

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
May 14, 2020**

The Board of Regents, Midwestern State University, met in a virtual teleconference on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. There was no physical location for the meeting.

Individuals participating in the virtual teleconference were as follows:

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

University Administration: President Suzanne Shipley  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs James Johnston  
Vice President for Administration and Finance Beth Reissenweber  
Vice President for Student Affairs Keith Lamb  
Vice President for Enrollment Management Fred Dietz  
Vice President for University Advancement and Public Affairs  
Tony Vidmar  
Associate Vice President for Facilities Services Kyle Owen  
Director of Athletics Kyle Williams  
General Counsel Barry Macha  
Chief Audit Executive Leigh Kidwell  
Director of Board and Government Relations Debbie Barrow

Governance Representatives: Dr. David Carlston, Faculty Senate Chair  
Ms. Reagan Foster, Staff Senate Chair  
Ms. Kerdell Cuffy, Student Government Association (SGA)  
President 2019-2020  
Ms. Shelbi Stogdill, SGA President 2020-2021

Per a duly posted notice and there being a quorum present, Chair Crosnoe called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Opening Comments and Introductions**

Chair Crosnoe welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the administration for their efforts in putting together the virtual meeting. He noted that the meeting was being live-

streamed and closed-captioned over the internet. Ms. Barrow called the role to establish a quorum and identified individuals participating in the virtual meeting via WebEx connection. Chair Crosnoe acknowledged Student Regent Andrew Wolf and noted this would be his final board meeting. He commended Student Regent Wolf for his service and indicated he had represented the student body well. Andrew expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the university and represent the students of MSU. He reported his plan to graduate in the spring of 2021 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biology and to attend medical school.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Crosnoe noted that the Board provides an opportunity for public comment concerning agenda items at the beginning of each meeting. He reported that in February, the Board asked President Shipley to begin conversations with the campus, community, and alumni regarding the invitation the Board received for MSU to become a member of the Texas Tech University (TTU) System. Chair Crosnoe stated that during the various meetings held, it was announced that a public comment period would be provided at the May Board meeting for individuals to express their opinion regarding this possible affiliation. He noted that with the virtual format of this meeting, the administration established a dedicated e-mail address for individuals to provide comments. He asked Ms. Barrow to read the submitted comments into the record.

Ms. Barrow reported that eight individuals submitted comments. She read the comments into the record. A copy of these messages is included in the minutes, as shown in Attachment 1.

After the reading of the public comments, Chair Crosnoe stated that the Board would discuss the matter of university governance later in the meeting.

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes**

20-67. The Board of Regents approved the minutes of the February 13 and April 15, 2020 Board of Regents meetings as presented.

### **Faculty Report**

20-68. Dr. David Carlston, Faculty Senate Chair, provided information on behalf of the faculty. He commented on the transition to remote/online teaching as a result of COVID-19. He mentioned some of the challenges faced, as well as the response of the administration to provide opportunities for faculty input. Dr. Carlston reported on the continued efforts of the university to make processes electronic, which will help students, faculty, and staff. He also discussed the possible TTU System alliance, reporting on a faculty survey on the matter, with 35% of the faculty participating. Dr. Carlston noted that 86% of the respondents were in favor of the institution pursuing joining the System. He reviewed some of the perceived benefits and concerns of the faculty. He concluded by commending the administration for their decision making during the pandemic and their involvement of faculty in various processes.

### **Staff Report**

20-69. Ms. Reagan Foster, Staff Senate Chair, reported on behalf of the staff. She expressed appreciation to the administration for addressing the health and safety concerns of employees early in the COVID-19 crisis. She added that the Staff Senate values the

opportunity to participate in shared governance, particularly as part of the Budget Oversight Committee. Ms. Foster noted the staff appreciated the opportunity to participate in the open conversations regarding the TTU System. She indicated the Staff Senate's support of the administration and Board as the process moves forward.

