



**MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
STANDING COMMITTEE AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 19, 2026**

I. Call to Order

The Board of Regents of Texas Southern University held a Standing Committee and Regular Board meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2026. Mr. Lauren A. Gore, Vice Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 8:45 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* (Virtual)
Mr. Lauren A. Gore, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Richard A. Johnson, *Second Vice Chair*
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, *Secretary*
Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Mr. Benjamin H. Proler
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

Other Attendees: President J.W. Crawford III, C.D. Bolden, Rajanel Crockem, Carl Goodman, Daniel Graves, Victor Ihezukwu, Melanie Jackson, Moriah Johnson, Erin Machac, Gregory Maddox, Lisa McBride, Ronald McKinley, David Medina, Borris Miles, Derek Montgomery, Tamyiah Nielson, John Pittman, Georgia Provost, Faith Ruiz, Rodney Smith, Mark Weatherspoon and Anjanette Wyatt

III. Prayer

Vice Chairman Gore invited Ms. Georgia Provost to introduce Bishop C.D. Bolden to deliver a prayer. Bishop C.D. Bolden introduced himself, then proceeded to pray.

IV. Board Business

- Item 1. Oath of Office Administered to Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi as Newly Appointed Board of Regent Member. Sworn by Judge David Medina.

V. Conflict of Interest

Vice Chairman Gore addressed the matter of Conflict of Interest with the Board members, inquiring if any member had a conflict to disclose regarding today's agenda. Observing no such disclosures, he proceeded with the agenda.



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VI. Open Forum

Vice Chairman Gore opened the floor to individuals who signed up to participate in Open Forum. Vice Chairman Gore 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:

- Tamyiah Nielson, Student Government Association (SGA), Vice President
 - Ms. Nielsen provided an update on student initiatives, including voter registration, community service, financial literacy programs, campus beautification, and leadership development. She highlighted the SGA Mentorship Committee, leadership opportunities, advisor support, and ongoing efforts to strengthen student engagement.
- Victor Ihezukwu, Chair of Staff Council
 - Mr. Ihezukwu welcomed attendees, introduced council members, and expressed appreciation for staff contributions. He noted the Staff Council's active involvement in campus initiatives and thanked the administration for its support.
- Dr. Anjanette Wyatt, College of Pharmacy Alumni
 - Dr. Wyatt stated that she perceived the removal of her promotional video from the College of Pharmacy as disrespectful and, as a result, has decided to discontinue donating her personal funds to the college.
- Derek Montgomery, Community Member/Houston Resident
 - Mr. Montgomery addressed low graduation rates at Texas Southern University and student mental health concerns. He recommended increasing the number of licensed therapists to better support student well-being and academic success.

VII. President's Report

- The President outlined Texas Southern University's ongoing response to the State Auditor's report, emphasizing efforts to strengthen institutional operations and compliance. Key initiatives include completing a comprehensive review and update of outdated policies, improving financial reporting accuracy, centralizing procurement and contract workflows, enhancing asset management, and ensuring appropriate system access. He highlighted the creation of an ad hoc Audit Response Committee, ongoing public reporting to maintain transparency, and the engagement of external auditors to support year-round audit readiness. The



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President also introduced new leadership appointments aimed at bolstering operational and academic capacity, including Dr. Rodney Smith as Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Dr. Ronald McKinley as Chief Human Resources Officer, and Dr. Jayne Reuben, recently appointed as the Senior Associate Provost & Senior Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs and Community Engagement.

- In addition to operational updates, the President celebrated several institutional achievements, including Texas Southern's recognition as a Carnegie Community Engagement Institution and participation in national arts preservation initiatives. He highlighted successful research grants, student athletic accomplishments, and campus safety recognition as the safest university in the Houston area. The report concluded with a vision for the University's future, emphasizing institutional integrity, student success, purpose driven programming, and diversified research to strengthen the university's impact on workforce development and regional economic growth. These efforts collectively aim to position Texas Southern as a high performing, transparent, and forward looking institution.

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 9:56 A.M.

The Board reconvened the public meeting at 11:37 A.M. Roll was called to reestablish a quorum. The following Board members were in attendance and constituted a quorum:

Mr. James M. Benham, *Chairman (Virtual)*
Mr. Lauren A. Gore, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Richard A. Johnson, *Second Vice*
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, *Secretary*
Ms. Paloma Ahmadi
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Mr. Benjamin H. Proler
Ms. Alithea Sullivan
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

The board take action on matters discussed in the executive session. A motion was made by Regent Johnson, seconded by Regent Proler, to approve the terms of the proposed settlement agreement in the lawsuit Aggreko, Limited Liability Company (LLC) v. Westwood Restoration, LLC v. Texas Southern University, Cause No. 2022-06968, in the 190th Judicial District, Harris County, Texas. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. Consent Docket



