

Meeting No. 1,086

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

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May 24, 2012

Austin, Texas

## MEETING NO. 1,086

THURSDAY, MAY 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 10:02 a.m. on Monday, May 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.--

#### Present

Chairman Powell  
Vice Chairman Foster  
Vice Chairman Hicks  
Vice Chairman Dannenbaum  
Regent Cranberg  
Regent Gary  
Regent Hall  
Regent Pejovich  
Regent Stillwell  
Regent Rutkauskas, Student Regent, nonvoting  
Regent Purgason, Student Regent-Designate, nonvoting

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.

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. U. T. Arlington: Authorization to accept invitation from the Sun Belt Conference and to negotiate and finalize terms for athletic conference membership

The Board authorized The University of Texas at Arlington to accept an invitation from the Sun Belt Conference (SBC) to become a member, and to negotiate and finalize terms for athletic conference membership.

On July 14, 2011, after receiving approval from the Board of Regents on the same day, U. T. Arlington accepted an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference (WAC), a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) conference. U. T. Arlington was not scheduled to officially join the WAC until July 1, 2012. However, since U. T. Arlington accepted the invitation to join the WAC, five member institutions have declared their intent to leave that conference. The institutions that have announced their intention to join new conferences are: San José State

University, Utah State University, Louisiana Tech University, Texas State University, and The University of Texas at San Antonio. As a result, the WAC is in a precarious situation and its future is in question.

Officials at the SBC contacted U. T. Arlington in April 2012 to initiate a discussion about the possibility of U. T. Arlington leaving the WAC to join the SBC. President Spaniolo and Mr. Jim Baker, Athletic Director at U. T. Arlington, have engaged in several discussions with Mr. Karl Benson, Commissioner of the SBC, regarding U. T. Arlington joining the SBC. The formal invitation to join the SBC was extended on May 7, 2012. U. T. Arlington's current plan is to participate in the WAC until July 1, 2013, the effective date for joining the SBC.

The SBC represents a more stable, equally competitive conference composed of similar institutions with comparable academic quality to U. T. Arlington. U. T. Arlington will be the second nonfootball institution in the SBC along with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The SBC is geographically more compact, and thus travel costs and time away from the campus for U. T. Arlington student athletes should be less than in the WAC. In addition, Texas State University, a longtime athletic rival and current member of the Southland Conference, who is moving to the WAC in July 2012 for one year, will be joining the SBC in July 2013. Had the opportunity to join the SBC been available a year ago, U. T. Arlington would have moved in that direction.

Joining the SBC will build equity in a U. T. Arlington degree through greater national visibility and association with universities of similar enrollment, academic standing, and community size. U. T. Arlington has determined that a move to this new conference is consistent with the University's strategic plan to increase its national prominence in support of its goal to become a national research university. Competing in the new conference will leverage U. T. Arlington's efforts to upgrade the competitiveness of its 15 sports teams, particularly in men's and women's basketball.

There are no exit fees involved with U. T. Arlington's departure from the WAC. The entry fee payable to the SBC is \$300,000, and will be covered through a combination of Athletic Department funds and conference revenues payable to U. T. Arlington pursuant to the New Member Agreement with the SBC. U. T. Arlington reports that revenues generated by U. T. Arlington from television and the NCAA are likely to be comparable or greater with the SBC than with those earned by the WAC.

2. U. T. Austin: Approval for extension of Cotton Bowl Stadium agreement for the annual football game with the University of Oklahoma

The Board approved the five-year extension of the agreement for use of the Cotton Bowl Stadium for the annual University of Texas at Austin/University of Oklahoma football game.

U. T. Austin proposed to extend the Cotton Bowl Stadium agreement among the State Fair of Texas, the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, the City of Dallas, and U. T. Austin for the annual football game. The agreement between U. T. Austin and the University of Oklahoma, which was approved by the Board of Regents on August 23, 2007, and expires on October 31, 2015, will be extended until the Year 2020. The City of Dallas will continue to pay each team \$500,000 annually through 2020 for the games to be played in the Cotton Bowl Stadium. The total value of the extension is \$5,000,000.

3. U. T. Dallas and U. T. Arlington: Authorization for U. T. Dallas to offer a previously approved Ph.D. degree program in Mechanical Engineering as a joint degree with U. T. Arlington

In accordance with Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 40307, related to academic program approval standards, the Board authorized The University of Texas at Dallas to offer a previously approved Ph.D. degree in Mechanical Engineering as a joint degree with The University of Texas at Arlington.

