

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM  
**FROM THE CHANCELLOR**



Dear colleagues,

I am writing to update you on the progress of the search for the 11th president of Stephen F. Austin State University, to thank you for all you do to advance SFA, and to wish you the best for the holidays.

First, an update on the presidential search. The University of Texas System Board of Regents Chairman Eltife appointed a search advisory committee in August, which I am honored to chair. The committee includes faculty, student, staff, and alumni representatives of the SFA community, as well as members of the former SFA Board of Regents and members of the UT System Board of Regents. We retained Academic Search, a national higher education executive search firm, to assist the committee in its work. We began recruiting candidates in October and received 102 nominations and 124 applications for the position.

Yesterday, the search advisory committee met on the SFA campus to evaluate applications and make decisions on those candidates that will be advanced to the next stage—interviews by the committee in person in January 2024. I am pleased to report that there were many outstanding applicants, including a significant number of sitting presidents, provosts, deans, and other academic leaders, as well as less traditional candidates. Given the number of strong applicants, the task of narrowing the pool was not a simple one, but the committee worked very well together to achieve a strong consensus.

Following interviews and deep referencing, a small group of candidates will be recommended to the UT System Board of Regents for personal interviews in February. Following those interviews, we expect the Board

will name a sole finalist and, after a 21-day waiting period required by Texas law, will formally appoint SFA's next president.

Over a lengthy career at four public university systems, I have been involved in appointing many campus leaders. I am pleased to report that the process—including recruitment and evaluation—for the SFA presidency is among the best I have seen. I am confident that the work by the committee and, ultimately, by the Board of Regents will result in naming an outstanding president to lead SFA as it embarks on its second century.

Candidates have expressed great enthusiasm for the position and have clearly done their homework. That is a very positive reflection of the good work you all do to make SFA the institution it is today. We are grateful for all you do.



I hope you have a joyous and peaceful holiday season with family and friends. I look forward to reporting back to you in early 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Milliken".

James B. Milliken  
Chancellor

**James B. Milliken**  
Chancellor

Lee Hage and Joseph D. Jamail Regents Chair in Higher Education Leadership

**The University of Texas System**

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