

THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

VOLUME XXXVI - A

Meeting No. 835

September 14, 1988

Austin, Texas

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1988.--The members of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System convened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 1988, in the Regents' Meeting Room on the ninth floor of Ashbel Smith Hall in Austin, Texas, with the following in attendance:

ATTENDANCE.--

Present

Chairman Blanton, presiding
Vice-Chairman Ratliff
Vice-Chairman Roden
Regent Barshop
Regent Yzaguirre

*Absent

Regent Baldwin
Regent Beecherl
Regent Hay
Regent Moncrief

Executive Secretary Dilly

Chancellor Mark
Executive Vice Chancellor Duncan
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Farabee
Vice Chancellor Hill

Chairman Blanton announced a quorum present and called the meeting to order. He stated that the primary purpose of this meeting was to conduct an informal discussion with the Board of Regents and administrators of Pan American University to consider that University's future relationship with The University of Texas System. The representatives of Pan American University were:

Mrs. Shan Pickard Rankin, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Horacio L. Barrera, Secretary
Ms. Berta Perez Linton
Mrs. Margaret L. McAllen
Mr. Robert Ward Shepard
Mrs. Lauryn Gayle White
Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez, President, Pan American
University in Edinburg
Dr. Homer Pena, President, Pan American
University at Brownsville

Chairman Blanton welcomed the visitors from Pan American University and then called on Chancellor Mark to review the extensive series of conferences and discussions that have been ongoing since September 1987 related to the possible merger of Pan American University with the U. T. System. Dr. Mark noted that the 70th Legislature had instructed The University of Texas and Texas A&M University Systems to examine higher education in South Texas and to report back to the next session of the Legislature with recommendations on ways by which the scope, quality and accessibility of higher education programs in South Texas might be enhanced. He pointed out that the U. T. System has a strong interest in South Texas and that there are important and unique economic development programs going on in the

*Regents Baldwin, Beecherl, Hay and Moncrief were excused because of previous commitments.

border regions which impact educational and research requirements. Dr. Mark stated that the best way to begin the enhancement process would be to develop and expand selected academic programs in South Texas -- business, engineering, nursing and teacher education curricula -- and reported that the U. T. System has requested just under \$10 million from the Legislature to enhance programs in these disciplines.

Representatives of the two Boards discussed the advantages and problems that each would face if they engaged in the merger and Dr. Mark noted that the merger would provide Pan American with increased administrative support, personnel management, access to the U. T. System library and computer network, as well as increased opportunities for cooperative academic programs.

Several of the members of the Pan American Board suggested that the merger plan should include specific details about the level of support and the dedication of resources that would be expected under the U. T. System, a commitment by U. T. System to establish a law school at Pan American and a commitment to upgrade the Pan American campus at Brownsville.


Chancellor Mark suggested that a more realistic approach would be to negotiate a merger of Pan American University into the U. T. System as it currently exists without regard to future administrative, organizational or academic program changes. He noted that, certainly, there could be negotiated a set of mutually agreeable goals for both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses but that these goals should be for the future and not commitments incident to a merger.

Both Chancellor Mark and Vice Chancellor Farabee emphasized that any merger proposal should be as simple and "uncluttered" with conditions as possible, since this would enhance the possibilities of legislative approval.

Members of both Boards expressed appreciation for the opportunity for a frank and open exchange of information and viewpoints.

Secretary's Note: A copy of the tape recording of this meeting is on file in the Office of the Board of Regents.

ADJOURNMENT.--There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.


Arthur H. Dilly
Executive Secretary

September 29, 1988