

TSU Continued from Front Page



Millennium Leadership Institute (MLI), the premier professional development program for senior higher education leaders who desire to become university presidents and chancellors. Additionally, she served as assistant to the president for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

Dr. Sias brings a broad range of administrative proficiencies on a state and national level. She has served as chairperson of two of the big six national organizations in higher education: the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Additional board experiences include service as chairperson of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAC), the Educational Testing Service Advisory Board for HBCUs and president of both the Tejas Council of Girl Scouts and The Dallas Summit. Dr. Sias has also amassed a range of community engagement competencies serving on the board of directors for the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce, the Oaks Bank and Trust Company, The Dallas Foundation, Dallas Zoological Society, The Dallas Museum, Children’s Health Services of Texas, Children’s Medical Foundation and Leadership Women.

According to the University, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Dakota Doman, will remain in place until the beginning of the interim presidency term on June 30th.

The decision to appoint Dr. Sias is a much-needed bandaidthat concerns still remain as the TSU Board of Regents seeks to hire their 4th president in less than 10 years.

Corrie Williams, President of Texas Southern University National Alumni Association, addressed the TSU Board of Regents at the special called meeting, regarding some of the TSU alumni’s pressing concerns and demands, which include:

- Having one person or one department designated to answer questions from incoming freshman students, so that those students don’t have to call multiple departments and oftentimes wait on hold for extended periods of time to have their questions answered.
- Wanting the TSU Board of Regents to have the University put out a statement to clear up current housing miscommunications with students and parents and work on securing and/or building additional on-campus housing.
- Hiring adequate faculty and staff to improve customer service and student services in all capacities of the University.
- Not having too many staff members serving in multiple roles because they are stretched too thin and unable to give 100% to the role they were hired to do.
- Requesting that each college at the University be fully staffed with deans by the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, and not continue to have as many interim deans the University currently has.
- Guaranteeing that TSU traditions will remain intact regardless of who the TSU Board chooses to hire as the next president.
- Keeping an adequate number of alumni on the TSU Presidential Search Committee.
- Allowing any presidential finalists to meet with TSU students and TSU alumni prior to being chosen as president.
- Ensuring a well-planned, well-executed, and well-funded Homecoming celebration every year, for the purpose of reconnecting and reengaging TSU alumni, so that they can return and give back to the University and its students.
- An interim president (as stated earlier in the article, the TSU Board made that decision on the same day of the special called meeting).
- Refusing and protesting any plan by the TSU Board of Regents to place TSU under a system by the state of Texas.

It is no secret that there have long been discussions among state legislators in Texas, and other key players across the state of Texas, regarding Texas Southern University (TSU) being potentially taken over and becoming part of a state university system.

There are currently 38 public colleges and universities in the state of Texas, and out of those, only TSU remains as the only independent public university that is not a part of one of the seven (7) state university systems. Prairie View A&M University, the only other public HBCU in Texas, is currently under the Texas A&M University system.

This proposed idea has always been balked against by TSU alumni, faculty members, previous administrations at the University, as well as community stakeholders and education advocates. However, year after year, those conversations continue to bubble up and cause the community to rise up and come to TSU’s defense to remain the independent institution it was founded as.

These concerns became even more intense after Texas State Senator Borris L. Miles (D) issued a statement about TSU remaining an independent HBCU on June 15th. The statement read:

“Last month, members of the Texas Southern University (TSU) Board of Regents met with members and leadership of the Texas House of Representatives to discuss the possibility of TSU joining one of the state’s university systems. I was not aware of the meeting until after it took place. I cannot support TSU joining a system now and I will not support TSU joining a system in the future. TSU was founded to be an independent Historically Black College and University (HBCU) for African American students. Putting TSU under the flag of another university system would go against the very reason this university was created. More importantly, under the leadership of another university system, TSU would be subjected to another system’s priorities that might not be in tune with this HBCU’s unique mission or its priorities. It is crucial that TSU maintain its independence in order for the school and more importantly, its diverse student body, to grow and thrive. I am committed to making TSU a great, independent HBCU, that is fully funded with the resources to ensure its success. Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight!”

In response to the outcry from many stakeholders, the following statement was sent to the Forward Times from the TSU Board of Regents:

“The Texas Southern University Board of Regents has shared publicly on multiple occasions the expressed desire for our great institution to remain an independent, public university. The board believes the unique history, talent incubation for a diverse Texas, and growing research and academic offerings are just some of the reasons to support the case for independence for TSU. We recognize that no actions on the state level take place without the

consent and approval of our esteemed elected officials, the statement continues. “We look forward to joining our state legislators to ensure the continued and collaborative path of independent success for Texas Southern University.”

Founded in 1927, TSU has a tremendous historical significance, as well as the distinction of being designated a special-purpose institution for urban programming and research. TSU was birthed during a time in American history, where the racist and segregationist challenges that African Americans were facing in Texas, made it difficult for Blacks to further their education.

Since its founding, TSU has not only become one of the most diverse and respected institutions in Texas, but TSU has provided higher education access to many underserved communities with academic and research programs that address critical urban issues and prepares its diverse student population to become a force for positive

change in a global society.

It is important that this important, historic, and independent HBCU be protected and preserved at all costs, and that everyone is assured that the question regarding whether TSU is in good hands is a resounding.... YES!

NNPA Continued from Front Page

If unable to do so, the case should be handed over to the attorney general rather than allowing justice to be compromised.

The book highlights the critical argument made by Ellison that police reform across the country can create less stressful working conditions for officers.

By recounting the gripping details of the Derek Chauvin trial, Ellison takes readers through the prosecution’s journey, unveiling breakthroughs and revelations during a defining moment of racial reckoning and social justice awareness.

Chauvin is serving a more than 20-year federal sentence, while his ex-colleagues Tou Thao, J. Alexander Kueng, and Thomas Lane serve at least three years for their roles in Floyd’s death, including violating his civil rights.

Ellison recently told NPR he kept a diary about the officers’ trials.

He described how he broke down in tears when he saw the video of Floyd’s murder for the first time.

“For me, it was a gut check moment, one of those moments where you ask yourself, ‘What am I about and what am I in this for?’” Ellison stated.

“And my answer had to be we’re going to do anything we can to try to make sure that the outcome is fair, just, and right.”

In “Break the Wheel,” each chapter examines the roles of various stakeholders within the justice system, including prosecutors, defendants, police union leaders, judges, activists, legislators, politicians, and media figures.

Ellison explores their contributions and attempts to break the cycle of violence, replacing it with empathy and shared understanding.

Ellison will speak to the more than 230 African American-owned publishers and media company owners during a special address on Friday, June 30.

“The National Newspaper Publishers Association enthusiastically announces that Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison will address the NNPA 2023 Annual National Convention,” said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

“Keith Ellison has emerged as one of the most effective and courageous Attorney Generals in American history,” Chavis said.

“We look forward to his speech on ‘Ending Police Violence in America’ before the national assembly of our nation’s Black newspaper publishers, media industry executives, and community activists and leaders nationwide.”

For more information on NNPA’s convention, visit <http://www.nnpa-events.com>

2023
NNPA
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AMPLIFYING
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HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – Ambulances, EMS & Special Service Vehicles – AM10-23

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, distributors, installers, and service providers of Ambulances, EMS & Special Service Vehicles to make these types of products and services available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.hgacbuy.org/bid-notice> or [ESBD \(txsmartbuy.com/esbd\)](https://txsmartbuy.com/esbd).

Response Deadline: July 13, 2023 @ 12:00 P.M. CST