

Chairman H. Scott Caven, Jr.
Chairman, UT System Board of Regents
August 14, 2008

Remarks concerning the Brackenridge Tract Master Planning Process

I want to thank Mr. Milana, Dr. McGregor and Ms. Mayne for their report. I think we are all aware of the hard work and diligence that has been involved in this first part of the master planning process ... and we are grateful for their efforts.

I expect that the members of the Board will have some questions for them and we will take those in just a moment. Before that, I want to recognize for the benefit of everyone here today that we have understood from the first that this process will be one of keen interest to many sectors of our community and state, one that will engender strong feelings, and one that will pose many different challenges.

The assessment of the status of the Brackenridge Tract and its uses by the Brackenridge Tract Task Force and the process of developing conceptual master plans for the tract, as recommended by the Task Force, were undertaken to fulfill the legal duty that the Board has to carry out the philanthropic purpose of Colonel Brackenridge's remarkable gift. And, these steps were undertaken in recognition of changes in the economy, changing and expanding needs of The University of Texas at Austin, and changes in the Austin community itself. It should, therefore, be no surprise that the likely final result of this process will be change of some kind.

Having said that, I want to emphasize that we do not know at this point what that change will be or how it will be accomplished. Nor have we made any commitments, agreements, or promises to anyone in that regard. Every member of this Board is keenly interested in this process. We will carefully and thoughtfully review these reports throughout the master planning process to make the best possible decisions in fulfilling our fiduciary duty to use the tract as Colonel Brackenridge directed – for the purpose of advancing and promoting education at U. T. Austin.

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