

## Agenda Item No. 5.5

### AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Bill Mahomes, Chairman, Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Authorizing and Directing the Interim President of Texas A&M University to Form a Special Exploratory Committee Regarding Commemorating the University's Renewed Rivalry with The University of Texas at Austin

#### **Proposed Board Action:**

Authorize and direct the interim president of Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) to form a Special Exploratory Committee to study and recommend appropriate ways to commemorate the university's renewed rivalry with The University of Texas at Austin (UT).

#### **Background Information:**

On July 1, 2024, UT (along with the University of Oklahoma) will become a member of the Southeastern Conference (SEC), reviving its rivalry with Texas A&M University. Prior to Texas A&M joining the SEC in 2012, Texas A&M and UT enjoyed a historic rivalry, playing 118 times in football and many times in other sports. This rivalry was the inspiration for many traditions at both Texas A&M and UT, including Texas A&M's Bonfire, the lyrics of *The Aggie War Hymn* and *The Spirit of Aggieland*, the name of UT's mascot Bevo, and the lyrics to UT's fight song *Texas Fight*. The revival of this historic rivalry will be eagerly anticipated by both universities, their respective students and alumni, and sports fans across the country.

The interim president of Texas A&M should be authorized and directed to form a special exploratory committee to study and recommend to the interim president appropriate ways for the university to celebrate and commemorate this renewed rivalry. The special exploratory committee will be advisory to the interim president and the committee will expire January 1, 2025, unless the board authorizes the special exploratory committee to act for a longer period.

#### **A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

Sufficient funds to support the operating expenses (staff support, travel, etc.) of the special exploratory committee are included as part of the overall budget of Texas A&M.

#### **Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

In advancement of Imperative 1, all qualified students will find a place in the A&M System and have an array of pathways to pursue their ambitions and interests.

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**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Office of the Board of Regents

October 26, 2023

Members, Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorizing and Directing the Interim President of Texas A&M University to Form a Special Exploratory Committee Regarding Commemorating the University's Renewed Rivalry with The University of Texas at Austin

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

**“The interim president of Texas A&M University is authorized and directed to form a Special Exploratory Committee to study and recommend ways to appropriately commemorate the university’s renewed rivalry with The University of Texas at Austin, with functions and membership as described in the agenda item. This Special Exploratory Committee shall expire January 1, 2025, unless the board authorizes the committee to act for a longer period.”**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Bill Mahomes  
Chairman

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

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Ray Bonilla  
General Counsel