

**MINUTES**

**SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**HELD IN**

**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

**June 7, 2021**

*(Approved August 26, 2021)*

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**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING  
BOARD OF REGENTS, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**June 7, 2021**

**CONVENE**

Chairman Elaine Mendoza convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System at 11:32 a.m., Monday, June 7, 2021.

Chairman Mendoza congratulated and welcomed new Board member Mr. Randy Brooks from San Angelo, Texas, and new Student Regent from Texas A&M University, Ms. Matilin Rigsby, from Gainesville, Texas.

Chairman Mendoza said the purpose of the meeting was for the election of officers, approval of Board committee assignments, and consideration and action on four agenda items shown in the agenda materials and posted with the Secretary of State. She said each party to the conference call should clearly identify himself or herself prior to speaking.

The following members of the Board were present by phone:

Ms. Elaine Mendoza, Chairman  
Mr. Tim Leach, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Robert L. Albritton  
Mr. Randy Brooks  
Mr. Jay Graham  
Mr. Michael A. Hernandez  
Mr. Bill Mahomes  
Mr. Michael J. Plank  
Mr. Clifton L. Thomas, Jr.  
Ms. Matilin Rigsby (Student Regent)

*(Note: Governor Greg Abbott appointed Regent James “Randy” Brooks, and reappointed Regent Robert L. Albritton and Regent William “Bill” Mahomes, Jr., on April 13, 2021, to serve as Members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System. The Texas Senate confirmed these appointments on May 19, 2021. Regent Brooks replaced Regent Phillip D. Adams. Governor Abbott appointed Ms. Matilin “Mati” Rigsby to serve as Student Regent on June 1, 2021. Ms. Rigsby replaced Mr. Cahlen Cheatham.)*

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman Mendoza announced that in accordance with the *Bylaws of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System*, at the first regular or special meeting following the appointment, qualification and confirmation of the three new board members appointed in odd years, the first order of business is the election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Chairman Mendoza said nominations were in order for the position of Chairman of the Board. She noted that a “second” was not required.

Regent Graham nominated Regent Leach for the position of Chairman of the Board of Regents. Chairman Mendoza asked if there were any other nominations.

Hearing no additional nominations, Chairman Mendoza declared that nominations were closed. She called each regent’s name to record their voted. The record of the vote is as follows: Albritton – yes, Brooks – yes, Graham – yes, Hernandez – yes, Leach – yes, Mahomes – yes, Plank – yes, Thomas – yes, and Chairman Mendoza voted “yes.”

The following minute order was approved (116).

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**MINUTE ORDER 116-2021 (ITEM 1)**

**ELECTION OF MR. TIM LEACH  
AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Mr. Tim Leach was elected to serve as Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, effective June 7, 2021.

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Regent Mendoza said that the Board looked forward to Chairman Leach’s leadership and that she appreciated the opportunity she had been given to chair the Board. Regent Mendoza said she considered the time she served as chairman an honor and a privilege. She thanked Chairman Leach for his support during the time they shared working as chairman and vice chairman.

Chairman Leach thanked his fellow board members for their support. He thanked Regent Mendoza for her leadership over the past two years and said that she had done an excellent job. He took the opportunity to thank past chairmen, such as Regent Thomas, who had led their organization. He pledged that he would stay focused and work hard to lead them on their important mission.

Chairman Leach said that nominations were in order for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board and called on Regent Albritton.

Regent Albritton said that it was his honor to nominate Regent Mahomes for election to the position of Vice Chairman. He said that he has had the privilege to work with Regent Mahomes over the last six years and he could think of no one that was better deserving and would do a better job. Regent Mendoza seconded the nomination.

Chairman Leach asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he declared that nominations were closed. He called each regent’s name to record their vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Albritton – yes, Brooks – yes, Graham – yes, Hernandez – yes, Mahomes – yes, Mendoza – yes, Plank – yes, Thomas – yes, and Chairman Leach voted “yes.”

The following minute order was approved (117).

