

**TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 11, 2022**

**TWU Denton Campus
Hubbard Hall – Southeast Ballroom**

Roll Call:

Present Committee Members:

Regents Coleman (Chair), Shepard, Sweatt, Wu (ex-officio), and L. Wilson (non-voting)

Present Administrators:

Dr. Carine M. Feyten, Chancellor and President; Ms. Katherine Antwi Green, General Counsel, Secretary to the Board, and Chief Compliance Officer; Dr. O. Finley Graves, Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Ms. Kristina Kaskel-Ruiz, Vice President for Marketing and Communication; 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; and Dr. Javier Flores, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management.

I. Call Academic Affairs Committee Meeting to Order

With a quorum present, Regent Coleman, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order at **2:17 p.m.**

Regent Coleman reminded everyone that the meeting is streaming live and asked that the Regents speak loudly and clearly as they make comments during the meeting.

Regent Coleman welcomed and introduced the Board's new Student Regent, Lily Wilson, to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Student Regent Lily Wilson thanked the Board for the welcome and stated that she is excited to begin in her role as a Student Regent.

II. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of May 19, 2022

Motion to Approve Minutes: Regent Shepard motioned, and Regent Sweatt seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of **May 19, 2022** were approved as submitted.

III. Presentations

Item A. Introduction of the Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Regent Coleman said that the Board would take up a presentation introducing the Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost presented by Dr. Carine M. Feyten, Chancellor and President.

Chancellor Feyten introduced Dr. O. Finley Graves, who began as the Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost on June 1, 2022. Dr. Graves introduced himself to the Board and detailed the reasons why he chose to accept the position with TWU.

Dr. Graves then introduced to the Board leadership members of Academic Affairs that have been appointed since the May 2022 Board Meeting. Dr. Damon Cottrell now serves as the Interim Dean for the College of Nursing; Dr. Carolyn Kapinus now serves as the Dean of the Graduate School; and Dr. Holly Hansen-Thomas now serves as the Vice Provost of Research, Innovation, and Corporate Engagement.

IV. Agenda

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

Motion to Take up Agenda Items as Listed: Regent Shepard motioned, and Regent Sweatt seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Item A. Report on Faculty Highlight, College of Arts and Sciences, School of the Sciences, Biology – Denton Campus

Dr. O. Finley Graves, Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, introduced Dr. Juliet Spencer, Director of the School of Sciences and Professor of Biology, and Dr. Michael Bergel, Associate Professor of Biology, who briefed the Board on current breast cancer research activities at TWU.

Dr. Spencer explained that her research focuses on viruses and their role in tumor spread. She detailed that she collaborated with Dr. Bergel in a research project on the effectiveness of a TWU-created compound and its ability to treat breast cancer. Dr. Bergel presented to the Board the pre-clinical breast cancer research and successful results from the pre-clinical trials. Dr. Bergel concluded with information on next steps for the project and acknowledged the financial support provided for the project.

Following their report, the Regents, Dr. Spencer, and Dr. Bergel engaged in additional discussion on this research project. Dr. Bergel responded to a question posed by Regent Coleman and informed the Board that, over the course of the project, eight graduate students, one post-doctoral fellow, and twenty-five undergraduate students have assisted in this research project.

Item B. Recommend Approval of Hybrid Delivery of Existing Bachelor of Arts Degree in English

Dr. O. Finley Graves, Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, recommended approval of the hybrid delivery of the existing Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. Dr. Graves explained that the mode of delivery would allow students to take a combination of face-to-face, online, or hybrid classes. The goal of this is to take the current, fully in-person degree and provide options for students who cannot commit to a 100% in-person degree. Dr. Graves confirmed no additional resources are required for the hybrid delivery of this degree.

Motion to Move Approval of Item B to Consent Agenda: Regent Shepard motioned, and Regent Sweatt seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Item C. Recommend Approval of an Online Psychiatric/Mental Health Track to the Existing Post-Master's Certificate in Nurse Practitioner

Dr. O. Finley Graves, Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, recommended approval of an online Psychiatric/Mental Health track to the existing Post-Master's Certificate in Nurse Practitioner.

Dr. Graves explained that the Post-Master's Certificate is designed for individuals who have a Master's degree in Nursing and wish to become a Nurse Practitioner with a Psychiatric/Mental Health emphasis. Dr. Graves informed the Board that the online format will provide increased access and greater flexibility for educating future mental health providers who already practice in areas with the greatest need for mental health services. Dr. Graves confirmed no additional resources are required for this item.

Regents Coleman and Shepard provided comments remarking on the importance of mental health and that making this degree easier to obtain is a great idea.

Motion to Move Approval of Item C to Consent Agenda: Regent Shepard motioned, and Regent Sweatt seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Item D. Recommend Approval of an Online Psychiatric/Mental Health Track to the Existing Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Practitioner Degree

Dr. O. Finley Graves, Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, recommended approval of an online Psychiatric/Mental Health track to the existing Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Practitioner degree.

Dr. Graves confirmed that the mode of delivery for this is fully online. He informed the Board that the same information concerning the need for this track and the reasoning for the online delivery cited for the previous Post-Master's Certificate apply to this item as well. The difference is that students will complete the track while they are completing their Master's degree. Finally, Dr. Graves confirmed that no additional resources are required.

Motion to Move Approval of Item D to Consent Agenda: Regent Sweatt motioned, and Regent Shepard seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Regent Jester commented that she is thrilled to have Dr. Graves on board with TWU.

IV. Adjourn Academic Affairs Committee Meeting to Executive Closed Session

Regent Coleman then announced that the Committee would recess to Executive Closed Session for the purposes of 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. Regent Coleman stated the Committee will hear a recommendation to approve a faculty member for tenure and a recommendation to approve emeritus and emerita status for faculty and staff members.

Regent Coleman stated that Dr. O. Finley Graves, Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, would join the Executive Closed Session.

The meeting adjourned at **2:54 p.m.**

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

At the conclusion of the Executive Closed Session, Regent Coleman reconvened the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee into open session, a quorum being present at **3:08 p.m.** Regent Coleman stated the Board would take any possible action regarding matters discussed in Executive Closed Session.

Motion to Move Approval of Item A.1 Recommend Approval of Faculty Member for Tenure to Consent Agenda: Regent Sweatt motioned, and Regent Shepard seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Motion to Move Approval of Item A.2 Recommend Approval of Emeritus and Emerita Faculty and Staff to Consent Agenda: Regent Sweatt motioned, and Regent Shepard seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

VI. Adjourn Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

With no further business coming before the Academic Affairs Committee, Regent Coleman adjourned the Academic Affairs Committee meeting at **3:09 p.m.**