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- Item A: Request Approval of Past Board of Regents Meetings Minutes
Action Requested: Approval
- Item B: Request Approval to Renew Harris County Radio Services
Action Requested: Approval
- Item C: Request Approval for the Firewall Upgrade and Professional Services through MGT
Action Requested: Approval
- Item D: Request Approval for Approval of Endowment Spend Rate for Fiscal Year (FY) 27
Action Requested: Approval
- Item F: Request Approval for Executive Search Firm Services
Action Requested: Approval
- Item G: Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute a Contract for Custom Painting on the Diamond DA-42 Aircraft
Action Requested: Approval
- Item H: Request Approval of Candidates for Rank, Tenure and Promotion
Action Requested: Approval
- Item I: Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute a Contract for Aviation Gasoline (AVGAS)
Action Requested: Approval
- Item J: Request Approval to Participate in the State of Texas Retail Fuel Card Program
Action Requested: Approval
- Item K: Request Approval to Negotiate and Executive Landscaping Services
Action Requested: Approval

[The Board reviewed the consent docket, which included items 8A through 8K. Item 8E was pulled for separate consideration. A motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Item 8E was made by Regent Ahmadi, seconded by Chairman Benham, and approved unanimously.]

- Item E: Request Approval of Contract Extension for Informational Technology (IT) Staff Augmentation Services Action Requested: Approval

[Mr. Green presented Item 8E, requesting an extension of the IT services contract with Columbia Advisory Group (CAG) through the next board meeting. With no questions from the board, a motion to approve Item 8E by Vice Chairman Gore was made, seconded by Regent Baker Hurley, and passed unanimously.]



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X. 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 11:43 A.M.

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

The Board reconvened the public meeting at 2:24 P.M. Roll was called to reestablish a quorum.

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

Mr. Lauren A. Gore, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Richard A. Johnson, *Second Vice Chair*
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, *Secretary*
Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Mr. Benjamin H. Proler
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

XIII. Administration and Finance Committee - Regent Lauren A. Gore

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

- Item 1: Request Approval to Pay the Invoice from the State Auditor's Office

Mr. John Pittman has notified the Board that this matter has been resolved, so it no longer requires Board approval.
- Item 2: Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute Contracts Utilizing Title III Part B Supplemental Award FY 25-26

Dr. Carl Goodman presented a request for approval to negotiate and execute contracts using Title III Part B for supplemental funds, outlining plans to allocate the funding toward facilities improvements, academic programs, and endowment development. He highlighted proposed investments in Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) compliance, classroom modernization, technology upgrades, simulation labs, communication and media facilities, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) equipment, and student support services.



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[Motion to approve this item by Regent Gore, 2nd by Regent Proler. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 3: Administration and Finance Information Updates:

Mr. John Pitman presented administration and finance informational updates, including financial statements as of December 2025, outlining the University's assets, liabilities, and budget-to-actual performance. He explained seasonal revenue and expenditure patterns and provided an overview of the FY27 budget development process, including unit submissions, budget balancing, and plans for a future budget workshop with the Board.

- Item 4: Endowment Performance & Update (November 30, 2025)

Atlanta Consulting Group (ACG) provided a quarterly update on the university's endowment and investment portfolio, reporting strong market performance, improved diversification, and positive returns across asset classes. He noted that the endowment increased from approximately \$121 million to \$126.2 million, with total investments, including non-endowment assets, totaling about \$136 million. The portfolio's diversified strategy, including domestic and international equities, fixed income, and alternative investments, was credited with supporting consistent growth. ACG also discussed ongoing efforts to explore additional diversification and Texas-based investment managers.

XI. Development and Legislative Affairs Committee - Regent Richard Johnson

Mr. Charlie Coleman, Associate Vice President of Development and Alumni Engagement, presented the following items for approval and/or information:

- Item 1: Development and Alumni Engagement Divisional Information Updates:

A one-slide philanthropic update was presented outlining a five-year rolling gift pipeline of \$72.7 million (FY2025–FY2030) and \$5.1 million in cash receipts received to date for FY 2026, reflecting a 35% year-over-year increase. Alumni giving has grown significantly to 31% of total donations (up from 12% last year), and the division continues to strengthen stewardship, data integrity, unrestricted giving strategies, and corporate and foundation engagement efforts.

Dr. James White, Vice President of Government Affairs and Civic Engagement, presented the following items for approval and/or information:

- Item 2: Legislative Affairs Informational Updates:



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An overview was provided on the upcoming 2028–2029 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR), emphasizing its importance in aligning the University’s strategic plan with state policy and funding priorities. A preliminary timeline was outlined, with consideration of state higher education data and coordination of both state and federal advocacy efforts to support the University’s funding objectives.

