

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE, EXCELLENCE & TRANSPARENCY

Monday, October 17, 2011

10:00 AM

Capitol Extension, Room E1.030

Pursuant to a notice posted in accordance with HCR 63, a public hearing of the Joint Committee on Oversight of Higher Education Governance, Excellence & Transparency was held on Monday, October 17, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the Capitol Extension E1.030, at Austin, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Judith Zaffirini, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Branch, Co-Chair
Senator John Carona
Representative Joaquín Castro
Senator Rodney Ellis
Representative Lois Kolkhorst
Representative Jim Pitts
Senator Kel Seliger
Senator Kirk Watson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Dennis Bonnen
Senator Robert Duncan
Representative Eric Johnson

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Brian Birdwell
Representative Donna Howard
Senator Jeff Wentworth

Senator Judith Zaffirini and Representative Dan Branch, Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Co-Chair Branch recognized the House clerk to call roll. Co-Chair Zaffirini recognized the Senate clerk to call roll.

Co-Chair Zaffirini invited Senate committee members to make opening remarks and to introduce their respective Joint Committee staff members. Accordingly, Senator Kel Seliger introduced Ginger Averitt; and Senator Rodney Ellis, Jeremy Warren.

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Co-Chair Zaffirini introduced the newest member of the Senate Joint Committee staff for the 82nd Ad Interim, Tracy Ballysingh, Policy Analyst.

The Co-Chairs made opening remarks.

Co-Chair Branch invited the House committee members to provide opening remarks and to introduce their respective Joint Committee staff. Accordingly, Representative Donna Howard introduced Eleanor D'Ambrosio.

There being a quorum present, the following business was transacted:

Co-Chair Zaffirini laid out the proposed minutes from the September 21st hearing. Co-Chair Branch moved their approval. There being no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Co-Chair Branch called the following persons to provide invited testimony about best practices relating to governing boards and administrators:

- Don Evans, Former Chair, The University of Texas System Board of Regents
- John Mobley, Former Regent, Texas A&M University System Board of Regents

Co-Chair Zaffirini called Raymund Paredes, PhD, Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to respond to questions raised by the testimony of the invited witnesses.

Co-Chair Zaffirini called the following persons to provide invited testimony about the manner in which the governing boards and administrators of public universities develop and implement major policy decisions:

- Nelda Luce Blair, Chair, University of Houston System Board of Regents
- Jack A. Wall, Chair, University of North Texas System Board of Regents
- Jerry Turner, Chair, Texas Tech University System Board of Regents
- Charlie Amato, Chair, Texas State University System Board of Regents

Co-Chair Branch called the following persons to provide invited testimony about the manner in which the governing boards and administrators of public universities develop and implement major policy decisions:

- Wm. Eugene Powell, Chair, The University of Texas System Board of Regents

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- Richard A. Box, DDS, Chair, Texas A&M University System Board of Regents

At the request of Chairman Powell, Co-Chair Zaffirini called Barry Burgdorf, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel for The University of Texas System, to assist him in answering questions.

At the request of Chairman Powell, at 3:42 p.m. the Co-Chairs announced that the Joint Committee would stand recessed for 10 minutes.

At 3:52 p.m. the Co-Chairs reconvened the hearing.

At 4:47 p.m. Co-Chair Zaffirini closed invited testimony and opened the floor for public testimony.

Names of witnesses who provided public testimony are shown on the attached list. Co-Chair Zaffirini closed public testimony at 5:48 p.m.

There being no further business, at 5:50 p.m., the Co-Chairs announced that the Joint Committee would stand recessed, subject to the call of the Co-Chairs.

Senator Judith Zaffirini, Co-Chair

Representative Dan Branch, Co-Chair

Ashlee Peña, Clerk

Dustin Meador, Clerk