

Stephen F. Austin State University

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS



**Nacogdoches, Texas
November 29, 2022
Volume 359**

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**Stephen F. Austin State University
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Regents
Nacogdoches, Texas
November 29, 2022
Austin Building, Room 307
Meeting 359**

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Regents was called to order in open session at 9:01 a.m. by chair Karen Gantt.

PRESENT:

Board Members: Mrs. Karen Gantt, Chair
 Mr. Tom Mason, Vice Chair
 Mrs. Jennifer Winston, Secretary
 Mr. David Alders
 Mr. Robert Flores
 Mrs. Brigettee Henderson
 Mrs. Judy Olson
 Dr. Laura Rectenwald
 Ms. Nancy Windham
 Ms. Paige Vadnais, Student Regent

Interim President: Dr. Steve Westbrook
General Counsel: Mr. Damon Derrick
Chief Audit Exec.: Mrs. Jane Ann Bridges
Cabinet Member: Mrs. Gina Oglesbee

Other SFA administrators and staff were in attendance.

Chair Gantt shared thanks and appreciation to each of the individuals at SFA and at each of the four university systems that participated in the System Affiliation Evaluation process over the past few months. The Board of Regents Subcommittee made up of Karen Gantt, Tom Mason, Jennifer Winston, David Alders, and Steve Westbrook provided a System Affiliation Evaluation Report and Recommendation. Gina Oglesbee presented financial documentation for the four university system offerings. Subcommittee members, Mason, Winston and Alders provided testimony of why they recommend the university affiliate and to affiliate with the University of Texas System.

Board Order 22-84

Upon motion by Regent Mason, seconded by Regent Winston, with all members, except Regent Flores, voting aye, it was ordered that the following item be approved.

AFFILIATION WITH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the board members considered: To evaluate the potential affiliation of Stephen F.

Austin State University with a university system, the Board of Regents established a subcommittee tasked with engaging the authorized representatives of the Texas State University System, Texas Tech University System, Texas A&M University System, and University of Texas System. This subcommittee met with representatives of the university systems to discuss governance, financial and other related matters surrounding such an affiliation.

To also engage the campus community in this evaluation process, over the course of five weeks following the start of the fall semester, representative campus groups, including the Deans Council, Chair's Forum, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, Student Government Association, and Alumni Association developed questions from each of their perspectives relative to affiliation with a university system. Each system provided responses to these questions, and after a review of these responses each group provided a report outlining their perception of the strengths and weaknesses of each system. Public input was also received via an on-line portal.

The Board of Regents Subcommittee considered the information it obtained from the university systems, representative campus groups, and public comments and has provided a report to the full Board of Regents.

THEREFORE, it was ordered that the university affiliate with University of Texas System. The president is authorized to take any action necessary in collaboration with University of Texas System to effectuate this affiliation.

At 11:08 a.m., Chair Gantt called the meeting into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

Consideration of Individual Personnel Matters Relating to Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Assignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of an Officer or Employee, including but not limited to the president. (Texas Government Code, Section 551.074)

The executive session ended and the Board of Regents meeting returned to open session at 12:38 p.m.

Board Order 22-85

Upon motion by Regent Alders, seconded by Regent Henderson, with all members voting aye, it was ordered that the following item be approved.

SUSPENSION OF BOARD RULES AND AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

WHEREAS, the board members considered: The Board of Regents Rules and Regulations outlines the process to be used for selecting the university president. The Board of Regents has approved an affiliation with the University of Texas System. As a result, when the enabling legislation is effective, the university president will report to the Chancellor of the University of Texas System.

It is in the long-term interest of the university for the Chancellor and Board of Regents of the University of Texas System to conduct the search for and select the university president in accordance with the University of Texas System Regents' Rules and Regulations.

THEREFORE, it was ordered that Section 11 of the SFA Board Rules and Regulations be suspended and the University of Texas System Board of Regents be authorized to conduct the search for and select the university president under their relevant Rules and Regulations. Two members of the SFA Board of Regents will serve as members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

In the event the legislation concerning affiliation is not effective by the conclusion of the search, the University of Texas System Board of Regents' selection will serve as a recommendation to the SFA Board of Regents who shall announce the name, background, and qualifications of the finalist for president at least twenty-one (21) days prior to board action on the employment of the individual.

The meeting of the Board of Regents adjourned by Chair Gantt at 12:42 p.m.