

**TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
May 19, 2022**

**TWU Dallas Campus  
3rd Floor – Room 3620  
5500 Southwestern Medical Avenue, Dallas, TX 75235**

**Roll Call:**

**Present Committee Members:**

Regents Coleman (Chair), Hyde, Shepard, Wright, Wu (ex-officio), and Bush (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. 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; 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 **1:34 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 also stressed the importance of using the provided microphones to aid in the ability to hear the Regents. Finally, she welcomed everyone to Dallas Campus for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

**II. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of February 17, 2022**

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

The minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of **February 17, 2022** were approved as submitted.

**III. Presentations**

**Item A. Introduction of Texas Woman's University System Academic Affairs Leadership Members**

Regent Coleman said that the Board would take up a presentation introducing Texas Woman's University System Academic Affairs Leadership Members presented by Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

Dr. Kapinus informed the Board that the Vice Provost portfolios were realigned after the retirements of Drs. Jennifer Martin and Barbara Lerner. Their positions have been retitled to Vice Provost for Faculty

Success and Vice Provost for Curriculum and Strategic Initiatives. Dr. Kimberly Miloch was hired internally as the Vice Provost for Faculty Success and Dr. Jorge Figueroa was hired internally as the Vice Provost for Curriculum and Strategic Initiatives.

Dr. Kapinus also introduced Dr. Rama Yelkur who joined Texas Woman's University (TWU) in June of 2021 as the Dean of the College of Business. Dr. Kapinus informed the Board that Dr. Holly Hansen-Thomas was appointed Vice Provost for Research and Innovation in 2020 and her portfolio expanded to include Dean of the Graduate School in January 2021.

Finally, she introduced the following Vice Provosts and Deans that have been at TWU since before the pandemic: Dr. Joshua Adams, Vice Provost for Student Success; Dr. Mark Hamner, Vice Provost for Institutional Research and Improvement; Dr. Lisa Huffman, Dean of the College of Professional Education; Dr. Rosalie Mainous, Dean of the College of Nursing; Dr. Christopher Ray, Dean of the College of Health Sciences; and Dr. Abigail Tilton, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Regent Coleman thanked Dr. Kapinus for introducing the Academic Affairs leadership members.

#### **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 Hyde motioned, and Regent Shepard seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **Item A. Report on Faculty Highlight, College of Health Sciences, School of Physical Therapy – Dallas Campus**

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, introduced Dr. Alyssa LaForme Fiss, Professor of Physical Therapy – Dallas, who briefed the Board on her current research on infants with Down syndrome who experience delayed mobility. She described the Up & Down Study, a pilot program made possible by a grant. The Up & Down Study expands on a treadmill study and provides the ability for infants with Down syndrome to receive upright mobility assistance while being able to move around in a canopy harness system.

Regent Jester thanked Dr. LaForme Fiss for her presentation and asked for additional details about the original study. Dr. LaForme Fiss indicated that the treadmill study was conducted in the mid 2000's and one of the project collaborators participated in the study. Regent Jester then commented that this study could have a significant impact on many people.

Regent Coleman commended Dr. LaForme Fiss on obtaining the grant to fund the project.

#### **Item B. Report on Hybrid Delivery of Existing Bachelor of Arts Degree in English**

Dr. Kapinus informed the Board that the Department of Language, Culture, and Gender Studies will move the existing Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from in-person to hybrid delivery. She stated that the required classes will be offered using online and hybrid models, giving increased flexibility to the current population of largely first-generation and non-traditional college students. Dr. Kapinus indicated that the hybrid modality allows programs to be more responsive to the marketplace.

Regent Shepard commented that flexible modality is the future. She agreed that the offering will be beneficial in a changing marketplace.

Regent Jester asked for additional details about the hybrid delivery. Dr. Kapinus indicated that hybrid delivery can be offered in a variety of formats and gave an example of one class in which half of the students attended in person and the other half online. She told the Board that faculty have become creative in addressing student needs. She then introduced Dr. Abigail Tilton, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who described her department's digital media lab, where students can create podcasts, blogs, and incorporate other forms of online technology in their class activities.

**Item C. Recommend Approval of New Online Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education**

Dr. Kapinus recommended approval for the online delivery of a new Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education. The degree would be for undergraduate pre-service teachers focused on the education of young children ages three to eight. She stated this degree will lead to an initial teacher certification for pre-kindergarten through third-grade levels with a choice of additional certification in either Special Education or English as a Second Language. Additionally, this new degree would help address the current teacher shortage in the State of Texas, especially for this specific age group.

Dr. Kapinus indicated that the offering was for both fully online or “hyflex,” which gives students the choice to come in person or participate synchronously online. However, field hours and student teaching are still offered in person in alignment with established guidelines.

Dr. Feyten said that she was thrilled that the State of Texas has approved a degree of this nature.

Regent Coleman said that she was happy to know that the field work will continue to be in person.

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

**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 faculty members for promotion and tenure and will engage in consultation regarding the Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost personnel matters.

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

The meeting adjourned at **2:00 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 **2:58 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 for Promotion and Tenure to Consent Agenda:** Regent Hyde motioned, and Regent Wright seconded. Regent Coleman stated that

she will abstain from voting on this item due to a conflict of interest. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Regent Coleman then stated that the Board would take the opportunity to hear from Regent Wu, Board Chair and Presiding Officer.

Regent Wu read the following statement:

Thank you, Regent Coleman. As Board Chair and Presiding Officer, I would like to take a moment to recognize Dr. Carolyn Kapinus for her service as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. I know I speak for all of the Regents in offering our sincere gratitude for her important service to Texas Woman's University System in her time in this role.

In particular, Dr. Kapinus led the Division of Academic Affairs through the incredibly challenging circumstances of the COVID pandemic and played a key role in Texas Woman's University becoming a system.

In her relationship with the Board, Dr. Kapinus thoughtfully curated reports for these Academic Affairs Committee Meetings. At her direction, this Board has heard reports that span all areas of Academic Affairs. Dr. Fiss's report earlier today is just the latest example of these reports. Further, Dr. Kapinus has used her time with the Board to highlight faculty members' accomplishments and her requests for Board action were always comprehensive, timely, and relevant. I know Regent Coleman and the members of the Academic Affairs Committee share my hope that this practice continues for future meetings of this Committee.

In times of transition, while a focus on the future is necessary, I find it equally important to reflect on the past to allow the TWU System to grow and continue to improve. As a governing Board of an institution of higher education, this Board has a responsibility to nurture TWU in our governance so that TWU achieves its full potential within its role and mission.

This Board and its Regents may only accomplish this, and its other responsibilities established by the Texas Education Code, through partnership with all members of the TWU Community. This means TWU Administration, faculty, staff, and students. This partnership must consist of transparency, clear communication, and an acknowledgement that we all share a common mission to 'Educate a woman, and empower the world.'

In sharing this common mission, this Board asks for thoughtful consideration of all future decisions that will have broad institutional impact on the TWU Community. In particular, members of the TWU Community who are given the authority to influence the governance of the institution must understand that their actions may have unintended consequences, which create repercussions that continue and spread throughout the entire institution. As such, we must remember to carefully consider the available processes and the inclusion of intermediary steps in order to foster a culture of problem-solving that serves to benefit the entire TWU Community.

To that end, and for the good of the institution, this Board looks forward to our ongoing communication and collaboration with the entire TWU Community to continue TWU's

long history of progress and innovation.

This Board is excited that Dr. Kapinus will remain at Texas Woman's University System. Again, we thank her for her service for TWU.

**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 **3:03 p.m.**