### **Student Government Report**

20-70. SGA President Kerdell Cuffy's report was presented in the Board Book, and she highlighted some of the key points in the report. She commented on the changes in the spring as a result of COVID-19, and the possible affiliation with the TTU System. She noted that the most significant reservation expressed regarding such an alliance pertained to how the interests of MSU Texas can be protected through the agreement that will be approved.

Ms. Cuffy then introduced Ms. Shelbi Stogdill, the SGA President for 2020-2021. Ms. Stogdill stated that she is a senior and is triple majoring in political science, history, global studies. She added that she is from Iowa, and is a Priddy Scholar.

Ms. Marks congratulated Shelbi on her election and indicated the Board looked forward to working with her in the coming year. She thanked Kerdell for the great job she did as SGA President and wished her well in the future.

### **Athletics Report**

20-71. Regent Marks stated that the Athletics Report was included in the Board Book, as was information regarding student-athlete retention, graduation rates, and spring GPA goals for the teams. Mr. Williams reviewed this information, noting that the department continues its efforts to improve the academic performance of the student-athletes.

### **Enrollment Management Report**

20-72. Vice President Dietz's report was included in the Board Book, and he reviewed this information with the Board. He added that forecasting enrollment for the fall was quite difficult with COVID-19 but that Summer I enrollment was up 4.7% over last year, and Summer II was up 2.6%, which was encouraging. He noted that early fall enrollment figures were down, but that housing applications for new and returning students were up.

The Board thanked Mr. Dietz and his staff for their efforts with the campaign to call all students enrolled in the spring semester. Mr. Dietz indicated it was a team effort with individuals from throughout the campus participating.

### **Academic Affairs Report**

20-73. Provost Johnston stated that the administration continued to work with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) on the university's proposals to offer doctoral programs in Educational Leadership and Radiologic Sciences. He reported that the THECB had asked that the two applications be staggered. Dr. Johnston noted that since the doctoral degree in Radiologic Sciences is the first of its kind, the THECB asked that the MSU faculty and administration work with their staff on proposal details and resubmit it in the fall. He added that the Educational Leadership degree proposal would move forward as scheduled.

### **May 2020 Graduating Class**

20-74. Regent Marks reported that the list of candidates for May graduation consisted of 744 students compared to 754 in 2019.

Regent Marks moved approval of this item as presented. Regent Sweatt seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Addition of Graduate Academic Degree Program**

20-75. Provost Johnston reviewed the proposed addition of a new online Master of Professional Studies (MPS) program, as outlined in the Board Book.

Regent Marks moved approval of this item as presented. Regent Sweatt seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Addition of Academic Minor in the Fain College of Fine Arts**

20-76. Provost Johnston reviewed the proposed addition of an academic minor in multimedia production, noting this was another of the new signature minors offered at MSU, as outlined in the Board Book.

Regent Marks moved approval of this item as presented. Regent Ayres seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU – Ratification of Art Work Accessions**

20-77. Regent Marks reported that the Museum Director and Curator, as well as the Museum Advisory Board, approved the accession of the artwork shown in the Board Book to the Museum's Permanent Collection.

Regent Marks moved the Board ratify this action as recommended by the administration. Regent Fidelie seconded the motion, and it was approved.

### **Faculty Emeritus Status, and Faculty Promotions and Tenure**

20-78 & 79. Regent Marks noted that these items would be discussed in closed session later in the meeting. She added that Provost Johnston was available to answer questions related to the emeritus, tenure, or promotion processes. There being no process-only questions, the meeting continued.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m. and resumed at 10:31 a.m.

### **Summaries of Financial Support and Comprehensive Campaign Update**

20-80. Regent Ayres highlighted gifts received to assist MSU Texas students with needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice President Vidmar reviewed the summaries of financial support that were presented in the Board Book. President Shipley reported that the university had raised more than \$50,000 in the last two months for the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund, Mustangs Pantry, and the Canan Food Security Program to support MSU students.

### **Financial Report**

20-81. The January, February, and March 2020 Financial Reports were accepted upon a motion by Regent Ayres and second by Regent Hessing.

### **Investment Report**

20-82. The Board of Regents accepted the second quarter FY 20 investment report upon a motion by Regent Ayres and second by Regent Fidelie.

