

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2100

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr., takes up a new post as
2 chancellor of Baylor University on June 1, 2005, after shepherding
3 that institution through 10 transformative years in his capacity as
4 university president; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Sloan assumed the presidency of Baylor on June
6 1, 1995, and during his tenure he has led the school through a
7 period of significant academic, physical, and financial expansion;
8 that growth was epitomized by the regents' adoption in 2001 of a
9 10-year plan to move the university into the upper echelons of
10 American higher education while strengthening its Christian
11 mission; and

12 WHEREAS, During Dr. Sloan's tenure as president, Baylor has
13 established three new schools--engineering and computer science,
14 Honors College, and social work--and created five new doctoral
15 programs; the number of full-time faculty has grown from 644 to 780,
16 annual expenditures for research and other sponsored activity have
17 more than tripled, and faculty grant proposals have risen
18 substantially; in 2004, Baylor was the only school, out of 50
19 institutions across the country studied by the American Council of
20 Trustees and Alumni, to receive an "A" rating on its core
21 curriculum; and

22 WHEREAS, While Dr. Sloan has guided the university,
23 enrollment at Baylor has risen by 14 percent and minority
24 enrollment has risen as well, with minorities constituting nearly

1 one-third of the 2004 freshman class; the average SAT score of
2 entering freshmen has also improved, and for three consecutive
3 years, from 2002 to 2004, a Baylor student has been awarded one of
4 the prestigious Truman Scholarships; moreover, Baylor students
5 have gained new opportunities to expand their horizons through the
6 addition of 19 study-abroad programs and 22 exchange agreements
7 with international institutions; and

8 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Sloan's administration, the operating
9 budget at Baylor has more than doubled and the endowment has
10 increased nearly twofold; a five-year capital campaign, begun in
11 1999, was successfully concluded a year ahead of schedule, having
12 exceeded its goal by \$27 million; altogether, gifts to the
13 university during Dr. Sloan's presidency total almost \$400 million;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, To accommodate the dramatic increase in academic
16 programs and the attendant growth in the number of students and
17 faculty, Dr. Sloan has overseen the expansion of the Baylor campus
18 from 450 acres to almost 750 acres, together with the construction
19 of approximately \$400 million worth of new facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, Baylor students have enjoyed notable athletic
21 success during Dr. Sloan's presidency, winning a number of
22 conference championships and claiming two NCAA national
23 championships; equally significant, Baylor student-athletes led
24 the Big 12 in 2004 with a 78 percent overall graduation rate; and

25 WHEREAS, Born in Coleman and raised in Abilene, Robert Sloan
26 received a bachelor's degree from Baylor in 1970; he went on to earn
27 a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in

1 1973 and a doctorate in theology from the University of Basel, in
2 Switzerland, in 1978; and

3 WHEREAS, After teaching for several years at Southwestern
4 Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, he joined the faculty
5 at Baylor in 1983 and in 1990 became the first holder of the George
6 W. Truett Chair in Evangelism; in 1993, Dr. Sloan was appointed the
7 founding dean of George W. Truett Theological Seminary; and

8 WHEREAS, A productive, award-winning scholar, he has
9 published extensively, presented many academic papers, and served
10 as president of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Sloan is involved in numerous organizations
12 related to higher education and has served on the board of the
13 Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas; moreover, he has
14 given generously of his time and talents to the Waco community and
15 surrounding areas, holding membership on the boards of several area
16 civic foundations and serving as president of the Lorena ISD school
17 board; and

18 WHEREAS, With his wife, Sue, a fellow Baylor graduate, Dr.
19 Sloan is the parent of seven children, including one who is a
20 student at Baylor and five who are Baylor alumni; and

21 WHEREAS, Imbued with a great love for the venerable
22 institution he has led for the past decade, Dr. Sloan can take
23 justifiable pride in the many advances achieved during his term as
24 its president and in the lofty vision that he championed and that is
25 today shaping the university for the 21st century; now, therefore,
26 be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr., for his many
2 contributions as president of Baylor University and extend to him
3 sincere best wishes as he continues his faithful service to his
4 Lord, his alma mater, and the people of Texas; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Dr. Sloan as an expression of high regard by the Texas
7 House of Representatives.