



**MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
STANDING COMMITTEE AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 28, 2025**

I. Call to Order

The Board of Regents of Texas Southern University held a Standing Committee and Regular Board meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2025. Mr. Brandon L. Simmons, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 8:08 A.M. The meeting convened at Texas Southern University, Library Learning Center, 3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004.

II. Roll Call

The following Board Members were in attendance and constituted a quorum:

Mr. Brandon L. Simmons, Chairman
Mr. James M. Benham, Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary
Mr. Lauren A. Gore
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Dr. Richard A. Johnson
Mr. Benjamin C. Kohlmann
Mr. Benjamin H. Proler (*virtual*)
Ms. Alithea Sullivan
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

Other Attendees: President J.W. Crawford III, Daniel Adams, Naomi Cox Andrews, Bobby Brown, Charlie Coleman, Raijanel Crockem, Pynk Ellzey, John Fields, Clarice Freeman, Carl Goodman, Melanie Jackson, Wei Li, Erin Machac, Lisa McBride, Taylar Hall, Charlie Nhan, Stephanie Nellons-Paige, John Pittman, Faith Ruiz, Rasoul Saneifard, Georgia Provost, Shawndra Harmond, James White, Chris Wilson (*virtual*)

III. Prayer

Chairman Simmons invited Ms. Georgia Provost to introduce Pastor John Fields to deliver a prayer. Pastor Fields introduced himself, then proceeded to pray.

IV. Open Forum

Chairman Simmons opened the floor to individuals who signed up to participate in Open Forum. Chairman Simmons reminded speakers of the Open Forum rules and procedures, which are in accordance with state law and the Board's Bylaws. He also reiterated the significance of being respectful.

The following individuals participated in the Open Forum:



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- Pynk Ellzey, President of Student Government Association (SGA)
 - Ms. Ellzey shared about the successful introduction of new students to the campus life and culture of Texas Southern. She also reported on the success of the SGA snack box drive which provided over 100 snack boxes to incoming freshman through an SGA Fundraiser and the support of Chairman Simmons and Regent Gore. She concluded with sharing the upcoming plans and initiatives for the SGA.
- Victor Ihezukwu, Chair of Staff Council
 - Mr. Victor Ihezukwu applauded the staff council for all their work throughout the 2024-2025 school year and mentioned the awards given to celebrate staff members. Mr. Ihezukwu also advocated for collaboration and understanding with the TSU Department of Public Safety regarding parking.
- Daniel Adams, Professor
 - Mr. Adams requested to be considered for the title of Professor Emeritus pursuant to his retirement from Texas Southern University Music Faculty.
- Bobby Brown, Texas Southern University's Chief of Police
 - Chief Brown gave an update on his teams' progress on reaching the department goals set when he assumed command in 2022. He also announced that the department has received the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Trilogy award which certifies that the Texas Southern University Police Department leadership team received over 120 hours of training in command, executive, and supervisory leadership. The Texas Southern University Police Department is the only Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Police Department who has completed this training.

V. Conflict of Interest

Chairman Simmons addressed the matter of conflict of interest with the Board members, inquiring if any member had a conflict of interest to disclose regarding the items on today's agenda. Observing no such disclosures, he proceeded with the agenda.

VI. Chairman's Comments and Recognitions

- Chairman Simmons recognized the Texas Southern Ocean of Soul Band's performance at the National Battle of the Bands. He encouraged Regents and meeting attendees to watch the performance if they had not had an opportunity to



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do so and specifically applauded the band's recognition of the Central Texas Flood victims.

VII. Standing Committee Meetings

A. Administration and Finance Committee- Mr. James Benham

Mr. John Pittman, Interim Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Business & Administration presented the following items for approval:

- Item 1: Request Approval for the Renewal of the Cloud-Based Library Management System Execute a Contract for Dining Services

The Administration requests approval to renew the Cloud-Based Library Management System.

[Motion to table this item until after executive session by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Gore. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 2: Request Approval to Purchase Uninterrupted Power Supply

The Administration requests approval to purchase an uninterrupted power supply for the university.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Johnson. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 3: Request Approval for Temporary Staffing Services

The Administration requests approval to purchase temporary staffing services. This motion was amended to grant authority for a two-month renewal through October 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$500,000. This item must be brought back to the board at its October meeting.

[Motion to table this item until after executive session by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Gore. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 4: Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute the Purchase of Motor Coach Buses

The Administration requests approval to negotiate and execute a contract for the purchase of a motor coach bus. This motion was amended to include one motorcoach bus not to exceed \$700,000.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Johnson. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 5: Request for Approval to Purchase and Install a New Dishwasher and Carousel for the Ernest S. Sterling Student Life Center Cafeteria



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The Administration requests approval to purchase and install a new dishwasher.
[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Gore. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 6: Request Approval of the Endowed and Non-Endowed Investment Policies

The Administration requests board review and approval of the endowed and non-endowed investment policies.