### **Public Funds Investment Act Compliance**

20-83. In compliance with the Public Funds Investment Act, Chapter 2256.008, the Board of Regents approved Vice President for Administration and Finance Reissenweber's and Controller Stovall's required training on the Texas Public Funds Investment Act, upon a motion by Regent Ayres and second by Regent Pang.

### **FY 2019-2020 Items \$50,000 & Under Approved per Board Authorization**

20-84. Regent Ayres moved the ratification of the budget change as presented in the Board Book. This motion was seconded by Regent Marks and approved.

### **Salary/Title/Position Changes in FY 20 Budget**

20-85. The Board Book included reports of personnel changes in January, February, and March 2020 that were presented for information only. New positions approved by the President and Board Chair, and salary, title, and position changes presented were ratified upon a motion by Regent Ayres and a second by Regent Okeke.

### **Construction Update**

20-86. The Board Book included several reports on current construction projects for the Regents' information. Associate Vice President Owen reviewed the photographs of ongoing projects, as shown in the Board Book. This item was presented as a point of information only.

### **Capital Expenditure Plan (MP1) Report – FY 2021-2025**

20-87. Regent Ayres stated that each year the THECB requests an update of the university's five-year plan for new construction, land acquisition, information resource projects, and major repair and renovation projects. He indicated that a copy of the proposed MP1 report was included in the Board Book. Associate Vice President Owen noted that this report was a listing of any project the university might pursue during the next five years. He stated that these projects had not been funded, but were projects that could possibly be pursued in the future.

Regent Ayres moved approval of this item as presented. Regent Pang seconded the motion, and it was approved.

### **Facilities Shops Complex Budget Authorization**

20-88. Regent Ayres reported that the Board had previously discussed with the administration possible enhancements to this project, including the addition of brick pilasters in the fencing if funding allowed. He noted that the administration had identified funds and

requested authorization to increase the project's budget as outlined in the Board Book for this purpose.

Regent Ayres moved the Board authorize this \$72,000 budget increase as presented.

Regent Hessing seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)**

20-89. President Shipley noted that the LAR would be developed during the summer, and the administration was requesting authorization to proceed with plans to include an exceptional item request to renovate Bolin Science Hall. She stated that with the drop in oil prices and the loss of sales revenue as a result of the pandemic, the forecast of funding for the upcoming biennium is not good. Dr. Shipley added that as the summer progressed and more information became available, the administration's plan for an exceptional item request could change. She stated that she would work with Chair Crosnoe and report to the Board in August on the strategies that will ultimately fall in line with the information that is received.

Regent Ayres moved the Board authorize the President to proceed with planning our request for the renovation of Bolin Science Hall, and authorize her to work with the Board Chairman to determine final submission materials as needed in the coming months. Regent Hessing seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Standards of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Disclosure, and Ethics Commission Filing Compliance**

20-90. Regent Burks presented this item as a point of information, asking each regent, other than the Student Regent, to certify in writing their understanding of and compliance with state and university ethics and conflicts of interest policies. She noted that regents must also certify their filing of the required Personal Financial Statement with the Texas Ethics Commission; the deadline this year for filing this statement has been extended to July 15.

### **Compliance Update**

20-91. The Compliance Update was included in the Board Book as a point of information and was presented without discussion.

### **Internal Audit Update**

20-92. The Internal Audit Update was included in the Board Book as a point of information and was presented without discussion.

### **Gift Management Audit Report 19-06**

20-93. Chief Audit Executive Leigh Kidwell presented the Gift Management Audit Report 19-06 for approval. The report was approved upon a motion by Regent Burks and a second by Regent Pang.

### **Holiday Schedule for Staff Employees – 2020-2021**

20-94. The holiday schedule was explained and presented in the Board Book. The schedule was approved upon a motion by Regent Burks and a second by Regent Ayres.

### **MSU Policies and Procedures Manual Changes**

20-95. General Counsel Macha presented information regarding the proposed policy revisions related to UPP 3-160, Expressive Activities on Campus, and UPP 3-450, Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, as shown in the Board Book. He noted that the policies had been reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate.

