

HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

March 18, 2011

Austin, Texas

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Carol A. Felkel
Secretary to the Board of Regents
May 12, 2011

MINUTES
U. T. System Board of Regents
Health Affairs Committee
March 18, 2011

The members of the Health Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened via telephone conference call at 2:02 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2011, in the Chairman's Office on the 9th Floor of Ashbel Smith Hall, The University of Texas System, 201 West Seventh Street, Austin, Texas, with the following participation:

Attendance

Regent Stillwell, presiding
Vice Chairman Foster
Vice Chairman Dannenbaum
Regent Gary
Regent Hall

Also present were Chairman Powell, Vice Chairman Hicks, Regent Cranberg, Regent Kalkwarf, Regent Pejovich, and General Counsel to the Board Frederick.

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

U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed tuition and fee plans for the U. T. System health institutions for the Academic Year starting in Fall 2011

Committee Meeting Information

Presenter(s): Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

Status: Approved

Motion: Made by Regent Stillwell, seconded by Vice Chairman Dannenbaum, and carried with Regent Hall voting "no"

Follow-up actions:

Academic Affairs Committee and Health Affairs Committee Chairmen Hicks and Stillwell to discuss the following matters with Regent Cranberg and report to the Board:

- 1. Provide suggestions about how to enhance reports' quantitative synthesis, consistency of approach among institutions, and "bottom line" approach.*
- 2. Discuss approach to receiving more systematic student input using modern technology/social media.*
- 3. Clarification for the record that approval a) is for one year, although future increases are indicated as likely to be needed, and b) does not necessarily authorize the increase of faculty salaries to the 75th percentile at U. T. Health Science Center – Houston.*

Discussion at meeting:

Dr. Shine provided background for the proposed tuition and fee plans, noting that tuition is kept low compared to the national average out of concern for accessibility and student debt. He said the proposed tuition increase is \$1,000 at each health institution except U. T. Health Science Center – Houston where an increase of \$2,000 is proposed.

Committee Chairman Stillwell asked how student input on the proposals was solicited and their knowledge of the process, and Dr. Shine explained the inclusive process. Regent Kalkwarf attested to the students' value of a quality education and spoke in support of the recommended increases. In response to a question from Vice Chairman Foster about the cost of education at other medical schools in Texas, Dr. Shine said the cost is about the same as what is being proposed, and he noted that by law, 90% of medical students in Texas must be Texas residents. Regent Gary commented on the sticker price and asked about the discounted price. Dr. Shine spoke about the limited number and amount of scholarships and noted that financial aid is scarce on the medical campuses.

In response to a question from Chairman Powell, Regent Kalkwarf reiterated that students realize and agree that a medical education from a U. T. System health institution is both valuable and affordable. He remarked on the importance of good faculty.

Regent Hall held up the U. T. System health institutions for being of good value in comparison to peers around the country. He said he is leery of such comparisons because of the notion that an institution that is capable of charging a higher price provides a higher quality product. He said he is also concerned about access for underrepresented groups, such as future medical students who will have to pay the increases.

Dr. Shine explained how the U. T. System health institutions rank high in diversity. Regent Kalkwarf commented that medical students are getting loans but the loans are in fields where there are jobs, so he does not think any student would be left out. Chancellor Cigarroa commented on some philanthropic support available for scholarships particularly for students from underrepresented groups. Vice Chairman Dannenbaum commented on the affordability of medical education in Texas and the need for the modest increases proposed to support the extensive activities of faculty in teaching and research. He also noted the philanthropic support for the medical schools. Both Vice Chairman Dannenbaum and Dr. Shine spoke about the desire to lessen the loss of quality faculty members to other states and to other countries.

Regent Cranberg asked Dr. Shine about the needed salary increases at U. T. Health Science Center – Houston's Dental Branch, and Dr. Shine responded with some detail on retention challenges at the Dental School at U. T. Health Science Center – San Antonio. Regent Cranberg asked if other schools are experiencing the same retention, recruitment, and turnover issues, and Dr. Shine noted that information is being collected and will be provided to the Board.

Regent Cranberg asked for clarification regarding whether the relatively low salaries and recruitment issues identified for U. T. Health Science Center – San Antonio also apply to the Dental Branch at U. T. Health Science Center – Houston. The Office of Health Affairs advised that U. T. Health Science Center – Houston salaries are low and that recruitment and retention are areas of concern.

During the Committee meeting and the subsequent Board meeting, Regent Cranberg asked for the following:

- 1. Provide suggestions about how to enhance reports' quantitative synthesis, consistency of approach among institutions, and "bottom line" approach;*
- 2. Discuss approach to receiving more systematic student input using modern technology/social media; and*
- 3. Clarification for the record that approval a) is for one year, although future increases are indicated as likely to be needed, and b) does not necessarily authorize the increase of faculty salaries to the 75th percentile at U. T. Health Science Center – Houston.*

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chairman Stillwell adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.