[Motion to pull this item from the current agenda by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Johnson. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 7: Request Approval of Debt Policy

The Administration requests board review and approval of debt policies.

[Motion to pull this item from the current agenda by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Johnson. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 8: Endowment Performance Updates

[Mr. Chris Wilson provided an update on the university's endowment, noting that market conditions remain favorable, and that the endowment has experienced significant growth.]

B. Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee - Ms. Marilyn Rose
Dr. Carl Goodman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the following items for approval and/or information:

- Item 1: Request Approval to Renew Yearly Contracts for Library Subscriptions and Databases

The Administration requests approval to renew contracts for data bases within the library.

[Motion to table this item until after executive session by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Caroline Baker Hurley; Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 2: Request Approval to Appoint a Designated Research Security Officer

The Administration requests approval to appoint a designated research security officer in accordance with state law.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Rose; 2nd by Regent Caroline Baker Hurley; Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 3: Overview of Student Enrollment and Success Data



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[Dr. Raijanel Crockem informed the Regents of the University's upward trend in student enrollment as well as an uptick in the four-year graduation rate.]

- Item 4: Academic Affairs Highlights
[Provost Goodman introduced Director of Career Services, Shawndra Harmond, who shared about the many projects the Career Pathways Office has for students such as the handshake database which shows students work study, internship, and full-time employment opportunities. Provost Goodman also recognized Dr. Wei Li from the College of Science Engineering and Technology who was presented with an award for his service to Texas Southern and honored for receiving the title of Distinguished Professor.]

C. Development and Legislative Affairs Committee - Dr. Richard Johnson

Mr. Charlie Coleman presented the following information item:

- Item 1: Development & Alumni Engagement Informational Updates
Mr. Coleman gave a brief recap of the fundraising efforts by the engagement team over the last fiscal year which included the largest gift from an individual ever received by the institution as well as the University graduating its largest graduating class in the history of the University this past spring.

Dr. James White presented the following informational item:

- Item 2: 89th Legislative Session Informational Update
Dr. White gave an update on how his team continues to work with university departments to ensure that their practices align with the new legislation that was passed in the 89th legislative session.

D. Physical Facilities - Mr. Ben Proler

Ms. Melanie Jackson, Interim Chief Operating Officer, presented the following item for approval:

- Item 1: Approval to Negotiate and Execute a Contract for Generator Preventative Maintenance Services

The Administration requests approval to negotiate and execute a contract for generator preventative maintenance services. These services include inspection, testing and maintenance of all generators and transfer switches for the university and identify any deficiencies.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Baker Hurley; 2nd by Regent Sullivan. Motion approved unanimously.]



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E. Bylaws and Policies (Ad Hoc) Committee - Ms. Alithea Sullivan

Mr. Charlie Nahn, General Counsel, presented the following item for approval:

- Item 1: Request Approval of Proposed Revisions to the Current Board Ethics Policy

General Counsel Nahn presented proposed revisions to the Current Board Ethics Policy to align with legislative changes from the 89th Legislative session, including specifically that the policy references the institution's policy on sexual harassment.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Sullivan; 2nd by Regent Kohlmann. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 2: Request Approval for the Adoption of Board Policy 63 - Compliance: Research Security Program

General Counsel Nahn presented proposed Board Policy 63 concerning the University's research security program and the appointment of a research security officer.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Sullivan; 2nd by Regent Kohlmann. Motion approved unanimously.]

VIII. Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session for a discussion on specific matters as outlined in the Executive Session portion of the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 through 551.074 at 10:30 AM.

IX. Reconvene in Open Session to Consider Actions on Executive Session Items as Necessary

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:28 A.M with a roll call.

The following Board Members were in attendance and constituted a quorum:

Mr. Brandon L. Simmons, Chairman
Mr. James M. Benham, Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary
Mr. Lauren A. Gore
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Dr. Richard A. Johnson III
Mr. Benjamin C. Kohlmann
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

The following Board member was absent:



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Mr. Benjamin H. Proler

X. Regular Board Meeting

A. Board Business

- Item 1: Presentation of certificates honoring Mrs. Clarice Freeman and Former Regent Naomi Cox Andrews
 - Mrs. Clarice Freeman and Former Regent Naomi Cox Andrews were recognized and honored for their invaluable contributions to the Texas Southern University legacy and community.
- Item 2: Presentation of a Proclamation honoring former Regent Stephanie D. Nellons-Paige
 - Former Regent Nellons-Paige was honored with a proclamation recognizing her contributions to the Texas Southern community during her tenure on the Board of Regents.