Regent Burks moved approval of these policy changes as presented. Regent Okeke seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Modification to Board of Regents Bylaws – Board Self-Evaluation**

20-96. Regents Burks noted that the proposed modification to the Board Bylaws is recommended to meet the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation requirement that the Board of Regents formally and regularly evaluates its responsibilities and expectations. She added that following approval, Ms. Barrow would finalize the development of an assessment instrument that would meet SACSCOC guidelines.

Regent Burks moved approval of this change as presented. Regent Ayres seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **University Leadership Report**

20-97. President Shipley provided information on how the university responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March by pivoting to remote and online teaching and the majority of employees working remotely. She included an update on CARES Act funding that was being distributed to students who were eligible under federal guidelines. She noted the information in the Board Book of approved policy exceptions related to testing not available because of the pandemic. President Shipley reported that the Reopen Campus Task Force, chaired by Provost Johnston and Vice President Lamb, would be working to address planning as staff, faculty, and then students return to campus. She added that the Budget Oversight Committee would work with the administration as a solid plan for progress is developed. She indicated appreciation for the support of the Board of Regents during this challenging time. She noted that the administration had benefitted from the expertise shared by the leadership of the Texas Tech University System. President Shipley added appreciation to the hard-working faculty and staff who made the transition as painless for the students and as effective for the university as possible.

### **Midwestern State University Governance**

20-98. Chair Crosnoe stated that he would begin the discussion by stating for the record a summary of what had transpired since the last meeting. He noted that the conversation regarding the possibility of MSU joining the Texas Tech University System had been ongoing since the February Board meeting and subsequent faculty/staff meetings, a press conference, and various meetings on and off-campus. While the sheltering in place that began in March modified additional conversations that were anticipated in March and April, the administration and Board remained engaged during the last two months, and the Board heard opinions and thoughts from many individuals. The university had scheduled a trip for interested Regents, faculty, staff, and students to visit Angelo State University to talk with their counterparts when everything shut down. Since in-person

meetings were not possible, the President's Office provided contact information and encouraged departments, governance groups, and individuals on campus to reach out to their counterparts at ASU through virtual meetings or telephone calls. He noted that from the reports presented at the Board meeting, individuals took advantage of this opportunity. At the end of April, a virtual town hall meeting was live-streamed with Chair Crosnoe and Vice Chair Marks answering questions from faculty, staff, and students. As intended, public comments were received at the beginning of this May meeting. Chair Crosnoe then opened the floor for discussion and asked Ms. Barrow to call on each Board member to provide comments.

Regents discussed the feedback they each received regarding MSU's possible affiliation with the TTU System. Individuals indicated that they had gathered information and had discussions with people in the community as well as alumni and supporters. Regents reported receiving both positive and negative comments, most noting that the majority of the feedback had been positive. It was mentioned that the university had done an excellent job keeping the community informed and answering questions. A Board member stated that with the changing landscape of higher education, this move could help MSU navigate through a higher education environment that did not exist twenty years ago. It was stated that this could offer MSU a competitive edge and move the university forward.

A Regent commented that it would be impossible to determine what future boards would do, positively or negatively, but that the MSU Board should do what they believe is best for the students of this institution with the available information. A recurring theme of the discussion was that the Regents did not want MSU to lose its identity or traditions. Several mentioned that the details included in the memorandum of understanding would be significant, particularly as they relate to the areas determined as non-negotiable.

Chair Crosnoe raised the matter of the university's name since it was mentioned in some of the public comments earlier in the meeting. During the discussion, it was noted that at the beginning, it was agreed that the name of Midwestern State University was non-negotiable, and such a statement was included in the information distributed to constituents. None of the Regents spoke in favor considering a change of name at this time in the process.

