancellor and President's Report

Dr. Feyten talked provided a shout-out to Mr. Matt Moustakas, Executive Director of Risk Management, for his efforts in ensuring that the Emergency Management team at TWU was able to be so agile in implementing responsive efforts during the onset of the pandemic.

Additionally, Dr. Feyten discussed matters of leadership in times of crisis and noted that she has received a great deal of positive feedback about the administration's efforts to deal with the pandemic.

Finally, Dr. Feyten noted that there are several silver linings to the pandemic including that it has helped push TWU forward in its technological agility. Additionally, she noted a number of previously viewed negatives about TWU are now positives in light of the pandemic. TWU's lack of a large international student body has made its response efforts a little easier; its lack of large endowment or reliance on medical school income has ensured that the university is not reliant on those funds; and TWU's lack of a football team has meant that there is no need to respond to the effect of the pandemic on major athletics operations.

Regent Wilson expressed appreciation of Dr. Feyten and her leadership, as well as her efforts to communicate with the TWU and surrounding community. Additionally she expressed appreciation to the

Emergency Management team and the essential employees who have remained on campus to ensure smooth operations.

VII. Recess Full Board Meeting into Executive Closed Session

Regent **Jester** announced that the Board would recess into Executive Closed Session for the purposes of Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code and Deliberations Regarding Personnel Matters Relating to Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Assignment, Discipline, or Dismissal of Officers or Employees pursuant to §551.074 of the Texas Government Code at **1:54 p.m.**

VIII. 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 **Jester** reconvened the meeting of the Full Board into open session, a quorum being present at **3:23 p.m.**

Upon reconvening, Regent Jester noted that, as a result of what was presented in the closed session, the Board would be voting whether or not to approve certain faculty for promotion and tenure.

Motion to Approve Faculty for Promotion and Tenure: Regent **Gallardo** motioned and Regent **Shepard** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**. Regent **Doggett** provided her vote via the Board Secretary as she was experiencing technical difficulties.

As a result of the vote, the following faculty were approved for promotion and tenure as noted below.

College of Arts and Sciences

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Approved for</u>
Shazia Ahmed, Ph.D. Biology	Promotion Clinical Professor
Dayna L. Averitt, Ph.D. Biology	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Christopher Brower, Ph.D. Biology	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Amy Jo Hammett, Ph.D. Biology	Promotion Associate Clinical Professor
Gretchen Busl, Ph.D. English, Speech, and Foreign Languages	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Mark Hamner, Ph.D. Mathematics and Computer Science	Promotion Professor
Jian Zhang, Ph.D. Mathematics and Computer Science	Promotion Professor
Alex Colvin, Ph.D. Social Work	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Ratonia Runnels, Ph.D. Social Work	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Matthew (Colby) Parsons, Prof. Visual Arts	Promotion Professor

College of Business

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Approved for</u>
Jennifer Flanagan, Ph.D. Management	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Sandra Murdock, Ph.D. Health Care Administration	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor

College of Health Sciences

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Approved for</u>
Tamby Allman, Ed.D. Communication Sciences and Oral Health	Promotion Professor
Erika Armstrong, Ph.D. Communication Sciences and Oral Health	Promotion Professor
Jyutika Mehta, Ph.D. Communication Sciences and Oral Health	Promotion Professor
Kevin Becker, Ph.D. Health Promotion and Kinesiology	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Claudette Fette, Ph.D. Occupational Therapy – Denton	Promotion
Gail A. Poskey, Ph.D. Occupational Therapy – Dallas	Tenure
Christina Bickley, Ph.D. Physical Therapy – Houston	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Kelli Brizzolara, Ph.D. Physical Therapy – Dallas	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Jennifer Ellison, Ph.D. Physical Therapy – Houston	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor

College of Nursing

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Approved for</u>
Rebecca Keele, Ph.D. Nursing – Denton	Tenure
Rita DelloStritto, Ph.D. Nursing – Houston	Promotion Professor
Wyona Freysteinson, Ph.D. Nursing – Houston	Promotion Professor

College of Professional Education

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Approved for</u>
Melissa Brown, Ph.D. Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Aaron Norton, Ph.D. Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Aaron Elkins, Ph.D. Library and Information Studies	Promotion and Tenure Associate Professor
Annette Torres, Ph.D.	Promotion and Tenure

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Approved for</u>
Literacy and Learning	Professor

IX. Future Business

Regent Gallardo asked if TWU should be running student surveys or getting feedback from students on their experiences. Regent Gallardo stated that he would like to have that information presented at the next Board of Regents meeting.

X. Regents' Remarks

Regent Wilson thanked Dr. Feyten for providing board members with a copy of “The Women with Silver Wings” by Dr. Kate Landdeck, Associate Professor, History and Political Science, which culminates her twenty (20) years of research on the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), who were the first women to ever fly for the U.S. military.

XI. Adjourn

With no further business coming before the Board of Regents, Regent **Jester** adjourned the committee meeting at **3:30 p.m.**