

**ANSWERS TO SELECT QUESTIONS  
BY JIM P. WILSON, VICE CHAIRMAN  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS  
JULY 27, 2009**

*The questions below were posed to Mr. Jim P. Wilson, Vice Chairman of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, by members of the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University ("TAMU") at the Faculty Senate's Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2009. The questions presented below are those for which Mr. Wilson promised to provide a supplemental response.*

***1. Is the System Office looking at eliminating any high level positions?***

I expect that the Shared Services Initiative will highlight where there is overlap in positions, whether that is in the System Office or TAMU. If a high level position is being duplicated and the Shared Services Committee makes a recommendation that it be eliminated, the Board will consider the merits for and against its elimination.

***2. Will Research Foundation be taken over as a result of the Shared Services Initiative?***

The Research Foundation is a critical resource and adequately serves many principal investigators. Based upon my discussions with Systems personnel, there is no intention to have the System take over the Research Foundation.

***3. Where did the \$20 million number come from? Will the savings stay at the University?***

I believe that Chairman Foster adequately answered this question in his remarks at the Board Meeting on July 16, 2009. A copy of his remarks is posted on the Board's website. The \$20 million number is not set in stone and, as I explained in my remarks, is roughly equivalent to 2% of the university's annual budget. If that amount can be saved through the shared services initiative or by other means, we would likely be able to keep tuition flat. Our intention is that any saved costs go towards tuition, but to the extent that a department, college of function can justify another specific use for the savings, such proposal will be considered in the budget process. Any savings at the University level are not intended to be "sent" anywhere, other than to reduced tuition.

***4. Merit raises for those at \$175k and above at TAMU have been frozen. What about the System Office?***

It is my understanding that the System Office will not be awarding any merit increases to executive staff at the beginning of the fiscal year.

***5. Will NCTM be another TIGM? If we need an additional \$20 to \$30 MM, why not wait until the money has been raised?***

First off, the Board of Regents expect to review the financial plans and projections related to NCTM at the September Board meeting. Additionally, there are current efforts to secure additional funding for the NCTM. We do not anticipate expending funds beyond that which is now available. One of the purposes for forming the Institute for Innovative Therapeutics (“IIT”) is to have the directors of the IIT Board (which will be comprised of the chief executive officer’s of the participating institution) act as the gatekeeper in order to ensure the appropriate expenditure of funding that we already have and expect to receive. All the CEO’s of the participating institutions will agree, in advance on the formulas for shared funding of this initiative.