



**Regular Meeting  
Board of Regents  
MINUTES**

Friday, February 23, 2024, 8:30 a.m.  
Cashion 506  
Baylor University, Waco, Texas  
Bill Mearse, Chair, *Presiding*  
Melissa Mines, Vice Chair

Board Members Present: David Brooks, Jay Brown, Barbara Calhoun Cargill, Tyler Cooper, Angelique Cunningham, Xavier Dawes, Marsha Delehanty, D. Diane Dillard, Sarah Gahm, Jack F. Harper, Michael Heiskell, Carey Hendrickson, Ashley Beane Hooper\*, Paula Hurd\*, Katie Jo Lunningham, René Maciel, Jill Manning, Lesley McAllister, JD McDonald\*, Michael McFarland, Bill Mearse, Melissa Mines, Alicia Monroe, Todd Patterson, Brian Raines, Mark Rountree, Manny Ruiz, Kim Stevens, Gail W. Stewart, Julie Turner\*, Steve Wells, Don Willett (*\*attended via Zoom*)

Board Members Absent: Todd Reppert

Chair Mearse called the meeting to order at 8:33am and Mr. Holmes certified that a quorum was present. Dr. Jackson introduced student Libby McGown, who gave the devotional and prayer, speaking about culture changing leaders from 1 Thess 3:11-13.

With no changes requested or objections from the board members, Chair Mearse deemed the minutes of the November 10, 2024 meeting as approved.

President Livingstone began her President's Report with an update about upcoming events on campus, with a highlight on the Ceremonial Groundbreaking for the Memorial to Enslaved Persons, scheduled for later the same day. The Alumni Awards Dinner was also being held, and the President shared information and photos of those being honored at the ceremony. She also gave an update on the Civil Discourse series, the upcoming changes in dining and facilities contracts, and federal Title IX changes currently under review which may require board approval at the July board meeting. Dr. Livingstone also discussed the impact of FAFSA disruptions, noting that the traditional May 1 national reply date may need to be extended by many institutions into June as a result.

Dr. Livingstone reported on freshmen application trends, noting a new record higher for both submitted and completed applications, with an up-tick from students of color, and applicants from Texas. She also shared updates on accepted student profile statistics and fall-to-spring retention, which continues to rise. The Hurd Center has had a significant impact on recruiting new students, and deposits are up from where they were at the same time last year.

The President noted the affirmation of Baylor's S&P Global Bond Ratings, which were A+ long-term, A- short-term, and an overall "positive" outlook. She highlighted recent positive publicity regarding the Baylor Endowment's investment team and wrapped up her report with a look at upcoming events for the spring on campus.

Dr. Livingstone led a conversation with the new University Vice Presidents, Curtis Reynolds, and Jason Diffenderfer to introduce them to the board members.

She wrapped up her report with a recognition of the service of Brett Powell, Susan Anz, and Toby Barnett as interim vice presidents, presenting them with resolutions and gifts of appreciation.

Chair Mearse next gave his report, beginning with a brief overview of board roles, mindset, and objectives. He updated the board on his activities and actions since the November board meeting, including: the regent alumni meeting, interviews with the new vice presidents, winter commencement, Foster Pavilion opening, Baylor Black Alumni Alliance leadership reception; President's Leadership Council retreat, and the Faculty Senate Meeting. He also finalized members of the contract review subcommittee, interacted with the Alumni Elected Regents committee, and contributed chair notes to the Friday newsletter sent out by the Board Professional.

Next, Chair Mearse gave an overview of the November meeting feedback, noting its positive nature, including appreciation for the information provided by the provost on the new law dean as well as the athletics discussion. Chair Mearse closed his report by thanking the board for their commitment to the university, their advance preparation and questions on materials, and their willingness to serve on subcommittees.

Regent Patterson brought a report from the NGRL committee, noting the importance of board and committee leadership discussions and the significance of rotating positions and organizing new regent candidates. Student regent Xavier Dawes was excused from the room, and his nomination as well as that of a new student regent Meghan Fletcher were put forward with a motion from the committee and a second from Regent Wells, and approved by the Board. Xavier Dawes re-joined the meeting.

Faculty regent nominee Andrew Arterbury was brought forward with a motion from the committee and a second from Regent Stewart and approved by the Board.

Regent Katie Jo Lunningham was excused from the room. She was then brought forward as the AER regent candidate, by motion from the committee. Her nomination was confirmed by the Board.

Chair Mearse then gave a brief update from the meeting of the Executive Committee on February 19, noting that President Livingstone had given a summary of her board presentation, as had he.

Regent Monroe brought a report from the Academic Affairs committee, as well as a motion to approve the B.S. in Computer Engineering degree. With a second from Regent Stewart, Regents voted to approve this new undergraduate degree plan.

Regent Ruiz brought a report from the Advancement and Development Committee meeting which took place on February 20. With a motion from the committee, he brought forward for approval an amended and revised gift counting and acceptance policy, which was approved by the Board.

Regent Brown reported out from the Finance and Facilities Committee, bringing a motion from the committee to approve the 2024-25 tuition and fees. With no second required, the motion was voted approved.

The next motion from the Finance & Facilities Committee was for approval for increased costs for the Draper/Honors College Renovations Project, specifically an increased scope and budget (\$7.5M previously approved, requesting additional \$3.2M due to added scope, for a total of \$10.7M). The motion was approved.

The next motion from the Finance & Facilities Committee was for approval for Phase II of the Allen and Dawson Resident Hall Renovations (\$7.5M previously approved, requesting additional \$36.5M, for a total of \$44M). The motion was approved.

The next motion from the Finance & Facilities Committee was approval for \$7.5M for the Renovation of Kokernot Residence Hall, Phase I – Design and Pre-Construction Services, including early Procurement of long lead equipment items. The motion was approved.

The next motion from the Finance & Facilities Committee was approval for a resolution expressing official intent to reimburse costs of certain projects. This resolution will allow costs of certain projects, including Allen Residence Hall, Dawson Residence Hall, and Kokernot Residence Hall, incurred prior to bond issuance to be funded by bond proceeds if bond financing is approved and bonds are issued. The motion was approved.

The next motion from the Finance & Facilities Committee was approval to revise the current investment policy, last updated in 2022. The motion was approved.

The final motion from the Finance & Facilities Committee was approval of the creation of Contracts Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing contracts requiring review and approval between meetings of the Board of Regents. The motion was approved.

Regent Mines brought a report from the Student Life Committee, which included updates on chapel offerings, spiritual formation, and global missions.

Regent Manning brought a report from the Audit, Compliance, and Risk Management Committee, which met on February 14.

With no objections from those present, Chair Mearse adjourned the meeting at 12:10pm.



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Recordkeeper, Staci Penn