Following the discussion, Regent Ayres moved that in light of the Board's interest in expanding the dialogue with the Texas Tech University System regarding their invitation to MSU to consider joining the System, the Midwestern State University Board of Regents authorize President Shipley to enter into the process of negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Tech University System in conjunction with the MSU Board Chair so that the Board of Regents can be fully informed by its August 6, 2020 meeting. Regent Hessing seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Nominating Committee for Board Officers for FY 2021 and FY 2022**

20-99. Chair Crosnoe stated that the Board Bylaws require the election of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee in August of even-

numbered years. He asked Regent Hessing, Regent Ayres, and Regent Okeke to serve on this committee with Regent Hessing serving as Chair.

### **Recess**

The Board of Regents meeting recessed for lunch at 11:36 a.m. and resumed at 12:13 p.m.

### **Executive Session**

20-100. Chair Crosnoe announced that the Board of Regents would go into Executive Session to discuss the following: Items 20-100A (Consultation with Attorney), 20-100B (Real Property), and 20-78, 20-79, and 20-100D (Personnel Matters – to include Faculty Emeritus, Tenure, and Promotion; Consideration and Appropriate Action Regarding the Recommendation of Faculty Due Process Hearing Committee Concerning Termination of a Tenured Faculty Member; as well as annual performance review of the President and Chief Audit Executive), as allowed by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, .072, and .074. He noted that no action would be taken in Executive Session, and, following the Executive Session, the Board would reconvene in Open Session.

The Executive Session began at 12:13 p.m. Individuals remaining for the complete session were Regents Crosnoe, Marks, Sweatt, Hessing, Ayres, Fidelie, Okeke, Burks, Pang, and Wolf. Provost Johnston remained for the first part of the discussion until 12:50 p.m. President Shipley, Mr. Macha, and Ms. Barrow remained for various other parts of discussion until 1:35 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 1:54 p.m.

### **Open Meeting**

The open meeting resumed at 1:57 p.m. Chair Crosnoe reported that the closed session was complete; the only items discussed were the items announced, and no votes were taken.

### **Emeritus Status**

20-78. Regent Marks moved the following individuals be granted emeritus status upon their retirement from MSU.

- Dr. Phillip Wilson – Associate Professor of Marketing – 17 years of service
- Dr. Michaelle Kitchen – Associate Professor of Counseling – 24 years of service
- Mr. Richard Simpson – Assistant Professor of Computer Science – 39 years of service

Regent Sweatt seconded the motion and it was approved.

### **Faculty Promotions and Tenure**

20-79. Regent Marks recommended approval of the following.

#### Granting Tenure to the Following Individuals:

Shih Yung Chou, Ph.D.	Management
Leah Gose, M.F.A.	Art

Granting Tenure and Promotion From the Rank of Assistant Professor to Associate Professor:

Jennifer Anderson, Ed.D.	Respiratory Care
Ben Atkins, Ph.D.	Criminal Justice
Eduardo Colmenares, Ph.D.	Computer Science
Pablo Garcia-Fuentes, Ph.D.	Economics
Marcos Lopez, Ph.D.	Mathematics
Scott Manley, D.B.A.	Management
Thuy Nguyen, Ph.D.	Management
Melissa Nivens, Ph.D.	English
Morgan Page, M.F.A.	Art
Jonathon Quam, M.F.A.	Mass Communication
John Schulze, Ph.D.	English

Granting Promotion from Associate Professor to Professor to the Following Individuals:

Betty Bowles, Ph.D.	Nursing
Margaret Brown Marsden, Ph.D.	Biology
Nathan Jun, Ph.D.	Philosophy

Regent Ayres seconded the motion and it was approved.

**Consideration, Discussion, and Appropriate Action Regarding Recommendation of Faculty Due Process Hearing Committee Concerning Termination of a Tenured Faculty Member**

20-100D1. Regent Hessing made the following motion.

