MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
HYBRID SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

I. Call to Order

The Board of Regents of Texas Southern University convened a Hybrid Special Called Board meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 9:08 A.M. at Texas Southern University, Library Learning Center, 3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004. Several Regents participated by videoconference. Mr. James M. Benham, Chairman, was physically present at the meeting location, which was open to the public. He served as presiding officer and called the meeting to order

II. Roll Call

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

Mr. James M. Benham, Chairman
Mr. Lauren A. Gore, Vice Chair, *virtual*
Dr. Richard A. Johnson, Second Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary, *virtual*
Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi, *virtual*
Mr. Ben H. Proler
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan, *virtual*
Mr. Joseph Carter, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

The following Board Members were absent:

Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley

[Ms. Faith Ruiz presented roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.]

Other Attendees: President James Crawford, Racquel Dorsey, Melissa Flores (virtual), Donald Greer, Michelle John, Annette Linders (virtual), Lisa McBride, Ronald McKinley, Benjamin Sley, Faith Ruiz, Shawn Thierry

III. Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Benham addressed the matter of conflicts of interest and inquired whether any Board member had a conflict of interest to disclose regarding an item on the agenda. No conflicts were disclosed, and the Chairman proceeded with the agenda.

IV. Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:10 A.M. to discuss specific matters listed in the Executive Session portion of the posted agenda and in accordance with Sections 551.071 through 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, as specifically delineated below. No final action, decision, or vote was taken in Executive Session.

Texas Government Code - Section 551.071 - Consultation with University Attorneys on any matter in which the duty of the attorneys to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act, including any matter listed on this notice/agenda, pending or contemplated litigation, and proposed settlement agreements.

Texas Government Code - Section 551.074 - Personnel Matters: Deliberations Concerning the Appointments, Employment, Compensation, Duties, Responsibilities, Evaluations and/or Dismissal of Personnel (including but not limited to the Regents, President, General Officers, and Executive Management Employees)

- Consider Request for Approval for the Appointment of Mr. Clyde McNeil as Chief Audit Executive
- Consider Request for Approval to Appoint Candidate as Vice President and Athletic Director and to Negotiate and Execute a Five-Year Employment Contract
- Consider Request for Approval to Appoint Candidate as Head Basketball Coach and to Negotiate and Execute a Five-Year Employment Contract

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:02 A.M. Ms. Faith Ruiz presented roll call and reconfirmed the presence of a quorum. The following Board members were present:

Mr. James M. Benham, Chairman
Mr. Lauren A. Gore, Vice Chair, *virtual*
Dr. Richard A. Johnson, Second Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary, *virtual*
Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi, *virtual*
Mr. Ben H. Proler
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan, *virtual*
Mr. Joseph Carter, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

The following Board Members were absent:

Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley

VI. Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee

Dr. Michelle John, Vice President for Research and Innovation, and Shawn Thierry, Executive Director Policy and MAPP Coordinator, presented the following item for approval:

Item A. Request Approval of Annual House Bill 127 (Texas Education Code, Chapter 51B) Compliance Certification and Updates to Research Security and Protection Law Policies

Dr. Michelle John presented the annual compliance certification requirements under House Bill 127, codified in Texas Education Code Chapter 51B. She explained that the legislation establishes requirements and safeguards to protect institutions of higher education from foreign adversaries. Dr. John outlined the university's implementation efforts, which included establishing a research security program, appointing a Research Security Officer, adopting Board Policy Section 63.1, implementing annual student organization certification processes, enhancing international travel approval and monitoring procedures, and establishing processes for reporting and investigating suspected violations.

Shawn Thierry presented MAP 01.05.01, Foreign Adversary and Research Security Compliance, which serves as a comprehensive institutional roadmap for implementing and documenting compliance with House Bill 127. The Board was advised that the FY2026 certification was required to be submitted no later than August 31, 2026, in order to maintain access to appropriated funds for FY2027. Ms. Thierry further explained that following Board approval, the Office of General Counsel would submit the certification to the Governor, Legislature, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Research Security Council.

[A motion to approve the Annual House Bill 127 (Texas Education Code, Chapter 51B) Compliance Certification and Updates to Research Security and Protection Law Policies was made by Regent Rose and seconded by Regent Proler. The motion passed unanimously.]

VII. Personnel and Litigation Committee

Dr. Ronald McKinley presented the following items for approval:

- **Item A. Request for Approval for the Appointment of Mr. Clyde McNeil as Chief Audit Executive**

Dr. McKinley requested approval for the appointment of Mr. Clyde McNeil as Chief Audit Executive. Mr. McNeil's extensive auditing and higher education experience was highlighted, including his prior work with Arthur Andersen, KP&G, and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mr. McNeil holds bachelor's and master's degrees and is a Certified Public Accountant. He has also served as the University's audit advisor in recent months.

