

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
FULL BOARD MINUTES
November 13, 2020

Videoconference

Roll Call:

Present Full Board Members:

Regents Jester (Chair), Coleman, Doggett, Gallardo, Hyde, McDavid, Shepard, Wilson, Wu, 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 **Jester**, Chair of the Board of Regents, called the meeting to order at **9:03 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 further noted the procedural changes necessary for the meeting and asked all Regents and attendees to follow meeting protocols.

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

II. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Full Board Meeting of August 14, 2020

Motion to Approve Minutes: Regent **Wilson** motioned, and Regent **Doggett** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**.

The minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting of **August 14, 2020**, were approved as submitted.

III. Adjourn Full Board Meeting into Executive Closed Session

Regent **Jester** then announced that the Board would recess into Executive Closed Session for the purposes of Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code and 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.

The meeting was adjourned at **9:08 a.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 **Jester** reconvened the meeting of the Full Board into open session, a quorum being present at **9:55 a.m.**

V. Consent Agenda

Upon reconvening, Regent Jester said the Board would now take up items A through G on the Consent Agenda from the Finance and Audit Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee meetings.

Regent Jester asked if any regent would like to pull an item for separate discussion. She then asked if there was any additional discussion about any of the agenda items.

Motion to approve A through G on the Consent Agenda as presented in their respective Committees: Regent **Shepard** motioned, and Regent **Wilson** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**.

- Item A. Recommend Approval of the Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2021**
- Item B. Recommend Approval of Renovations Projects in Guinn and Stark Halls**
- Item C. Recommend Approval of the Administrative Conference Tower 1 Building Foundation Repair**
- Item D. Recommend Approval of the Quakertown Park Project**
- Item E. Recommend Approval of Revisions to the Tuition and Fee Policy**
- Item F. Recommend Approval of Acceptance of Grants**
- Item G. Recommend Approval of Faculty Tenure**

VI. Presentation

Regent Jester said the Board would now take up a presentation recognizing Dr. Sophie Lin Rydin, presented Dr. Kimberly Russell, Vice President for University Advancement.

Dr. Kimberly Russell addressed the Board, presenting a resolution on behalf of the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents in memory of Dr. Sophie Lin Rydin, describing Dr. Rydin's history, education and experience, and her commitment to life-long learning. The resolution proposed naming the School of Occupational Therapy the TWU Institute of Health Sciences Houston Center, the "Dr. Sophie Lin Rydin School of Occupational Therapy-Houston Center".

Mr. Rydin stated his appreciation to the Board. He said that his intent was to help students to have opportunities for scholarships and to aspire to be like Dr. Rydin, and that he wanted everyone to know her story and for Dr. Rydin to be an inspiration to them.

Regents Jester, Coleman, and Tyson all indicated their support for the resolution and Dr. Rydin's lifelong commitment to education as well as a show gratitude for her family's generous support and investment in Texas Woman's University's School of Occupational Therapy.

Dr. Feyten said the legacy Dr. Rydin is leaving is amazing in many different ways and she thanked Mr. Rydin for helping TWU memorialize Dr. Rydin and her legacy.

Regent Jester thanked everyone for their comments and reiterated that the Board is grateful to Dr. Rydin's family for their generous support of TWU's School of Occupational Therapy in Dr. Rydin's memory.

VII. Full Board Agenda:

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

Motion to Take up Agenda Items: Regent **McDavid** motioned, and Regent **Doggett** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**. Regent Coleman's vote was taken by the Board Secretary via the chat feature of the meeting software.

Item A. Report on Texas Woman's University Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program

Dr. Monica Mendez-Grant, Vice President for Student Life, described the TWU Army ROTC program.

Cadet Lackovic and Cadet Bazzelle both addressed the Board, describing their experience with the ROTC program at TWU, stating that the program has helped to improve their leadership skills and provide valuable experiences.

Dr. Feyten thanked the cadets for their service, and said that it is especially meaningful to have the opportunity this week to thank anyone who has been involved in serving our country.

Regent Gallardo said that the ROTC program provides a good opportunity to students and to TWU and . he hopes to see the TWU ROTC program grow.

Regent Jester thanked Dr. Mendez-Grant and the ROTC cadets for their service and said that they all have the Board's appreciation.

Item B. Report on Texas Woman's University Athletics

Dr. Mendez-Grant introduced Ms. Sandee Mott, Director of Athletics, and Ms. Lisa Bowerman, Head Coach Gymnastics.

Ms. Mott spoke of the last several months, and the gymnastics team's record-breaking academic success despite the sports season being cancelled due to COVID-19. Coach Lisa Bowerman said that after the season had been cancelled, the team worked hard and continued to focus on their academic goals. She told the Board that the team had achieved a 3.934 semester GPA, setting a new department and program record, and winning the national academic championship.

Dr. Feyten noted that in the face of adversity, and in the face of success, the student athletes are champions and make TWU proud.

Regents Wu, Coleman, and Jester thanked Ms. Mott, the coaches, and the entire team. Regent Jester remarked that the entire university is proud of them.

