

Meeting No. 865

THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

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November 4-6, 1992

Dallas/Fort Worth Airport  
Grapevine, Texas

MEETING NO. 865

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1992.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened at 10:08 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 1992, in Room 3170 of the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Grapevine, Texas, with the following in attendance:

ATTENDANCE.--

Present

— Chairman Beecherl, presiding  
Vice-Chairman Ramirez  
Vice-Chairman Cruikshank  
Regent Barshop  
Regent Holmes  
Regent Loeffler  
Regent Temple

\*Absent

Regent Moncrief  
Regent Rapoport

Executive Secretary Dilly

Chancellor Cunningham  
Executive Vice Chancellor Duncan

Chairman Beecherl announced a quorum present and called the meeting to order. He stated that the sole purpose of this special meeting was to consider personnel matters associated with the selection of presidents for The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas of the Permian Basin including the interviewing of the five finalist candidates for each campus recommended by the Advisory Committees.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.--At 10:10 a.m., the Board recessed to Executive Session pursuant to Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, Article 6252-17, Section 2(g) to begin the interview process related to these presidential searches.

Secretary's Note: The Board remained in Executive Session to interview finalist candidates until it reconvened in open session on Friday, November 6, 1992.

\*Regents Moncrief and Rapoport joined the meeting later, and all Regents were present for the concluding open session on November 6, 1992.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1992.--The members of the Board of Regents, with all members present, reconvened in Open Session at 1:08 p.m. in the Jupiter Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Grapevine, Texas. Chairman Beecherl indicated that the Board of Regents had been in Executive Session since November 4, 1992, to interview the finalist candidates for the presidencies of U. T. Austin and U. T. Permian Basin and made the following statement outlining the search process used by the Board:

STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN LOUIS A. BEECHERL, JR.

For the information of the press and others who may be in attendance, may I summarize the selection process which is concluding this afternoon.

More than six months ago, Advisory Committees for the Selection of Presidents at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin and The University of Texas at Austin were appointed. In accordance with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, these committees were made up of members of the Board of Regents, other component presidents, the Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and representatives of the components' deans, faculty, students, and staff as well as representatives of the components' community support groups and alumni. A major executive search firm was also retained to enhance the diversity of the applicant pool and to conduct candidate research and referencing.

In the course of those committee deliberations, the U. T. Permian Basin group reviewed the credentials of 98 applicants and nominees, while the U. T. Austin committee considered the credentials of 183 applicants and nominees. Toward the end of September, these advisory committees interviewed 17 candidates for U. T. Permian Basin and 11 for U. T. Austin.

These interviews resulted in the forwarding to the Board of Regents of 6 candidates for each campus who had the endorsement of the respective committees. On October 14, in accordance with legal requirements, the names of these 12 finalists were made public.

During the latter part of October, these candidates and their spouses made two-day visits to the campus for which they were being considered to meet with campus administrators, faculty, students, staff, community representatives and alumni, as well as to tour the campus and community.

The Board had available to it confidential and personal reports on each finalist from the members of the Advisory Committees as well as the reflections and thoughts of those who were involved in the campus visitations. As a result of these campus visits, two finalists withdrew, Dr. Wixson from U. T. Permian Basin and Dr. Yang from U. T. Austin, leaving five finalists for each campus.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4, and has spent more than 22 hours interviewing the candidates and considering the materials on each candidate received from a variety of sources. All members of the Board were involved in the process and the deliberations have been complete, intense, and thoughtful.

We are deeply grateful to the Advisory Committees and to all of the campus representatives who participated in this selection process. The finalist candidates were a remarkably talented and well-qualified group which included women, African-Americans, and an Asian.

The Board is now ready to take the final action on these two presidential appointments and firmly believes that, following extensive deliberations, they will be in the best interests of the two campuses concerned.

In response to Chairman Beecherl's inquiry as to whether there was any action from the floor, the following actions were taken:

1. U. T. Permian Basin: Appointment of Dr. Charles A. Sorber as President (Chief Administrative Officer) and Discharge of the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a President.--Vice-Chairman Cruikshank moved that Dr. Charles A. Sorber, currently Dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, be elected President of The University of Texas of the Permian Basin effective at a date and compensation to be negotiated with Executive Vice Chancellor Duncan and reported to the Board via the usual budgetary procedures. Mr. Cruikshank noted that Dr. Sorber was one of the candidates recommended to the Board by the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a President for that component.

Vice-Chairman Cruikshank further moved that the Board discharge the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Chief Administrative Officer for U. T. Permian Basin with the sincere appreciation of the Board for the diligence and careful thought it had brought to this search process.

The motion was seconded by Regent Loeffler and approved by unanimous vote.

2. U. T. Austin: Dr. Robert M. Berdahl Appointed President (Chief Administrative Officer) and Advisory Committee for the Selection of a President Discharged.--Vice-Chairman Ramirez moved that Dr. Robert M. Berdahl, currently Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, be elected President of The University of Texas at Austin effective at a date and compensation to be negotiated with Executive Vice Chancellor Duncan and reported to the Board via the usual budgetary procedures. Dr. Ramirez noted that Dr. Berdahl was one of the candidates recommended to the Board by the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a President for that component.

Vice-Chairman Ramirez further moved that the Board discharge the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Chief Administrative Officer for U. T. Austin with the sincere appreciation of the Board for the diligence and careful thought it had brought to this search process.

Vice-Chairman Cruikshank seconded the motion which prevailed by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT.--Chairman Beecherl announced that the business for which the meeting was called had been completed, and the meeting was duly adjourned at 1:16 p.m. so that the Board could join with Chancellor Cunningham, Executive Vice Chancellor Duncan, and Dr. Berdahl in a press conference.

/s/ Arthur H. Dilly  
Executive Secretary

November 10, 1992