Chair Mark Rountree called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. New student regent JD McDonald gave a brief devotional from 1 Peter 2. Mr. Rountree read the proclamation to the Board from Ron Nirenberg, the Mayor of San Antonio, which declared July 27-29 to be “Baylor Board of Regents Days” in San Antonio.

Mr. Rountree declared the minutes of the May 20, 2022 meeting approved, with no comments or questions from those present.

Chair Rountree gave his Chair’s Report next, beginning with a review of the mission statement of Baylor University. He covered the specific responsibilities of the Board as set forth in the bylaws and also reviewed the requirements for board leadership, noting that all of the bylaws are subject to the approval of the Board. He reminded the board members that only the chair can speak on behalf of the board in any public setting, as well as familiarizing all with the role of the Executive Committee, which has the full authority of the board to act, except upon items that are the responsibility of the full board only. He also noted that the Executive Committee must and will inform the full Board of any action it takes in a timely manner. Chair Rountree also reviewed Board goals for 2022-23, which included: enable and add value to Illuminate Forward strategy; elevate role as ambassadors for the university; enhance expertise, diversity, structure, and performance of the board; and deepen the bonds of relationship and trust within the board in a manner worthy of the university and consistent with Philippians chapter 2.
President Livingstone opened her President’s Report with a review of her Presidential Goals for 2022-23. These goals were reviewed with the President’s Council as well as Regent Sarah Gahm, Chair of the University Leadership & Compensation (UL&C) Committee. She noted that these goals will also be shared with the academic deans at their retreat in the next few weeks, because the deans utilize these goals in developing their own. Goals included: enhancing Baylor’s Christian mission; progressing as an R1 institution; positioning Baylor as a “best value” among private R1 universities in the US; continuing the Give Light philanthropic campaign; and elevating personal voice/leadership concurrently with Baylor’s presence in national conversations on higher education. Dr. Livingstone currently serves on the board for the American Council of Education, is Vice Chair of the Big 12 Conference’s Board of Directors, and is being considered for a leadership role within the Board of Governors for the NCAA.

Dr. Livingstone then gave an overview of the role of the President’s Leadership Council (PLC), an advisory board of business leaders from across the nation which meets to discuss issues facing Baylor and higher education, including but not limited to: student mental health; hybrid work, and the impact of technology on residential campuses. This group began meeting in September of 2021, and meets 3 times a year (2 virtual meetings and 1 in-person meeting).

Next, Dr. Livingstone gave a preview of the fall semester. She mentioned the passing of Joy and gave an update on the health of Lady, noting that the on-campus habitat will be renovated to include a memorial to past bears. Special memorial activities for Joy are being planned for Sept 1-3. There is also a plan in motion to obtain two new bear cubs. The final Line Camp/Orientation session just finished, and a total undergraduate enrollment of 14,900-15,300 is expected for the fall. Applications were close to 50,000 total, which is an increase of 13% over last year. Acceptances were down 10%, which is a measure of the quality of the students who are applying and being accepted. On-campus research doctorates are up almost 40%. Expected fall enrollment overall is 20,000 total students.

The President also gave an update on the changes to the Baylor Quadrangle which will begin soon, based on the Commission Report. The Burleson statue has been removed but it was found to be in need of repairs, so those repairs are currently in progress, with the hope that the statue will be able to be placed in its new location sometime during the fall semester. The statues planned for installation outside Tidwell Bible Building should be in place in the spring. Baylor is currently working with Sasaki on the identification and selection of artists to design the Monument to the Unknown Enslaved that will be located on Founders Mall.

Mr. Todd Patterson, chair of the Nominating, Governance, and Regent Leadership (NGRL) Committee, provided a report from the committee meeting earlier in the week, which included two working items: a review of all of the committee charges, and a review of the results of the board assessment. The committee charges did not include significant changes, with the exception of the Audit, Compliance, and Risk Management Committee, a newly formed committee that is a combining of the former Audit and Compliance committees. A minor update was made to the Finance and Facilities charge, which was the change in spending limits on items, from $1M to $5M, an action approved by the board at the May meeting. The results of the board assessment survey, which had an almost 100%
response rate (only one regent did not respond), were not significantly different from past years, but prompted a discussion on effective and timely communication skills, and providing adequate time for board members to comment and discuss on important items.

Mr. Patterson also reviewed informational items, which included: an update on the BGCT regent election process, and work being done by two recently formed subcommittees. Those subcommittees are the Governance Review Task Force (GRTF) and the New Regent Search Subcommittee (NRSS). The GRTF has had an initial meeting and is chaired by former Board of Regents Chair Jerry Clements. The GRTF will review one of the items brought up in the board assessment – the size of the board – and will report out to the board at the November board meeting. The NRSS has also been meeting regularly and has meetings scheduled through January 2023.

Chair Rountree moved the meeting into Executive Session at 11:39am.

Chair Rountree adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.

_____________________________________
Staci Penn, Recordkeeper