

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
April 15, 2020**

The Board of Regents, Midwestern State University, met in special session via teleconference at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, 2020. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the shelter-in-place and social distancing order, individuals were connected to this meeting by telephone. President Shipley and Ms. Barrow joined the group via phone at the university, and the meeting was live-streamed as required.

Individuals connected to the meeting via teleconference were as follows:

Regents: Mr. Caven Crosnoe, Chairman  
Ms. Nancy Marks, Vice Chair  
Ms. Tiffany Burks, Secretary  
Mr. Warren Ayres  
Mr. Tony Fidelie  
Mr. Shawn Hessing  
Mr. Oku Okeke  
Dr. Shelley Sweatt  
Mr. Andrew Wolf, Student Regent

University Administration: President Suzanne Shipley  
Vice President for Administration and Finance Beth Reissenweber  
Vice President for Enrollment Management Fred Dietz  
General Counsel Barry Macha  
Director of Board and Government Relations Debbie Barrow

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Crosnoe called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m., and Ms. Barrow called the roll.

Public Comment

Chairman Crosnoe noted that although the Board was not meeting in-person, the public was provided the opportunity to provide comments via e-mail. He reported that no e-mails were received.

Delegation of Authority During COVID-19 Pandemic

20-66. Chairman Crosnoe indicated how pleased he was with the information they had received about everything that had taken place at MSU in response to COVID-19 during the last several weeks. He complimented everyone on their efforts as the university shifted to remote work and instruction. He noted this special meeting was called to consider this delegation of authority because the current situation changes quickly, and decisions made one day may need to be adjusted the following day. He added that similar action had been taken by other Texas universities and systems. He asked for a motion to place the item on the table for discussion.

Regent Marks moved that the Board of Regents authorize the President to exercise additional authority as described below to assure to the extent possible the continuity of all necessary and essential operations while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of MSU Texas students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the public served by the institution during the state and nation's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This includes the approval of contracts and agreements, the transfer of funds, and the suspension or modification of policies such as but not limited to admissions criteria as necessary to serve MSU students, faculty, and staff.

I move this delegation of authority to be effective immediately and continue in force until determined by the Chairman of the Board that it is no longer needed and may be terminated. Finally, I move the President shall consult with the Chairman before exercising such additional delegated authority and shall report to the Board actions taken under this authority at the next scheduled meeting of the Board.

Regent Sweatt seconded the motion.

Chairman Crosnoe asked President Shipley to comment on anything new the Board should know about the university's response to COVID-19 and discuss what situations might require this delegation of authority.

President Shipley reported that she, too, was proud of the faculty, staff, and students for their quick, nimble, and positive reaction to the crisis. She updated the Board on the federal funding the university would receive from the CARES Act totaling \$4.4 million. One-half of the funds are designated to provide students with emergency financial aid grants to help cover expenses related to the disruption of their semester of learning due to the Coronavirus. She added that the Cabinet would have a virtual retreat the following day to discuss what the future could look like in the fall.

President Shipley noted that this delegation of authority would allow her, like other presidents and chancellors in the state, to make more immediate decisions when necessary in the coming weeks and months, in consultation with Chairman Crosnoe. She stated that some examples for when this authority could be used include modifying admissions standards as they relate to required tests or approving special contracts for housing at rates previously not authorized during the pandemic.

President Shipley added that financial reductions at Baylor University and the University of Texas at Austin were reported in the morning's newspaper and provided examples of how quickly serious decisions are being made in higher education. Dr. Shipley noted that in general, this granting of additional authority would help MSU react to time-sensitive issues arising from the COVID-19 virus. She pointed out in particular that the motion stated that any use of the authority would be in consultation with the Board Chairman, would be reported to the Board, and would be in effect for a limited time only.

There being no questions or discussion, Chairman Crosnoe asked Ms. Barrow to call the roll of the Regents. The motion was approved unanimously.

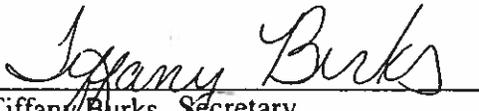
Closing Comments

Chairman Crosnoe thanked the Regents for their participation in the meeting. He noted that the next regular meeting of the Board would be a virtual meeting Thursday, May 14.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

I, Tiffany Burks, the fully appointed and qualified Secretary of the Midwestern State University Board of Regents, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Midwestern State University Board of Regents meeting April 15, 2020.

  
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Tiffany Burks, Secretary  
Midwestern State University  
Board of Regents