

Remarks
James R. Huffines
Chairman, The University of Texas Board of Regents
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AS PREPARED

Thank you for attending today.

The chancellor and I will have some brief remarks ... and then we will be glad to take your questions.

We also have Dr. Ken Shine, Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and Dr. Teresa Sullivan, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and several members of our staff available for your questions.

Fundamentally, we wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate the legislature and the leadership for the completion of an arduous and productive session.

And, we want to give you a first take on our perspective of how higher education in general and the UT System specifically fared during the 79th Regular Legislature Session.

There is a very old Texas political saying that there are only two ways to react to any situation – to point with pride or view with alarm.

For us, this is the day to point with pride to the accomplishments and successes of this legislature as we see them.

I am personally delighted about two developments: the approval of Governor Perry's proposal for an Emerging Technology Fund and the addition of a student regent to the Board.

From the beginning, I have felt that the Emerging Technology Fund offered us a way to increase research and technology transfer ... and to build the Texas economy.

I have also been certain that University of Texas System institutions would be very competitive for these additional research funds.

I think Governor Perry had another great idea here ... and his idea will pay dividends for Texas for years to come.

Additionally, I want to congratulate the student lobbyists who have, after some 30 years of effort, fulfilled their goal of student representation on the Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents, through its Student Advisory Committee and open hearings, has been committed to soliciting the opinions of students about major issues involving the System.

And, we are ready and eager to welcome a student member to our number.

We may be biased, but we believe that the University of Texas System is the greatest asset of the State of Texas.

As the educator of the future leaders of Texas and a primary catalyst for economic development, higher education deserves the support of all Texans.

We know the legislature understands the importance of higher education.

And we are grateful for the time and effort they put into helping us meet the goals of continuing excellence for the UT System.

With that, I will turn the podium over to Chancellor Yudof.