Based upon the evidentiary record from the hearing held on April 3, 2020, by the Faculty Due Process Hearing Committee regarding the termination of N. Sugumaran Narayanan, Ph.D., for good cause due to neglect of his professional duties as a tenured faculty member at Midwestern State University, I move that the Board:

Sustain the Faculty Hearing Committee's unanimous findings of good cause for the dismissal of Dr. Narayanan's tenure and employment at Midwestern State University due to neglect of his professional duties, to wit:

1. Dr. Narayanan's failure to return a signed contract accepting the University's offer of employment for the 2019-2020 academic year by the time of the first faculty reporting date (August 19, 2019);
2. Dr. Narayanan's failure to report for the first day of 2019-2020 academic year meetings (August 19, 2019) without prior notification that he would not be present;
3. Dr. Narayanan's failure to be present on the first day of class (August 26, 2019) and failure to teach his Fall 2019 teaching assignment in spite of being notified of his Fall 2019 teaching by the provost (January 16, 2019 and May 13, 2019); and

Regent Burks seconded the motion, and it was approved by a vote of 8-0, with Regent Fidelie abstaining from the vote.

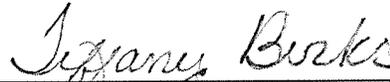
**Closing Comments**

Chair Crosnoe thanked the Regents for their participation in the meeting. He noted that the next regular meeting of the Board would be Thursday, August 6.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:04 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 May 14, 2020.



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Tiffany Burks, Secretary  
Midwestern State University  
Board of Regents

ATTACHMENT:

1. Transcribed Public Comments Received by E-mail

**Public Comments**  
**(presented as they were submitted via e-mail)**

**David Carlston – MSU Professor**

Prior to the COVID pandemic, I felt very positively about MSU Texas joining the TTU system. At that time, I was very excited regarding the potential merger. In no particular order, I was especially excited for the potential 1) enrollment growth from extended brand recognition, 2) ability to utilize system staff to supplement the existing infrastructure, 3) opportunities to students applying to TTU graduate programs, 4) extended lobbying power available to the institution, 5) to provide a unique niche of liberal arts education within the TTU system, and 6) ability to gain insight into process efficiencies and best practices, minimizing our dependence on expensive outside consultants. MSU Texas is often referred to as the best kept secret in higher ed. Moreover, the university, for multiple reasons, often appears to be provincial - a quaint small-town university with a pretty campus. This merger is the means to change that narrative.

I am even more in favor of the merger given today's pandemic. Higher ed will not be the same post-COVID-19. The above mentioned benefits will become even more important. Moreover, the ability to have a partner/ally to navigate the coming changes is essential to the survival of the institution.

I applaud the Board's courage to consider pursuing this significant endeavor. I strongly support the proposed joining of MSU Texas with the TTU system.

**Bradley Wilson, Ph.D. – MSU Mass Communication Department**

First of all, know that I strongly support becoming a part of the Texas Tech System. This is a win for the students. It's a win for the staff. And it's a win for the faculty. Indeed, I wish it had happened years ago.

That said, I do remain concerned about the loss of the faculty voice in decision making at the highest levels. We have worked hard to increase shared governance in the last few years and have made good strides. I'd like to know what steps the current Board members hope to take as part of the Memo of Understanding between MSU Texas and the Texas Tech Board to ensure that faculty have input as stakeholders in almost every decision the Texas Tech Board will make.

Finally, I hope the MOU will include regular meetings of the Texas Tech Board here in Wichita Falls. The Board members could meet twice in Lubbock, once in El Paso, once in San Angelo and once in Wichita Falls for their five meetings each year that they have scheduled.

**Dr. Nathan Jun - MSU Associate Professor of Philosophy**

Good morning:

As a member of the faculty who has served the university for nearly 12 years, I wish to express my absolute and unequivocal support for the proposal to join the Texas Tech system. I applaud

both the administration and the Board for taking such a bold and decisive step to secure the future of our institution.

At the same time, I would respectfully urge this body to give serious consideration to renaming the university in conjunction with said proposal.

My reasons for doing so are two-fold.