The U. T. Dallas Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science requested to supplement the existing Mechanical Engineering Ph.D. degree program currently offered by U. T. Arlington. On February 7, 2008, the Board authorized the development of a stand-alone Ph.D. degree program in Mechanical Engineering at U. T. Dallas. After discussions with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, U. T. System, and the leadership at U. T. Arlington and U. T. Dallas, it was determined that the best approach would be to offer a joint Ph.D. degree program in Mechanical Engineering with U. T. Arlington and U. T. Dallas. A joint degree program offers the opportunity to achieve significant improvements in efficiency and productivity, such as sharing course offerings aided by technology and by coordinating faculty hiring to avoid redundancy.

The joint degree program enables U. T. Dallas and U. T. Arlington to build upon existing collaborations, including those for the joint Ph.D. degree program in Biomedical Engineering, and to provide students in the Metroplex with a comprehensive degree program spanning multiple research areas. The U. T. Dallas emphasis will include materials and intelligent systems for sustainable energy and energy efficiency; microtechnology and nanotechnology systems; metrology and manufacturing; mechatronic systems and robotics with applications to energy and health care; thermal

management; and biomechanical applications related to health care, which will evolve over time. These research areas complement the established programmatic focus areas at U. T. Arlington; thus, both institutions will provide expanded opportunities to their collective student populations studying for the Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering.

Faculty in the U. T. Arlington Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department and faculty within the U. T. Dallas Department of Mechanical Engineering held a meeting at which they agreed to admission and graduation requirements for the joint program. The graduation requirements include completion of a minimum of 42 semester credit hours of course work and a qualifying exam, a comprehensive exam, and a final exam given after the public presentation of a dissertation. Students pursuing the joint degree will designate a home institution, pay that institution's tuition, but be able to transfer course work taken at either institution to receive maximum breadth and depth in research areas specific to their needs. Both institutions' seals will appear on the diplomas.

The five-year expenditures of the program at U. T. Dallas are anticipated to be \$3,576,538. This includes \$2,108,700 for new faculty salary, \$500,118 for research assistants, \$173,250 for staff, \$96,360 for reallocated faculty salary, \$96,360 for reallocated program administration, \$313,500 for new program administration, \$85,800 for reallocated staff, \$95,500 for supplies and materials, and \$106,950 for library and information technology resources. These costs will be met from credit hour formula funding, reallocation of University resources, and in-hand grants. The anticipated five-year funding totals \$8,724,178, which includes \$89,330 in formula funding income, \$1,775,000 of reallocations of existing funds, \$3,331,040 of gift contributions for domestic recruiting initiatives, as well as Designated Tuition and fees. In addition, existing core faculty has a current total of \$3,528,808 of in-hand grants.

4. U. T. San Antonio: Approval for athletic fee increases effective for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014

The Board approved increasing the current athletic fee at The University of Texas at San Antonio from \$17 to \$19 per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2013 and \$20 per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2014.

On March 3, 2010, the Board approved an athletic fee of \$17 per semester credit hour, in accordance with a student referendum in September 2007. The fee increases for FY 2013 and 2014 were also approved as part of the September 2007 student referendum. The increase in rates will generate revenue to support all of U. T. San Antonio's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I sports including football.

On December 18, 2008, the Board of Regents approved U. T. San Antonio's Athletic Initiative Business Plan. The Plan is one of the key elements of the University's 2016 strategic plan, *A Shared Vision UTSA 2016*, and its supporting implementation plan. The Athletic Initiative was designed to create an intercollegiate athletics program that is a key element in the University-wide efforts to develop a comprehensive campus life program that benefits U. T. San Antonio's students, employees, and alumni, and supports the entire San Antonio community. U. T. San Antonio is committed to funding the Athletic Initiative through student fees, corporate and private support, and other revenue streams that do not draw from the institutional academic budget.

An annual fiscal review of the Plan by the U. T. System Office of Academic Affairs was required by the Board of Regents, and such annual reviews have been performed and approved. The revenue generated by the gradual increase in athletic fees of \$2 per semester credit hour in FY 2013 and \$1 per semester credit hour in FY 2014 were projected in the financial pro forma included in the Plan, and such increases are paramount to the continued success of U. T. San Antonio's NCAA Division I programs.

ADJOURNMENT.--There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

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

May 29, 2012