

**MINUTES**

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

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

**HELD IN**

**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

**January 6, 2025**

*(Approved February 6, 2025)*

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

**January 6, 2025**

**CONVENE**

Chairman Bill Mahomes convened a special telephonic meeting of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System at 1:05 p.m., Monday, January 6, 2025, in the Board Meeting Room, Board of Regents Annex, on the campus of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

The following members of the Board were present via teleconference call:

Mr. Bill Mahomes, Chairman  
Mr. Robert L. Albritton, Vice Chairman (*departed meeting at 1:26 p.m.*)  
Mr. David Baggett  
Mr. John W. Bellinger (*departed meeting at 2:21 p.m.*)  
Mr. Randy Brooks  
Mr. Jay Graham  
Mr. Mike Hernandez  
Mr. Michael J. Plank  
Mr. Sam Torn  
Mr. Cage Sawyers (Student Regent)

**RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Mahomes announced that the Board would recess to executive session to consider matters as permitted by Chapter 551, Sections 71, 72 and 74 of the Texas Government Code and in accordance with the law, no final action, decision, or vote regarding any matter considered in the executive session would be made or taken.

*(Note: The Board met in executive session from 1:07 p.m. until 2:07 p.m.)*

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Mahomes reconvened the meeting in open session at 2:10 p.m. He said the Board conferred with Chancellor Sharp, administration, and attorneys on legal matters, including Item 1.

Chairman Mahomes presented Item 1 and asked if there was any further discussion. There being none he called for a motion for this item.

Regent Brooks moved adoption of the minute order contained in Item 1. Regent Baggett seconded the motion. Ms. Spillers called each regent’s name for the vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Baggett - yes, Bellinger - yes, Brooks - yes, Graham - yes, Hernandez - yes, Plank - yes, Torn - yes, and Chairman Mahomes voted “yes.”

The following minute order was approved (001).

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**MINUTE ORDER 001-2025 (ITEM 1)**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHANCELLOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND RELATED SERVICES FOR A NEW SUPERCOMPUTER SYSTEM, AND APPROVAL OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE SUPERCOMPUTER SYSTEM AND UPGRADES, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER COSTS RELATED TO THE INSTALLATION OF THE SUPERCOMPUTER SYSTEM,  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, is authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement, including all other related documents, for the purchase of hardware, software, and related services with World Wide Technology for a new supercomputer system, including taking all actions necessary to carry out the intents and purposes of this agreement, subject to review for legal form and sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel.

The amount of up to \$44,000,000 is appropriated from Account No. 01-084900, Permanent University Fund Debt Proceeds (AUF) for the purchase of the supercomputer system, and the amount of \$16,200,000 is appropriated from Account No. 01-084900, Permanent University Fund Debt Proceeds (AUF) for upgrades, equipment and other costs related to the installation of the supercomputer system in the West Campus Data Center located on the Texas A&M University campus.

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System reasonably expects to incur debt in one or more obligations for this project, and all or a portion of the proceeds received from the sale of such obligations is reasonably expected to be used to reimburse the account(s) for amounts previously appropriated and/or expended from such account(s).

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Chairman Mahomes announced Item 2 and called on Col. Michael Fossum, Vice President of Texas AM University, Chief Operating Officer of the Galveston Campus, and the Superintendent of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy, who provided information included in the agenda item.

Regent Brooks, Chairman of the Board’s Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant, said that he had toured the facility, and had walked away with the knowledge that our team has done a great job in transitioning students as they made repairs along the way so that everything would be patched up in expectation of the summer 2025 construction. There were no questions or further discussion of this item.

Chairman Mahomes announced Item 3 and called on Col. Fossum who presented the item. Gen. Mark Welsh, President of Texas A&M University, added comments regarding this item including that the Maritime Academy is a crown jewel in the crown of Texas A&M.

Ms. Jenny Jones, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, added that Texas A&M at Galveston has submitted a request to the legislature to help further reduce the cost to the students to help with this workforce need at the Maritime Program.

Regent Graham, Chairman of the Board’s Committee on Finance, said that he has worked with Col. Fossum on this and agreed with President Welsh that this really is a crown jewel program and we cannot afford to get behind. He said that he is in support of this and thanked Col. Fossum for pushing this through.

Regent Plank asked if there is a strong retention of our students around the ports along the Gulf Coast. He asked if we are doing all that we can to make sure people in the state of Texas understand the value of this program.

Col. Fossum said that over half of the students that come into the program have a family connection to the maritime industry, so they are knowledgeable about it. He said that most of the students are from the southern states and many of them from Louisiana. Col. Fossum said that they are working to get the word out about the career opportunities and are working at the state and national level to get funding. There was no further discussion or questions.

Chairman Mahomes said that unless there was an objection, he would like to consider the vote for Items 2 and 3 together.

Regent Graham moved adoption of the minute orders contained in Items 2 and 3. Regent Baggett seconded the motion. Ms. Spillers called each regent’s name for the vote. The record of the vote is as follows: Baggett - yes, Brooks - yes, Graham - yes, Hernandez - yes, Plank - yes, Torn - yes, and Chairman Mahomes voted “yes.”

*(Note: Regents Albritton and Bellinger departed the meeting prior to this vote being taken.)*

The following minute orders were approved (002 and 003).

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**MINUTE ORDER 002-2025 (ITEM 2)**

**APPROVAL TO AMEND THE FY 2025 – FY 2029 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CAPITAL PLAN TO ADD THE TEXAS A&M MARITIME ACADEMY HALL BUILDING ENVELOPE REPAIR PROJECT FOR TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON WITH AN FY 2025 START DATE, APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT SCOPE AND BUDGET, APPROPRIATION FOR PRE-CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, AND APPROVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEXAS A&M MARITIME ACADEMY HALL BUILDING ENVELOPE REPAIR PROJECT FOR TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON (PROJECT NO. 10-3446), TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

The request to amend the FY 2025 – FY 2029 Texas A&M University System Capital Plan to add the Texas A&M Maritime Academy (TAMMA) Hall Building Envelope Repair Project for Texas A&M University at Galveston with an FY 2025 start date and a total planning amount of \$35,000,000 is approved. The project scope along with a project budget of \$35,000,000 for the Texas A&M Maritime Academy (TAMMA) Hall Building Envelope Repair Project is approved.

The amount of \$17,500,000 is appropriated from Account No. 02-020013 Compass Reserve, and the amount of \$17,500,000 is appropriated from Account No. 02-808887 ERP Reserve, for pre-construction services, construction services and related project costs.

The TAMMA Hall Building Envelope Repair Project at Texas A&M University at Galveston is approved for construction.

**MINUTE ORDER 003-2025 (ITEM 3)**

**APPROVAL TO ELIMINATE THE NON-RESIDENT LICENSE OPTION FEE AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON, THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The request for the elimination of the Non-Resident License Option Fee at Texas A&M University at Galveston, as shown on the attached exhibit, is hereby approved to be effective with the fall 2025 semester.

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**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, on motion of Regent Torn, seconded by Regent Graham, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Vickie Burt Spillers  
Executive Director, Board of Regents