First, it is no secret that many of our stakeholders regard the university's current name as a liability. Quite apart from the fact that it is puzzling—especially to people from outside Wichita Falls and the surrounding region—there is a great deal of evidence to suggest it is undermining efforts to increase enrollment and raise our institutional visibility both inside and outside Texas. Although I understand and appreciate the importance of honoring tradition, the costs of doing so in this case are almost certainly outweighed by the costs. Renaming ourselves "Texas Tech University – Wichita Falls" (or something similar) would bring with it the instant prestige of the Tech brand, elevating our public profile and enhance perceptions of the value of earning a diploma under our auspices. At the risk of stating the obvious, this would be huge boon to marketing, promotion, and recruitment, among other things.

Second, and more philosophically, joining the TTU system provides MSU with a long-overdue opportunity to reinvent itself—to undertake a "fresh start," as it were. Though eminently understandable, sentimental attachment to our current name—and the past more generally—exemplifies what is arguably one of our greatest weaknesses: timidity and indecision in the face of change. I contend that changing our name would signal a clear commitment to the future and a willingness to embrace the bold and exciting prospects that lay in store for us as a member of the TTU family.

I freely admit that my view of this issue may not be representative of MSU's various constituencies and have no misgivings about deferring to the will of the majority. That said, I can anecdotally attest to the fact that large numbers of students and faculty—especially younger faculty who came to us from outside Texas—are strongly in favor of what I am proposing.

On a final and tangentially related note, I would be remiss if I didn't express my profound appreciation for our president, Dr. Suzanne Shipley, for her skillful and decisive leadership during the Covid-19 crisis. I know I speak for many faculty members when I say that the captain of the good ship MSU has not only kept her afloat, but also steered us all toward calmer seas.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and best wishes to the entire MSU family for continued health, happiness, and safety.

**Michael A. Vandehey, Ph.D. – MSU Professor of Psychology & Graduate Program Coordinator**

Greetings,

It is my opinion that a name change including Texas Tech would attract more students over the long run. If we join this system, I hope we will seriously consider a name change to indicate our membership.

**Beth L. Vealé, PhD., RT(R) (QM) – MSU Professor/Chair, The Shimadzu School of Radiologic Sciences**

I have thought long and hard about this and I cannot find any reason not to join with Texas Tech. As you have assured us we will maintain the identity of MSU Texas and the integrity of programs and faculty, I feel that the information provided me as a faculty and community member has been truthful and in-depth enough to garner my support. The transparency with which Dr. Shipley and Dr. Johnston have approached this along with access to San Angelo State administration, faculty, and staff has been outstanding. I trust you, as the Board of Regents, will make the best decision on our behalf.

Thank you for your diligence and care in this complicated matter.

**Morgan Page, M.F.A. – MSU Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, Juanita and Ralph Harvey School of Visual Arts, Lamar D. Fain Fine Arts Center**

Hello,

I have reached out to several faculty in the art department at Angelo State inquiring as to the advantages and challenges of joining the Texas Tech University system. Three faculty have replied to me and all of them have had positive remarks. They have mentioned that they can only speak to changes in their own department, but that joining the TTU system has provided added support for travel monies and scholarships, as well as considerably improved their recruitment and retention efforts.

Thank you.

**Linda Powers – MSU Alum, Class of 1968**

Recently I listened to a program recorded, April 30. Positives were covered but negatives, probable negatives, potential and possible negatives were not. The negatives are probably more important to understand than the positives in making a responsible decision. Has a thorough study been done in that regard on each point of the proposal and in general with an overall view keeping in mind boards change and what is promised today may not be the reality tomorrow. If not, when will a thorough study be done? Please discuss today and then provide a comprehensive list of the negative possibilities as soon as possible.

**Teresa Pontius Caves – MSU Alum, 1987 BBA Marketing, 1998 MA Human Resources Development**

MSU Texas Board of Regents and Dr. Suzanne Shipley:

As a 1987 and 1998 graduate of Midwestern State University, I would like to offer my support of the Texas Tech's invitation for MSU Texas to join its system. I encourage the Board of Regents to strongly consider this invitation.

First and foremost, I believe it would benefit the students with an enhanced "brand" of their graduating university!

Second, I believe being part of a larger college system in the State of Texas would offer a more robust funding/lobbying position for MSU Texas.

Respectfully submitted.