XII. Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee - Regent Marilyn A. Rose

Dr. Carl Goodman, Provost/Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented the following item for approval and/or information:

- Item 1: Request Approval of the University’s ASCEND 2030 Strategic Plan

The Board approved the University of 2030 Strategic Plan, advancing Texas Southern University’s commitment to renew, enhance, and expand its academic programs, research initiatives, operational excellence, and technology integration.

[Moved by Regent Rose, 2nd by Regent Sullivan. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 2: Request Approval for the Reorganization of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology

The Board approved the proposed expansion and realignment within the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology at Texas Southern University, advancing plans to strengthen existing programs and develop new engineering pathways aligned with workforce demand in Houston’s energy, aerospace, and environmental sectors. The proposal emphasizes strategic growth, industry alignment, and a phased approval process, with a comprehensive communications plan to engage students, community members, and prospective partners as the programs move forward.

[Moved by Regent Rose, 2nd by Regent Sullivan. Motion approved unanimously.]

- Item 3: Informational updates from the Division of Academic Affairs
The Division of Academic Affairs provided updates on faculty development through Faculty Institute, Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration, online teaching certification, accreditation efforts with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and recognition of faculty promotions and emeritus honorees. The division also highlighted significant gains in student success metrics, including increased persistence, progression, and honor roll rates, along with expanded student support initiatives such as the Tiger Pantry and Tiger Tech Lounge.



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- Item 4: Information about the Automated Budget Evaluation System of Texas (TX) (ABSET) Key Performance Measures

Dr. Raijanel Crockem presented the following information regarding the Automated Budget Evaluation System performance measures for Texas Southern University. The update highlighted progress across key state metrics, including increased persistence and graduation rates, improved bar passage results, reduced student loan debt, and growth in externally funded research expenditures. She also addressed areas identified for continued improvement, including pharmacy licensure rates and administrative cost ratios, while emphasizing the University's alignment between institutional performance, legislative appropriations, and long-term student success goals.

XIII. Physical Facilities & Real Estate - Regent Ben Proler

Ms. Melanie Jackson, Senior Associate Vice President of Operations and Procurement, presented the following item for approval:

- Item 1: Request Approval of the Campus Master Plan

The Board approved the University's comprehensive campus master plan, which establishes a long-term framework for physical development, infrastructure modernization, and strategic growth aligned with the institutional strategic plan. The plan includes bold initiatives such as a potential on campus football stadium, expanded student housing, a new welcome and recruiting center, enhanced academic facilities, and phased implementation supported by Title III funding.

[Motion to approve this item by Regent Proler, 2nd by Regent Rose. Motion approved unanimously.]

XIV. Audit and Compliance - Regent Lauren A. Gore

Mr. Daniel Graves, Audit Executive with Weaver, presented the following item for approval:

- Item 1: Request Approval for Updated Fiscal Year 2026 Internal Audit Plan

The Board approved the updated fiscal year 2026 internal audit plan, which was revised following the October 2025 approval to and align with the recent State Auditor's Office report. The plan includes audits of procurement, asset management, financial reporting, and network access controls, as well as follow ups on prior findings and a university wide risk assessment to ensure compliance, accountability, and flexibility to address emerging risks.



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[Motion to approve this by Regent Gore; 2nd by Regent Johnson. Motion approved unanimously.]

XV. Athletics - Regent Caroline Baker Hurley

Dr. Paula Jackson, Interim Athletics Director, presented the following item for approval and/or information:

- Item 1: Athletics Key Highlights Information:

Dr. Paula Jackson provided an informational update highlighting strong academic performance within Texas Southern University Athletics, including one of the department's highest overall Grade Point Averages in recent years, 15 of 16 teams earning GPAs of 3.0 or higher, and an 84 percent graduation rate. She also shared updates on the successful Business Summit and the National Girls and Women in Sports Day luncheon, both of which strengthened student athlete development, engagement, and ongoing programming initiatives.

XVI. Board Business

- Item 1: Request Approval of Engagement Letter with Thompson & Horton Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) for Board Counsel Services:

The Board approved the engagement letter with Thompson and Horton LLP for board counsel services, transitioning to a fixed monthly fee arrangement that provides greater cost stability and flexibility without a long-term contract. The modified agreement is expected to reduce annual costs by approximately \$9,000 while ensuring the continued support of Board Counsel Lisa McBride.

[Motion to approve this by Regent Gore; 2nd by Regent Proler. Motion approved unanimously.]

XVII. Adjourn

With no further business pending before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Gore at 4:15 P.M.; 2nd by Regent Proler; 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](#). Please note that due to unforeseen technical difficulties, the audio quality may be inconsistent however, this was the best recording that could be produced under the circumstances.



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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 February 19, 2026.

Faith Ruiz
Executive Director
Board Relations Office

April 16, 2026

Date Approved by the Board

Marilyn A. Rose
Secretary
Board of Regents

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