



Texas Coalition *for*
Excellence *in* Higher Education

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COALITION CALLS ON TEXAS A&M SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS TO DE-POLITICIZE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PROCESS

AUSTIN—The Texas A&M System Board of Regents will [meet tomorrow](#) to discuss “possible action regarding the appointment of Interim President of Texas A&M University.” The meeting comes following the retirement of President Bowen Loftin and has highlighted tension between Chancellor Sharp and Governor Perry who appear to have differing visions for the leadership of the institution. The Coalition issued the following statement:

“At this pivotal point in the university’s history, we urge the Texas A&M System Board of Regents to choose an interim president who is experienced, qualified and capable to lead one of our state’s Tier One research institutions. Any decision made about future leaders should be transparent, free of political interference and with an eye toward excellence in higher education. We share concerns raised by Texas A&M faculty and others about this process, and look to the Board of Regents to stem the tide of turmoil and controversy that has unfortunately characterized Texas A&M University over the last few years. Our state’s public teaching and research institutions are public treasures whose leadership positions should go to strong, visionary and experienced individuals—not doled out as political favors.”

The Coalition counts among its members many prominent alumni of Texas A&M, including: Distinguished Alumnus and former Texas A&M President Ray Bowen; Distinguished Alumnus and former Regent Don Aviles; Distinguished Alumnus Gerry Griffin; Distinguished Alumnus Jon Hagler; Distinguished Alumnus Jerry Cox; Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Education and Human Development Arno Krebs; and Past Chair of the Association of Former Students Chuck Ellison.

About the Coalition

The Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education was launched in the summer of 2011 by a group of concerned citizens who believe strongly in the power of higher education to transform lives, build our economy and shape Texas’ future. Formed in response to a growing concern over recommendations being floated that could have long-term damaging effects on our institutions of higher learning, the Coalition hopes to advance a thoughtful, constructive and transparent dialogue around higher education in Texas, seeking to improve the quality educational opportunities for all Texans.

***For more information on the Coalition and information on higher education in Texas, please visit:
www.TexasEducationExcellence.org***

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