

Meeting No. 1,082

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

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February 24, 2012

Austin, Texas

MEETING NO. 1,082

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened this special called meeting via telephone conference call at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2012, in the Chairman's Office on the Ninth Floor, Ashbel Smith Hall, 201 West Seventh Street, Austin, Texas, with the following participation:

ATTENDANCE.--

<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Participating*</u>
Chairman Powell	Regent Cranberg
Vice Chairman Foster	
Vice Chairman Hicks	
Vice Chairman Dannenbaum	
Regent Gary	
Regent Hall	
Regent Pejovich	
Regent Stillwell	
Regent Rutkauskas, Student Regent, nonvoting	

\*Regent Cranberg called in but volunteered to leave the call because of an unsatisfactory telephone connection.

In accordance with a notice being duly posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum present, Chairman Powell called the meeting to order.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.--At 10:31 a.m., Chairman Powell announced a quorum present and said the Board would recess to convene in Executive Session pursuant to *Texas Government Code* Section 551.071 to consider a matter listed on the Executive Session agenda.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.--At 10:46 a.m., the Board reconvened in Open Session. No action was taken on the matter discussed in Executive Session.

U. T. El Paso: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues related to athletic conference membership

No action was taken on this item. (See the related item below for action taken in Open Session.)

## AGENDA ITEM

### U. T. El Paso: Approval to accept invitation to become a founding member in a new collegiate athletic conference

President Natalicio requested that she be authorized to accept an invitation for The University of Texas at El Paso to become a founding member in a new collegiate athletic conference, and that she be authorized to negotiate and finalize terms for athletic conference formation and membership in consultation with the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel and final approval of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Chancellor.

Dr. Natalicio discussed the expected revenue growth, primarily due to an enhanced television contract, and increased stability in conference membership as the result of joining with institutions in the Mountain West Conference and the Conference USA to form a new athletic conference. She noted a downside of the transaction has already occurred with the departure of Southern Methodist University and the University of Houston from Conference USA, which took U. T. El Paso out of the Dallas television market and partially out of the Houston media market. She noted these media markets, especially the Dallas market, might return with the addition of new members to the conference. Dr. Natalicio discussed the expected reduction in team travel costs and travel time for students if U. T. El Paso joins the western division of the new athletic conference. She spoke about the enthusiasm of fans and the support of the local community for a new conference and about the hope for competition and stability to allow new and old rivalries to flourish.

Regent Stillwell moved that President Natalicio be authorized

- a. to accept an invitation for U. T. El Paso to become a founding member in a new collegiate athletic association to be formed as described by President Natalicio in her comments (above); and
- b. to negotiate and finalize terms for athletic conference formation and membership, with input and assistance from the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel, and final approval of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Chancellor.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Foster.

Chancellor Cigarroa and Executive Vice Chancellor ad interim Reyes also spoke in favor of the invitation, and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.--There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

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

February 28, 2012