

Meeting No. 1,054

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

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December 22, 2009

Austin, Texas

MEETING NO. 1,054

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2009.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened this special called meeting via telephone conference call at 10:32 a.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2009, in the Board Room, Ninth Floor, Ashbel Smith Hall, 201 West Seventh Street, Austin, Texas, with the following participation:

ATTENDANCE.--

Present

Chairman Huffines, presiding (in person)  
Vice Chairman McHugh  
Vice Chairman Foster  
Regent Dannenbaum  
Regent Gary  
Regent Hicks  
Regent Longoria  
Regent Powell  
Regent Stillwell  
Regent Meijer, Student Regent, nonvoting

In accordance with a notice being duly posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum present, Chairman Huffines called the meeting to order.

U. T. Austin: Approval of a recommendation from the Special Advisory Committee on the Brackenridge Tract to retain the Brackenridge Field Laboratory located at 2907 Lake Austin Boulevard, Austin, Texas

Chairman Huffines provided background for the agenda item concerning the Brackenridge Tract, saying that Regents Gary, Longoria, and Powell serve on the Special Advisory Committee on the Brackenridge Tract, which was formed on August 19, 2009. He said at that time, the Committee was asked to bring focus and long-term continuity to the complex and long-term nature of the issues surrounding the master planning for redevelopment of the Brackenridge Tract.

Chairman Huffines stated that in accordance with that directive, the Special Advisory Committee has been carefully reviewing the conceptual master plans prepared by Cooper, Robertson & Partners, L. L. P. and has also been studying the issues in

coordination with The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas System staff members under the leadership of Chancellor Cigarroa, President Powers, and Executive Vice Chancellor Prior.

He called on Regent Longoria to outline the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning the Brackenridge Field Laboratory located at 2907 Lake Austin Boulevard in Austin, Texas.

### Recommendation by Regent Longoria

Regent Gary, Regent Powell, and I have considered various aspects of the conceptual master plans and we have met with U. T. Austin and U. T. System staff members several times. The Cooper Robertson report provided us with the background and structure from which we then began our work by first addressing issues of special concern to U. T. Austin.

During meetings this fall, we have learned that the Brackenridge Field Laboratory is one of our nation's leading research and educational field labs. We have also learned that the field lab is of critical importance to the Section of Integrative Biology in the School of Biological Sciences at U. T. Austin, particularly in its recruitment and retention of top-tier faculty.

Since the stated purpose in the deed from Colonel Brackenridge is "advancing and promoting University education" at U. T. Austin and since the U. T. System Board of Regents supports the recruitment of the best possible faculty members, the Special Advisory Committee on the Brackenridge Tract has determined that retaining the Brackenridge Field Laboratory is clearly the best option at this time. It is important to act immediately to address the issue to provide clarity to include the Lab in the Board's future planning activity and I move approval of this recommendation on behalf of the Committee.

Regent Gary, Regent Powell, and I look forward to continuing our detailed study of the conceptual master plans and the many complex issues surrounding the redevelopment of the Brackenridge Tract in the New Year. Because of the exciting and complex nature of our task, we expect these advisory committee meetings to continue indefinitely in the future as we sort through issues and clarify goals.

Regent Powell, Regent Gary, and President Powers spoke in support of the motion. Regent Gary said he has learned about the longitudinal research being conducted at the field lab and the potential elimination of 50 years of research. Regent Hicks said it is the right thing to do in today's environment to clarify that the field lab is more important than anything else for that site and he recommended the Board confirm every 10 years that the Laboratory is still the best use of the property. Regent Longoria concurred in this continued review and assessment. Vice Chairman McHugh, Vice Chairman Foster, Regent Dannenbaum, and Regent Stillwell also concurred with the recommendation. President Powers concurred with the amended

recommendation and said the institution will come back to the Board in 10 years or any time they have other recommendations to consult with the Board.

Regents Gary and Powell seconded the motion, as amended by Regent Hicks and agreed to by Regent Longoria. The motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED MEETING.--The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 4-5, 2010, in Dallas, Texas.

ADJOURNMENT.--There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

/s/ Carol A. Felkel  
Secretary to the Board of Regents

January 6, 2010