XI. Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session for a discussion on specific matters as outlined in the Executive Session portion of the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 through 551.074 at 12:23 pm.

XII. Reconvene in Open Session to Consider Actions on Executive Session Items as Necessary

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 3:04 PM with a roll call.

The following Board Members were in attendance and constituted a quorum:

Mr. Brandon L. Simmons, Chairman
Mr. James M. Benham, Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary
Mr. Lauren A. Gore
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Dr. Richard A. Johnson III
Mr. Benjamin C. Kohlmann
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

The following Board member was absent:
Mr. Benjamin H. Proler



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B. Tabled Items

Regent Benham and Mr. Pittman presented the following item for approval:

- Item 1: Request Approval for the Renewal of the Cloud-Based Library Management System Execute a Contract for Dining Services

The Administration requests approval to renew the Cloud-Based Library Management System.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Gore. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 2: Request Approval for Temporary Staffing Services

The Administration requests approval to purchase temporary staffing services. This motion was amended to grant authority for a two-month renewal through October 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$500,000. This item must be brought back to the board at its October meeting.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Johnson. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 3: Request Approval to Renew Yearly Contracts for Library Subscriptions and Databases

The Administration requests approval to renew contracts for databases within the library.

[Motion to move this item to the consent docket by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Johnson; Motion approved unanimously.]

Board Business continued

- Item 3: Faculty Senate Chair's Remarks
 - Dr. Rasoul Saneifard acknowledged several people for their service to the University including the 2024-2025 Faculty Awards committee under Dr. Charlene Eans. He further congratulated all faculty members who received awards.

- Item 4: Approve Minutes for Past Meeting of the Board of Regents
[Motion to approve this item by Chairman Simmons; 2nd by Regent Benham. Motion approved unanimously.]



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- Item 5: Approval for the Fiscal Year 2026 Board of Regents meeting Calendar
[Motion to approve this item by Chairman Simmons; 2nd by Regent Johnson. Motion approved unanimously.]

C. Consent Docket

Regent Benham reported that each committee met earlier on August 28, 2025, and approved several items for the Board's consideration on the Consent Docket: Agenda Items IV.C.1 through C.2, C.3 and C.4 as amended, C.5, C.8 through C.12.

- Item 1: Request Approval for the Renewal of the Cloud-Based Library Management System
- Item 2: Request Approval to Purchase Uninterrupted Power Supply
- Item 3: Request Approval for Temporary Staffing Services, as amended in committee.
- Item 4: Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute the Purchase of Motorcoach Buses, as amended in committee.
- Item 5: Request Approval to Purchase and Install a New Dishwasher and Carousel for the Ernest S. Sterling Student Life Center Cafeteria
- Item 6: Request Approval of the Endowed and Non-Endowed Investment Policies
- Item 7: Request Approval of Debt Policy
- Item 8: Request Approval to Renew Yearly Contracts for Library Subscriptions and Databases
- Item 9: Request Approval to Appoint a Designated Research Security Officer
- Item 10: Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute a Contract for Generator Preventative Maintenance Services
- Item 11: Request Approval of Proposed Revisions to the Current Board Code of Ethics Policy
- Item 12: Request Approval for the Adoption of Board Policy 63-Compliance: Research Security Program

[Motion to approve Agenda Items as amended by Regent Benham; 2nd by Regent Baker Hurley; Motion approved unanimously]

D. President's Report

The President provided his report. President Crawford opened his report with a news clip showcasing the success of the Texas Southern University Aviation Program. He highlighted recent financial investments aimed at increasing the number of tenured faculty and strengthening the University's fully staffed and equipped police force. He also provided an update on progress toward the University's strategic plan. Following his



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remarks, Erin Machac briefed the Regents on ongoing building projects and facility improvements.

XIII. Adjourn

With no further business pending before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Simmons at 3:29 P.M.; 2nd by Regent Benham; Motion passed.

All supporting materials for informational and action items presented during this meeting are available on the public posting [here](#).

A video recording of this meeting is available [here](#).

SIGNATURE OF APPROVAL

I certify that the foregoing minutes constitute a true, correct, and complete record of the Standing Committee meeting of the Board of Regents of Texas Southern University held in Houston, Texas on August 28, 2025.

Faith Ruiz
Executive Director
Board Relations Office

October 16, 2025

Date Approved by the Board

Marilyn A. Rose
Secretary
Board of Regents