President Crawford clarified that the Chief Audit Executive will functionally report directly to the Board of Regents through the Audit and Compliance Committee, while administratively reporting to the President to execute assignments directed by the Board.

[A motion to approve the Appointment of Mr. Clyde McNeil as Chief Audit Executive was made by Regent Ahmadi and seconded by Regent Proler. The motion passed unanimously.]

- **Item B. Request Approval to Appoint Candidate as Vice President and Athletic Director and to Negotiate and Execute a Five-Year Employment Contract**

Dr. McKinley requested approval for the appointment of Mr. Ashley Robinson as Vice President and Athletic Director and authorization to negotiate and execute a five-year employment contract. Mr. Robinson's extensive experience in athletics administration was highlighted, including his service as Athletic Director at Jackson State University, Prairie View A&M University, and Mississippi Valley State University, as well as his prior experience as an assistant commissioner of the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

During discussion, Regent Johnson emphasized the importance of ensuring that alumni and students are well represented in future searches for critical university leadership positions.

President Crawford provided an overview of the national search process conducted by DHR Global, including the posting and selection of the executive search firm, candidate outreach, interviews, and review by the university's internal advisory committee. The process ultimately resulted in candidates being presented to President, and then to the Board for consideration through the Personnel and Litigation and Athletics Committees.

[A motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Ashley Robinson as Vice President and Athletic Director and authorization to negotiate and execute a five-year employment contract was made by Regent Ahmadi and seconded by Regent Gore. The motion passed with two "no" votes from Regent Johnson and Regent Rose.]

- **Item C. Request Approval to Appoint Candidate as Head Basketball Coach and to Negotiate and Execute a Five-Year Employment Contract**

Dr. McKinley requested approval for the appointment of Mr. Corey Lowry as Head Basketball Coach and authorization to negotiate and execute a five-year employment contract. Coach Lowry's extensive coaching experience was highlighted, including his service as a head coach and assistant coach, as well as his current position as an assistant basketball coach at Seton Hall University. Dr. McKinley noted Coach Lowry's successful record as a head coach and multiple conference Coach of the Year honors.

During discussion, Regent Johnson reiterated the importance of including faculty, staff, students, and alumni as key constituencies in future searches for critical university leadership positions.

[A motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Corey Lowry as Head Basketball Coach and authorization to negotiate and execute a five-year employment contract was made by Regent

Ahmadi and seconded by Chairman Benham. The motion passed with two "no" votes from Regent Johnson and Regent Rose.]

VIII. Audit and Compliance Committee

Ms. Annette Linders and Dr. Melissa Flores presented the following item for approval:

- **Item A. Request for Approval of Annual Senate Bill 17, Texas Education Code Section 51.3525, Compliance Certification and Updated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives University Policy MAP 01.04.01**

Ms. Linders and Dr. Flores presented the annual compliance certification requirements for Senate Bill 17, codified in Texas Education Code Section 51.3525. Dr. Flores explained that the university maintains documentation and processes addressing the statutory requirements, including Human Resources certifications, executive and leadership acknowledgements, policy reviews, training for Human Resources and Procurement personnel, and compliance reporting to the President.

Dr. Flores explained that the certification is submitted annually through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's portal and that the submission satisfies the required legislative reporting. In response to a question from Regent Proler, Dr. Flores stated that the university had not received follow-up questions or additional requests for information from the Coordinating Board after prior certifications were submitted.

Ms. Linders and Dr. Flores also discussed updates to MAP 01.04.01 being presented for the Board's consideration and adoption. It was clarified that the Board does not generally vote on MAPP policies, which are administrative policies; however, due to the significance of the subject matter, this particular MAPP was being presented to the Board for approval.

[A motion to approve the Annual Senate Bill 17, Texas Education Code Section 51.3525, Compliance Certification and Updated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives University Policy MAPP 01.04.01 was made by Regent Sullivan and seconded by Regent Johnson The motion passed unanimously.]

IX. Adjourn

With no further business pending before the Board, Chairman Benham moved to adjourn. Regent Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

All supporting materials for informational and action items presented during this meeting are available on the public posting and at the following link:
https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/2066?meeting=761306

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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 Special Called Board meeting of the Board of Regents of Texas Southern University held in Houston, Texas on August 19, 2026.

Faith Ruiz
Executive Director
Board Relations Office

Date Approved by the Board

Marilyn A. Rose
Secretary
Board of Regents