



**MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

I. Call to Order

The Board of Regents of Texas Southern University held a Special Called Board meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Chairman James M. Benham called the meeting to order at 10:33 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. James M. Benham, Chairman
Mr. Lauren A. Gore, Vice Chair
Dr. Richard A. Johnson, Second Vice Chair, *virtual*
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary, *virtual*
Mr. Ben H. Proler, *virtual*
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan, *virtual*
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *virtual, nonvoting*

The following Board Members were absent:

Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi

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

Other Attendees: President James Crawford, Benjamin Green, Melanie Jackson, Moriah Johnson, Lisa McBride, Charlie Nhan, John Pittman, Faith Ruiz

III. Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Benham 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.

IV. 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 10:35 A.M.

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

The meeting was called back to order at 11:19 A.M.



**MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

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

Mr. James M. Benham, Chairman
Mr. Lauren A. Gore, Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary, *virtual*
Mr. Ben H. Proler, *virtual*
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan, *virtual*
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting, virtual*

The following Board Members were absent:

Dr. Richard A. Johnson, Second Vice Chair
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi

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

VI. Board Business

Chairman Benham presented the following item for approval:

- VI.A. Request Approval for Board of Regents' Committee Assignments.

Chairman Benham proposed approving the item with a verbal amendment. The amendment corrected a clerical error by swapping assignments, placing Regent Proler on Development and Legislative Affairs and Regent Gore on Athletics. The motion, as amended, was moved for approval.

[Motion to approve by Chairman Benham, Seconded by Regent Gore; Motion passes unanimously.]

VII. Administration and Finance Committee

Mr. John Pittman, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the following items for approval:

- Item A. Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute an Amendment to the Existing Contract for Assets and Inventory and Reconciliation.

Mr. Pittman requested that the Board consider an amendment to an existing contract for asset inventory and reconciliation services. The amendment expands the scope of services to include the tracking of controlled assets, such as laptops and computers, and the completion of a review of additional capitalized assets.



**MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

[Motion to approve by Regent Gore, Seconded by Regent Proler; Motion passes unanimously.]

- Item B. Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute Enterprise Software Solutions Agreements.

Mr. Pittman and Mr. Benjamin Green requested approval to negotiate and execute agreements for enterprise software solutions utilized across the institution. This includes the renewal of platforms such as Zoom for virtual meetings, Arctic Wolf for cybersecurity services, and Pantheon for web hosting, as well as the acquisition of new software to support accessibility requirements. The discussion also included consideration of cost efficiency and the potential consolidation of platforms, including Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

[Motion to approve by Regent Gore, Seconded by Chairman Benham; Motion passes unanimously.]

VIII. Physical Facilities & Real Estate Committee

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

- Item A. Request Approval of Design Development for Capital Construction Assistance Projects.

Ms. Jackson requested approval of capital construction assistance projects design development documents. Ms. Jackson reported that the projects have progressed from initial concepts to fully developed designs, including finalized floor plans, coordinated building systems, verified code compliance, and defined materials and finishes.

[Motion to approve by Regent Proler, Seconded by Regent Sullivan; Motion passes unanimously.]

IX. Bylaws and Policies (Ad Hoc) Committee

Mr. Charlie Nhan, General Counsel, presented the following items for approval:

- Item A. Request Approval of Resolution to Amend Board Bylaws Section 5.11 (Project Approval Threshold).

Mr. Nhan reported on a proposed amendment to Board Bylaws, Section 5.11, regarding the project approval threshold. The amendment would increase the threshold for real



**MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

estate and facility project approvals from \$100,000 to \$250,000 and authorize any necessary revisions to implement this change.

[Motion to approve by Regent Sullivan, Seconded by Regent Proler; Motion passes unanimously.]

- Item B. Request Approval of Resolution to Amend Board Policy Section 51.01 (Contract Approval Threshold) and Section 51.02 (Competitive Bidding).

Mr. Nhan presented a proposed amendment to Board Policy Sections 51.01 and 51.02 regarding contract approval, purchasing, financial commitment thresholds, and competitive bidding requirements. The amendment would raise the contract approval threshold to \$250,000 and authorize any necessary conforming revisions to implement this change.

[Motion to approve by Regent Sullivan, Seconded by Regent Rose; Motion passes unanimously.]

Chairman Benham commented on the President's Cabinet, welcoming Dr. Rodney Smith as Chief Administrative Officer and expressing enthusiasm for the future of Texas Southern University and highlighted the upcoming Tiger Ball scholarship fundraising gala. President Crawford concluded the meeting by noting that the spring graduating class of approximately 1,200 students represents the largest in the history of Texas Southern University.

X. Adjourn

With no further business pending before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Benham at 11:38 A.M.; Seconded by Regent Gore; Motion passed unanimously.

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=737496>

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 April 1, 2026.

Faith Ruiz
Executive Director



**MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Board Relations Office

April 16, 2026

Date Approved by the Board

Marilyn A. Rose
Secretary
Board of Regents

DRAFT