

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 12, 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 **3:37 p.m.**

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

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

II. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of August 14, 2020

Motion to Approve Minutes: Regent **Gallardo** motioned, and Regent **Doggett** seconded. Regent Shepard asked if there was any discussion about, changes to, or clarification to the minutes.

Regent Wilson indicated an edit was needed ensure Dr. Schrader's name is spelled accurately in the minutes.

The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

The minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of **August 14, 2020** were approved as submitted, with an edit to ensure correctness of Dr. Schrader's name.

III. Agenda

Regent Shepard said that the Board would take up the Agenda Items as listed.

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

Item B. Report on Texas Woman’s University Progress on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s 60 by 30 Plan

Dr. Barbara Lerner, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Partnerships, discussed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s 60x30TX plan, which was launched in 2015. She gave an overview of the four goals associated with the 60x30 plan. Dr. Lerner told the Board that a regional approach is taken by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and that the first goal is 60% of the Texas population holding a certificate or degree by 2030.

Dr. Joshua Adams, Assistant Provost for Student Success, then discussed the completion goal with the Board, stating that TWU is increasing its graduation rates, and positively contributing to the overall goal, and that the TWU team is committed to innovating where needed.

Dr. Mark Hamner, Vice Provost for Institutional Research and Improvement, stated that the goal is that by 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identifiable marketable skills. Dr. Hamner discussed some of TWU’s programs, including TWU’s “Learning by Doing” program, which is a focus on marketable skills and the communication to future employers, and internships.

Dr. Jennifer Martin, Executive Vice Provost, then told the group that the fourth goal is that by 2030, undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60% of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions. Dr. Martin described various strategies utilized by TWU to keep course material costs low for students. Dr. Martin said other initiatives used are holding to 120 hour degree plans, articulation agreements which help guide pre-transfer coursework, and careful student advising.

Item A. Report on Faculty Senate

Dr. DiAnna Hynds, Speaker of the Faculty Senate, provided a report on the Faculty Senate to the Board, which included details on the new Senate appointments and the Senate’s recent activities.

Item C. Report on Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board G-Force Work-Study Mentorship Program

Dr. Becky A. Rodríguez, Executive Director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach, described the G-Force Work-Study Mentorship Program, which is supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board and gives TWU an opportunity to support students in diverse communities. She indicated that associated student work-study funds are used to support G-Force mentors, and the Go Center provides services to over 17 high schools within 11 school districts in the Metroplex. Dr. Rodríguez highlighted the success of the participants in the program.

Item D. Report on Faculty Highlight, Department of History and Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Jacob Blosser, Professor of History and Political Science, described three strategies that assist in meeting the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board 60x30 goals, which included inspiring confidence in students, creating opportunities for students, and building partnerships.

Item E. Report on Faculty Highlight, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Nasrin Mirsaleh-Kohan, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, described how students are trained in the department of chemistry and biochemistry, including being involved with faculty research and developing critical skills including problem solving, teamwork, communication, and networking. She described the activities of the students in the community and that the science department has been recognized by the Association of American Colleges and Universities as a model department for incorporating civic engagement and social responsibility into degree plans.

Item F. Report on Academic Affairs Support and Initiatives for Hispanic Students

Dr. Holly Hansen-Thomas, Vice Provost for Research and Innovation, described TWU's programs and events, which intentionally support TWU's Hispanic and Latinx students, including the Latinx Prepa program, which is a 5-week program designed to prepare first generation Latinx undergraduate students with the knowledge, experience, and confidence to apply for highly competitive internships and connect with employers.

Dr. Hansen-Thomas then highlighted bilingual-related grants which are available through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and described the Pioneras grant, which is a \$2.2 million 5-year grant funded by the Department of Education in collaboration with Denton ISD.

Regent Coleman said the program is a wonderful opportunity for TWU students and Regent Shepard congratulated Dr. Hansen-Thomas on the program.

IV. Adjourn Academic Affairs Committee into Executive Closed Session

Regent **Shepard** announced that the Board would adjourn into Executive Closed Session for deliberations regarding personnel matters relating to appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of public officers or employees pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code. She stated the Board will hear a Recommend Approval of Faculty for Tenure.

Regent Shepard said that Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, would join in the Executive Closed Session.

The meeting was adjourned at **5:21 p.m.**

V. Reconvene into Open Session and Take Any Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Closed Session

Regent **Shepard** reconvened the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee into open session, a quorum being present at **5:49 p.m.** Regent Shepard said that the Board would take any possible action regarding matters discussed in the Executive Closed Session.

Motion to Move Approval of Item A.1 Recommend Approval of Faculty for Tenure to Consent

Agenda: Regent **Coleman** motioned, and Regent **Doggett**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0**.

VI. Adjourn

With no further business coming before the Academic Affairs Committee, Regent **Shepard** adjourned the Academic Affairs Committee meeting at **5:50 p.m.**