Board Members Present:  Jay Brown; Faith Beaty; Barbara Cargill; Tyler Cooper; D. Diane Dillard (via Zoom); Sara Dolan; Sarah Gahm; Krissy Guidi; Jack F. Harper; Ashley Beane Hooper; Paula Hurd (via Zoom); Neal Jeffrey; Mark Lovvorn; Katie Jo Luningham; René Maciel; Jill Manning; JD McDonald; Michael McFarland; Bill Mearse; Melissa Mines; Alicia Monroe; Todd Patterson; Ally Perkins; Brian Raines; Mark Rountree; Manny Ruiz; Gail Stewart; Kim Stevens; Julie Turner; Dennis Wiles; Don Willett

Board Members Absent:  Michael Heiskell; Todd Reppert

Chair Mark Rountree called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.  David Iler certified that a quorum was present.  Colton Grabau, Baylor electrical engineering student, gave the devotional, speaking from 2 Cor. 7:14.

Chair Rountree, after reminding all present of the board goals for the year, and with no objections from those present, declared the minutes of the regular meeting of the board on November 4, 2022 as approved.

Dr. Livingstone gave her report, thanking the regents for the productive day of committee meetings the previous day.  A drone video of the progress being made on the Hurd Welcome Center was shared with those present, and it was noted that Friday, September 8 will be the grand opening celebration and dedication ceremony, to which all regents will be invited.  The President also noted that the dedication of the Rev. Robert Gilbert and Barbara Walker status in front of Tidwell will take place on April 4.

Dr. Livingstone gave an overview of the Founders Mall memorial plans, sharing renderings, which are consistent with recommendations made by the Board.  Currently, Baylor is in the process of receiving cost estimates for the project.

Next, Dr. Livingstone highlighted her roles on the American Council on Education, as Chair of the NCAA, and the Big XII, where she will become Chair in June.  She also shared an update on the success of Illuminate and the five-year plan, as well as the Give Light Campaign, sharing both annual and campaign productivity.  She also showed a breakdown of the distribution of these funds as well as a breakdown of progress toward meeting the goals of each unit on campus.
Dr. Livingstone gave a preview of the tuition approval item requiring board approval, explaining tuition’s connection to the strategic enrollment plan and how a tuition increase meets a variety of needs, including a continuation of Illuminate investments and strategies in support of improved quality and student success; retention and rewarding of top talent through competitive compensation; and remaining relevant and competitive within Power 5 athletics while still improving affordability for the most in need through the new Baylor Benefit program.

Finally, Dr. Livingstone touched on the BGCT agreement, which will not have any forthcoming changes, noting that Chair Rountree would go into more detail in his report. She also spoke briefly about the current religious revival sweeping college campuses, including Baylor, and noted that FM 72, which is 72 continuous hours of prayer, will take place March 27-30 on campus.

Chair Rountree offered a word of prayer for the President, her team, her work, and the work of the board, and then thanked all present, noting how busy many of the subcommittees have been in the weeks since the November board meeting. The Executive Committee has not met since the November meeting. The BGCT convention was in Waco on November 22 and Chair Rountree noted that Baylor had a strong presence there but that no matters related to the university came up at the convention, and that the relationship agreement between Baylor and the BGCT was renewed for another 10 years with no changes.

Chair Rountree met with the Faculty Senate on February 14 on behalf of the board, which gave him an opportunity to thank the faculty and the faculty senate for their work, and the faculty had an opportunity to ask questions. Items discussed included the board’s commitment to academic freedom; how the board identifies new regents; how the board is working to address diversity; and what criteria are used when approving the annual budget.

Chair Rountree also gave an update on the Regent Alumni Program, noting the upcoming meeting, as well as the Baylor 101 series, which he participated in on Nov 8 along with Kristy Orr, Board Professional.

Regent Jay Brown brought an update from the Finance and Facilities Committee, with three items requiring action from the board: Approval of the 2023-24 tuition and fees, approval of an increased budget for renovation of Memorial and Alexander residence halls, and approval of updates to the current debt policy, which was last updated in 2017. With all three items coming with a motion from the committee, no second was required, and a majority voted to approve all three.

Regent Alicia Monroe gave an update from the Academic Affairs committee. The committee was given a presentation on a new program, Master of Sciences in Interdisciplinary Studies, by Vice Provost Gary Carini. This program will meet the needs of students who need interdisciplinary skills and should be offered starting in the 2023-24 year. With a motion from the Academic Affairs committee, the board voted to approve this new program.

Dr. Monroe further shared an overview of other items discussed in the committee meeting, including a positive report from the Faculty Senate president, Dr. Holly Collins, and an
update from Dr. Kevin Chambliss on Baylor’s R1 status and the continuing push to not only maintain that status but continue to progress as well.

Regent Melissa Mines brought an update to the board from the Student Life committee, particularly noting the detailed report on the longitudinal Faith and Character formation study that was presented to the committee. Other items of note from the committee meeting included updates on student mental health, the prayer vigil, and student government and graduate student association updates.

Next, Regent Bill Mearse updated the board on the Audit, Compliance & Risk Management committee meeting which took place via Zoom on February 7. The ACRM committee was given updates on the institutional risk scorecard, Clery statistics, HIPAA policy, and an audit update from Amanda Wallace. There were no significant concerns noted, and current projects both in progress and completed were reviewed.

Chair Rountree moved the meeting into Executive Session at 10:13 a.m. Regent Sarah Gahm gave an update from the University Leadership & Compensation Committee, including bringing a motion from the committee for approval of salaries for disqualified individuals, which the board voted to approve. Regent Gahm also read the “Statement to the Board of Regents by the UL&C Committee in Compliance with IRS Regulations Regarding Disqualified Persons.”

Regent Patterson provided the board with an update from the NGRL Committee, beginning with the appointment of a new chair, which will be voted on in May. He brought three items to the board for approval: re-election of student regent JD McDonald, appointment of new student regent Xavier Dawes, and appointment of faculty regent Lesley MacAllister. JD McDonald was excused from the meeting, and the board voted to approve all three. Regent Patterson also updated the board on the slate of Alumni-Elected Regents and gave an overview of the NRSS (New Regent Selection Subcommittee) results.

Mr. David Iler gave a legal update on behalf of Chris Holmes who was unable to attend. President Livingstone gave a legislative update. The Executive Session then continued with PC members excused so that the board could meet with President Livingstone. Then President Livingstone was excused and the board met with members only.

Chair Rountree adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Staci Penn, Recordkeeper