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**MINUTE ORDER 117-2021 (ITEM 1)**

**ELECTION OF MR. WILLIAM H. “BILL” MAHOMES, JR.  
AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Mr. William H. “Bill” Mahomes, Jr. was elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, effective June 7, 2021.

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Vice Chairman Mahomes said it was a privilege and an honor to be elected to serve as vice chairman. He thanked Governor Abbott for reappointing him to the Board. He said he felt that their Board was one of the finest in the country. Vice Chairman Mahomes thanked his fellow board members for the confidence they had placed in him. He said he would make every effort to continue to earn their vote of confidence. He said he was looking forward to assisting in creating a bright future for the next generation.

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Chairman Leach said that he supported the proposed committee assignments and special appointments for the 2021-2023 time period. He said that he believed they would serve this board well and would enable them to advance their important work in providing strategic oversight to the A&M System.

Chairman Leach asked if there was any discussion on the proposed committee assignments and special appointments. There being none he called for a motion. Regent Albritton moved for adoption of the committee assignments and special appointments. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. Chairman Leach called each regent’s name for the vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Albritton – yes, Brooks – yes, Graham – yes, Hernandez – yes, Mahomes – yes, Mendoza – yes, Plank – yes, Thomas – yes, and Chairman Leach voted “yes.”

The following minute order was approved (118).

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**MINUTE ORDER 118-2021 (ITEM 2)**

**APPROVAL OF  
BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
AND SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021-2023,  
BOARD OF REGENTS, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The Board of Regents committee assignments and special appointments for 2021-2023, made by the Chairman of the Board and shown on the attached list, are hereby approved.

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Chairman Leach called on Chancellor Sharp to present Items 3 and 4. Chancellor Sharp presented for the Board’s approval the resolution honoring Dr. John L. Junkins. He said that Dr. Junkins could have worked at any university in the country, but he chose to be a part of Texas A&M. He said that he appreciated Dr. Junkins taking time away from his research to serve nobly and with distinction as interim president of Texas A&M from January 1 until May 31, 2021. Chancellor Sharp said that Dr. Junkins had served effectively during trying times which included the pandemic, the historical winter storms and the welcoming of Reveille X. Dr. Junkins also provided leadership in the Board’s approval of an investment in a four-year plan regarding diversity of the Texas A&M student body.

Chancellor Sharp highlighted a few of Dr. Junkins professional accomplishments. Dr. Junkins worked at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, worked on Saturn rockets, guidance systems, the Apollo Program, and more than a dozen flights of the Delta rockets in the 1960s. Lately, he had been working with NASA’s jet propulsion laboratory. His work had involved autonomous spacecrafts that can be deployed for 12 or more years. Chancellor Sharp said that Dr. Junkins was doing all this work with NASA while simultaneously serving as the Director of the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study.

Chancellor Sharp presented the resolution honoring Dr. Bruce Akey on his retirement. He said that Dr. Akey had been a dedicated leader and completely devoted to the betterment of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory for the past seven years. Chancellor Sharp said that Dr. Akey had been a mentor, friend and leader to many people within The Texas A&M System and would be greatly missed.

Chairman Leach asked if there was any discussion. There being none he called for a motion on Items 3 and 4. Regent Plank moved adoption of the minute orders contained in Items 3 and 4. Regent Hernandez seconded the motion. Chairman Leach called each regent’s name for the vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Albritton – yes, Brooks – yes, Graham – yes, Hernandez – yes, Mahomes – yes, Mendoza – yes, Plank – yes, Thomas – yes, and Chairman Leach voted “yes.”

The following minute orders were approved (119 and 120).

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**MINUTE ORDER 119-2021 (ITEM 3)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING  
DR. JOHN L. JUNKINS FOR HIS SERVICE  
AS INTERIM PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System adopted the resolution set forth in the attached exhibit.

**MINUTE ORDER 120-2021 (ITEM 4)**

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING  
DR. BRUCE AKEY AS DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS A&M  
VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System adopted the resolution set forth in the attached exhibit.

