

Meeting No. 1,110

THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

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October 25, 2013

Austin, Texas

## MEETING NO. 1,110

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened this special called meeting via telephone conference call at 11:42 a.m. on Friday, October 25, 2013, in the Chairman's Office on the Ninth Floor, Ashbel Smith Hall, 201 West Seventh Street, Austin, Texas, with the following participation:

### ATTENDANCE.--

#### Present

Chairman Foster  
Vice Chairman Powell  
Vice Chairman Hicks  
Regent Aliseda  
Regent Cranberg  
Regent Hall  
Regent Hildebrand  
Regent Pejovich  
Regent Stillwell  
Regent Horne, Student Regent, nonvoting

In accordance with a notice being duly posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum present, Chairman Foster called the meeting to order. He said that consistent with the Open Meeting posting (Executive Session Item b) related to the ongoing activities of the Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations of the Texas House of Representatives, he wanted to take the liberty of making a short statement, set forth below.

#### Remarks by Chairman Foster

Over the course of events and debates during the last Legislative Session and in the weeks since, there has been a focus on best practices for State governing boards. In light of this, I believe today is the right time to begin a new discussion on the best ways this Board should operate going forward.

I have spent [a] significant amount of time thinking about how we can fully discharge our responsibility in the most efficient and transparent way; I am sure each member of the Board has done the same. To that end, I will work with the Chancellor, the Vice Chairmen, and System staff over the next few days to frame a series of recommended policy and procedure revisions for consideration by the Board at the November (2013) meeting.

Those recommendations will likely include:

1. A process for review of requests for information that involves a determination concerning whether the information sought is necessary and likely to be beneficial to the discharge of a Board member's duties.

I envision this process will involve review and approval by the Chairman and the appropriate Committee Chairman and will be made in consultation with the Chancellor concerning the scope, timing, and potential impact of the request.

2. Modification of the current policy of recognizing the Chairman and Chancellor as the official spokespersons for the U. T. System to also require that media contacts and public statements on U. T. issues be coordinated in advance through the U. T. System Office of External Relations.
3. Discussion about the appropriateness and feasibility of utilizing U. T. System-provided email addresses and accounts for Regents to send and receive U. T. System-related email. Several members of the Board have asked about such email access, and Ms. Frederick is working with System information technology staff on this issue.

As I said, I expect we will have recommendations for the Board to consider at the November meeting.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.--At 11:45 a.m., Chairman Foster said the Board would recess to convene in Executive Session pursuant to *Texas Government Code* Section 551.071 to consider the matters listed on the Executive Session agenda.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.--At 12:30 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session. No action was taken on matters discussed in Executive Session.

- a. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion with Counsel on pending legal issues

No action was taken on this item.

- b. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion with Counsel and appropriate action regarding legal issues related to matters to be considered by the Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations of the Texas House of Representatives

No action was taken on this item. (See Chairman Foster's remarks on Page 1 of these Minutes.)

- c. U. T. System: Discussion with Counsel regarding legal issues related to review of the admissions process at U. T. Austin

No action was taken on this item.

ADJOURNMENT.--At 12:31 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Carol A. Felkel  
Secretary to the Board of Regents

October 28, 2013