Item C. Report on Texas Woman's University Student Veterans

Dr. Mendez-Grant introduced Ms. Amy O'Keefe, Executive Director Campus Alliance & Resource Education, and Ms. Alexandra Pritchett, Marine Corps Veteran and President of the Student Veterans Association.

Ms. O’Keefe made a presentation regarding TWU’s student veterans, and highlighted the Student Veterans Association, or SVA, and some of the school’s current veterans including biology major Joshua Cortinas, TWU’s first Oakley and an Air Force veteran, and Ms. Alex Pritchett, who had spent 5 years in the Marine Corps. Ms. O’Keefe discussed some of the events that the SVA has coordinated and participated in this Fall semester and read highlights from Ms. Pritchett’s experiences.

Regent Jester thanked the presenters. She stated that veterans have the Board’s support and that veterans contribute to our university and to our country in many ways.

Item D. Report on Office of Governmental and Legislative Affairs

Mr. Kevin Crusier, Director of Government Relations, addressed the Board.

Mr. Crusier gave an election update to the Board. He then described a budget shortfall the legislature will be addressing when it convenes in January. Mr. Crusier described Dr. Feyten’s testimony last week in front of the Legislative Budget Board. Mr. Crusier said that Dr. Feyten’s message was simple and very effective, telling the legislature that TWU is a good investment and Texas will be better off for every dollar they invest in TWU.

Regents Doggett and Jester thanked Mr. Crusier for his presentation.

Item E. Recommend Approval of Naming School of Occupational Therapy – Houston

Dr. Kimberly Russell said she was pleased to present a significant naming opportunity to the Board. She proposed to name TWU’s School of Occupational Therapy - Houston Center to the Dr. Sophie Lin Rydin School of Occupational Therapy-Houston Center.

Dr. Russell said that the Rydin family provided a significant endowment for scholarships for students, additional funding for faculty, and funding for the program itself.

Regent Coleman said that the naming is a lovely opportunity and tribute to Dr. Rydin

Motion to Approve the Naming of the School of Occupational Therapy – Houston: Regent **Doggett** motioned and Regent **Coleman** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**.

Item F. Recommend Approval of Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Woman’s University Foundation and Texas Woman’s University

Dr. Kimberly Russell addressed the Board, presenting proposed edits to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Woman’s University Foundation and the University.

Regent Gallardo asked for additional information regarding the proposed changes. Ms. Katherine Antwi Green, Dr. Feyten, and Dr. Russell provided clarification that the changes were found legally sufficient and they were the result of recommendations from an internal audit.

Regent **Gallardo** made motion to table the topic until the next Board meeting to in order to hear a presentation about TWU’s relationship with the TWU Foundation.

Regent Jester said that there is a motion to table item F, Recommend Approval of Revised Memorandum

of Understanding between the Texas Woman’s University Foundation and Texas Woman’s University. She then asked if there was a second. There being none, Regent Jester stated that the motion fails to garner a second.

Regent Jester then asked if there was a motion to approve item F.

Motion to Approve the Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Woman’s University Foundation and Texas Woman’s University: Regent **Wu** motioned and Regent **McDavid** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **8-1-0** with Regent Gallardo casting the dissenting vote.

Item G. Recommend Approval of Revisions to the University Gift Acceptance Policy

Dr. Kimberly Russell requested approval for a revised BOR Policy A.05.03, the University Gift Acceptance Policy. She summarized the recommended changes, and clarified that the Foundation is the sole support organization for TWU.

Regent Hyde asked for clarification related to the Alumni Association and the Foundation. Dr. Feyten and Dr. Russell provided an explanation regarding the relationship between the two entities.

Motion to Approve Revisions to the University Gift Acceptance Policy: Regent **Doggett** motioned, and Regent **Wilson** seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **9-0-0**.

VIII. Report on the Office of the Chancellor and President

Dr. Carine Feyten then addressed the Board. Dr. Feyten discussed the institution’s Strategic Plan, which she told the Board gets updated on a regular basis. Dr. Feyten explained that the Strategic Plan has four areas of distinction, or the cornerstones of the University. The first area is “women in leadership”. The second area is “experiential learning”. The third area is “Health” and the fourth is “Veterans”. Dr. Feyten described the institution’s efforts toward diversity and its strong results, adding that diversity has been added to the Strategic Plan as one of TWU’s distinctive factors.

Regent Jester thanked Dr. Feyten for her presentation and remarks.

IX. Future Business

Regent Jester asked if there were any comments or requests from any regents regarding a request for future issues or subjects to discuss. No comments or requests were made on this item.

X. Regents’ Remarks

Regent Jester then asked if there were any other remarks by any regent.

Regents Wilson and Jester commended Regent Tysons’s remarkable effort to reaching out to the TWU community during the pandemic, as well as to the Regents individually.

Regent Gallardo then thanked everyone for their patience in answering questions and said that he was still learning about how the Board operates.

Dr. Feyten told the Board that the school has scheduled commencement at the Texas Motor Speedway. Regents Coleman, Jester, and Tyson said they appreciated TWU adapting the ceremony and said it was exciting news.

XI. Adjourn

With no further business coming before the Board of Regents, Regent **Jester** adjourned the committee meeting at **11:39 a.m.**