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**RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Leach said the Board would recess to executive session to consider matters as permitted by Chapter 551, Sections 71 and 74 of the Texas Government Code. He said in accordance with the law, no final action, decision, or vote with regard to any matter considered in the executive session would be made or taken.

*(Note: The Board met in executive session from 11:48 a.m. until 11:51 a.m.)*

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Leach reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:52 a.m. and announced that the Board had met in executive session from 11:48 a.m. until 11:51 a.m., and conferred with Chancellor Sharp, administration and attorneys on personnel and legal matters.

Chairman Leach presented Items 5 and 6 and asked if there was any discussion. There being none he called for a motion on Items 5 and 6. Regent Albritton moved adoption of the minute orders contained in Items 5 and 6. Regent Brooks seconded the motion. Chairman Leach called each regent's name for the vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Albritton – yes, Brooks – yes, Graham – yes, Hernandez – yes, Mahomes – yes, Mendoza – yes, Plank – yes, Thomas – yes, and Chairman Leach voted “yes.”

The following minute orders were approved (121 and 122).

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**MINUTE ORDER 121-2021 (ITEM 5)**

**APPOINTMENT OF DR. AMY SWINFORD  
AS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS A&M  
VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Effective July 1, 2021, Dr. Amy Swinford is hereby appointed interim director of Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, at an initial salary of \$200,000.

**MINUTE ORDER 122-2021 (ITEM 6)**

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. AL DAVIS  
AS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE  
TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Effective immediately, Mr. Al Davis is hereby appointed interim director of Texas A&M Forest Service, at an initial salary of \$236,808.

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**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, on motion of Regent Graham, seconded by Vice Chairman Mahomes, Chairman Leach adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers  
Executive Director, Board of Regents

*(Minutes transcribed by Jackie Bell, Office of the Board of Regents.)*

BOARD OF REGENTS  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

(2021-2023)

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STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON AUDIT

Mike Hernandez, Chair  
Randy Brooks  
Bill Mahomes  
Cliff Thomas  
*Tim Leach (ex-officio)*

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Bob Albritton, Chair  
Jay Graham  
Mike Plank  
Elaine Mendoza  
*Tim Leach (ex-officio)*

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND  
STUDENT AFFAIRS

Jay Graham, Chair  
Randy Brooks  
Mike Hernandez  
Elaine Mendoza  
*Tim Leach (ex-officio)*

COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS AND  
PHYSICAL PLANT

Mike Plank, Chair  
Bob Albritton  
Bill Mahomes  
Cliff Thomas  
*Tim Leach (ex-officio)*

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Liaison to the (Development)  
Foundations of A&M System Members  
Bob Albritton

Board for Lease of University Lands  
(Board member)  
Mike Hernandez

Liaison to The Association of Former  
Students (TAMU)  
Mike Hernandez

University Lands Advisory Board  
(TAMUS BOR Appointments)  
Jay Graham (*term expires April 1, 2021*)\*  
Janeen Judah (*term expires April 1, 2022*)\*  
Jeff Spath (*term expires April 1, 2021*)\*

Liaisons to Texas A&M University Corps of  
Cadets (Corps of Cadets Association &  
Board of Visitors) and System Military  
Training Programs  
Randy Brooks  
Bill Mahomes

*\*or until a replacement is named*

Liaison to The Panhandle Plains Museum  
(WTAMU)  
Mike Plank

Liaison to 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation (TAMU)  
Elaine Mendoza

**Resolution**

Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

WHEREAS, Dr. John L. Junkins served with distinction and dedication as Interim President of Texas A&M University from January 1, 2021 until May 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Junkins continues to serve Texas A&M University admirably and will return to his prior and long-standing positions as director of the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study and as University Distinguished Professor of Aerospace Engineering and holder of the Royce E. Wisenbaker Chair in Innovation in Texas A&M University's College of Engineering, the positions to which he said he aspired to return when he graciously accepted the request to lead Texas A&M University on an interim basis; and

