MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
HYBRID SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 26, 2026

I. Call to Order

The Board of Regents of Texas Southern University held a Special Called Board meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. Chairman James M. Benham called the meeting to order at 1:34 P.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
Dr. Richard A. Johnson, Second Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary, *virtual*
Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi, *virtual*
Mr. Ben H. Proler,
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan, *virtual*

The following Board Members were absent:

Mr. Lauren A. Gore
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

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

Other Attendees: President James Crawford, Cynthia Buckley, Racquel Dorsey, Carl Goodman, Lisa McBride, Charlie Nhan, John Pittman, Faith Ruiz, Rodney Smith, Ricky Strauss

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 1:35 P.M.

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

The meeting was called back to order at 2:30 P.M.
The following Board Members were in attendance and constituted a quorum:

Mr. James M. Benham, Chairman
Dr. Richard A. Johnson, Second Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn A. Rose, Secretary, *virtual*
Ms. Paloma Z. Ahmadi, *virtual*
Mr. Ben H. Proler,
Ms. Alithea Z. Sullivan, *virtual (departed the meeting at 3:01 P.M.)*

The following Board Members were absent:

Mr. Lauren A. Gore
Ms. Caroline Baker Hurley
Mr. Kohl E. Crawford, Student Regent, *nonvoting*

[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 the Fiscal Year 2027 Board of Regents Meeting Calendar

Chairman Benham presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Board of Regents Calendar that consists of a revised meeting schedule designed to provide greater clarity, reduce staff workload during student return periods, and allow for more substantive discussions with more accurate census data. The proposed schedule includes four regular board meetings that will be held two in the spring and two in the fall. The Board of Regents Retreats will be scheduled for January and July. The motion, as presented, was moved for approval.

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

VII. Administration and Finance Committee

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

- Item A. Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget Workshop

Mr. Pittman presented the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget Workshop as an informational item and provided an overview of the proposed operating budget, including projected revenue increases from enrollment and tuition, state appropriations, capital expenditures, deferred maintenance projects, and planned budget adjustments to achieve a balanced financial position. He also highlighted enrollment projections, anticipated cash flow trends, higher education assistance funding, and strategic cost saving measures under consideration.

[No action taken: Item presented for informational purposes only]

- Item B. Request Approval to Award a Contract for Unarmed Security Officer Services for On-Campus and Off-Campus Residential Facilities

  Mr. Pittman requested approval to continue unarmed security officer services for on-campus and off-campus residential facilities following the university's expansion of off-campus housing accommodations for students. The contract renewal would provide continued security coverage for students residing in those facilities.

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

- Item C. Request Approval to Amend the Existing Contract for Shuttle Bus Services

  Mr. Pittman requested approval to amend the existing contract for shuttle bus services to continue transportation services for students traveling to and from campus throughout the week.

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

- Item D. Request Approval to Negotiate and Execute a Contract with an Investment Management Firm

  Regent Proler announced that this item was pulled by Administration for further consideration by the committee before making a recommendation to the board.

  [No action taken]

VIII. Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee

Dr, Carl Goodman, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, & Mr. Ricky Strauss, Dual Credit Coordinator and Advisor, presented the following item for approval:

- Item A. Request Approval of an Interlocal Agreement Between Texas Southern University and the Houston Independent School District for a Dual Enrollment Partnership

  Dr. Goodman requested approval to enter an interlocal agreement between Texas Southern University and the Houston Independent School District to establish a dual enrollment partnership beginning in Fall 2026. The partnership will expand access to college level coursework for eligible high school students while creating academic and workforce pathways aligned with high demand industries. This agreement outlines collaboration related to student enrollment, instructional delivery, academic support services, data sharing, and program effectiveness. Dr. Goodman also highlighted the pilot partnership with Sterling high School and future expansion efforts with Yates High School through the FAST program.

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

IX. Personnel and Litigation Committee

Dr. Cynthia Buckley, Senior Associate Vice President of Human Resources, presented the following items for approval:

- Item A. Request Approval of the Appointment of Dr. David Rodney Smith as Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer

  Dr. Buckley requested approval for the appointment of Dr. David Rodney Smith as Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. Dr. Smith's qualifications and extensive experience in higher education leadership and administration were presented. Chairman Benham expressed support for Dr. Smith's leadership, professionalism, and commitment to the university.

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

- Item B. Request Approval of the Appointment of Mr. J'Maine Chubb as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

  Dr. Buckley requested approval for the appointment of Mr. J'Maine Chubb as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Chubb's extensive financial experience across transit, aviation, infrastructure, and private sector organizations was highlighted. He also has expertise in financial transformation, governance, and capital management. President Crawford addressed concerns regarding Mr. Chubbs lack of Higher Education background and emphasized the value of bringing experienced talent from outside of the higher education sector to strengthen the university's financial operations and strategic management.

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

X. Adjourn

With no further business pending before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Benham at 3:10 P.M.; Seconded by Regent Johnson; 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=746429

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 May 26, 2026.

____
Faith Ruiz
Executive Director
Board Relations Office

____
Date Approved by the Board

____
Marilyn A. Rose
Secretary
Board of Regents