WHEREAS, he continues to provide highly effective guidance in helping to prepare future leaders in engineering; and

WHEREAS, he continues to lead the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study, having recruited to date more than 80 world class scholars to Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, he continues to lead and oversee the broad-based research and outreach endeavors for which Texas A&M University is renowned and which are of vital importance to the state, nation and world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Junkins continues to contribute to excellence at Texas A&M University as a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Inventors, the International Academy of Astronautics, and as an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA); and

WHEREAS, while serving as Interim President of Texas A&M University, Dr. Junkins provided wise leadership and effectively oversaw continued efforts to preserve the health, safety and wellbeing of students, faculty and staff during both the global pandemic of COVID-19 and an unprecedented winter storm February 10-18, 2021, providing emergency response leadership, including repurposing Reed Arena as a community warming shelter; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Junkins provided effective leadership for the January 2021 Board of Regents approved investment in a four-year initiative to increase and enhance diversity of the student body at Texas A&M University and campus experience, including a progress report he delivered and provided publicly in May 2021 that demonstrated effective actions underway; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Junkins made great efforts to interact with Texas A&M University's student leaders, faculty senate and university staff council for inclusion in decisions; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Junkins' tenure as Interim President, the successful transition of university mascot occurred from Reveille IX to Reveille X; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Junkins has served as a prolific mentor for Ph.D. candidates, including 55 doctoral and more than 160 descendent Ph.D. graduates; and

WHEREAS, he participated in the presidential search that brought us the 26th president of Texas A&M University, Dr. M. Katherine Banks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, we, the members of The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, desire to express our appreciation to Dr. John L. Junkins for the outstanding leadership and service that he so effectively provided as Interim President of Texas A&M University; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes, and official copies thereof, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents, filed with the Archives of Texas A&M University, and presented to Dr. John L. Junkins as a sincere expression of gratitude for his leadership and dedication while serving as Interim President of Texas A&M University, and throughout his distinguished career.

ADOPTED, this 7th day of June 2021.

## Resolution

Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

WHEREAS, Dr. Bruce Akey has loyally served from September 4, 2014 until June 30, 2021 as Director for the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, which serves to protect animal and human health through diagnostic testing; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Akey's tenure, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory constructed two state-of-the-art facilities in College Station and Canyon, ensuring the agency's two highest-volume laboratories had the infrastructure and space to efficiently, accurately, and affordably test specimens for common and high-consequence diseases; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Akey's guidance, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory implemented a robust new Laboratory Information Management System, specifically tailored to the agency; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Akey helped procure funding through the Chancellor's Research Initiative solely focused on diagnostic research and development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Akey ensured testing was completed accurately and quickly during numerous animal disease outbreaks across the state of Texas and the United States - most notably in the summer of 2017 as canine influenza spread across the nation and in 2019 when West Texas experienced unprecedented numbers of anthrax cases across a variety of domestic and wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, thanks to Dr. Akey's leadership, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory surpassed one million tests performed in a year for the first time in agency history; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Akey selflessly allowed the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory to donate thousands of items of personal protective equipment and over 2,000 viral sampling kits to healthcare providers and other Texas A&M University System institutions; and

WHEREAS, early in the pandemic, as local healthcare providers experienced a surge in COVID-19 testing, Dr. Akey passionately advocated to state and federal officials to allow the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory to assist in testing - a feat that allowed over 51,000 Texans to receive quick and accurate answers during unparalleled times; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service appointed Dr. Akey to a national consultation board responsible for implementing the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Akey earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the College of William and Mary in 1977, a Master of Science in parasitology from the University of Florida in 1981, and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Akey passionately served others through the fields of veterinary medicine and veterinary diagnostics for over 34 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System gratefully acknowledges the dedication and service of Dr. Akey to The Texas A&M University System, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and their clients and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes, and official copies thereof, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents, and presented to Dr. Bruce Akey and the Archives of Texas A&M University, as a permanent mark of this Board's appreciation and gratitude to him for an exceptional career.

ADOPTED, this 7th day of June 2021.