



See This Movie Werewolves

92° Houston Scattered Clouds JustWeather.com

Site | Web | As Seen On Search GO

Sponsored by Medical Directory

Story Video

Text Size + -

A&M Accepts Murano's Resignation

Elsa Murano Announced Resignation On Sunday

POSTED: Monday, June 15, 2009
UPDATED: 6:03 pm CDT June 15, 2009

COLLEGE STATION, Texas -- Texas A&M University accepted the abrupt resignation of embattled President Elsa Murano, who may have decided her own future before A&M System regents chose it for her.

- WATCH IT: Murano Out As A&M President
- READ IT: Murano's Transition Agreement
- READ IT: Elsa Murano Statement



Just 17 months after being celebrated as a historic choice to lead the 48,000-student campus, Murano resigned Sunday ahead of a special meeting Monday called by the university's governing board.

Texas A&M Vice President Bowen Loftin will serve as the university's interim president. The board expects to name a permanent replacement in about six months.

Murano, 49, was the first Hispanic and first female president in the 132-year history of Texas A&M, which didn't admit women on an equal basis until 1971. She departed less than two weeks after the release of a scathing internal performance review blemished by low marks for leadership and management.

She will remain on the faculty as a full professor following a one-year leave of absence.

Murano will receive her presidential salary of \$425,000 during the leave of absence. She will receive an annual salary of \$260,000 when she returns as professor.

"We're pleased that her skills and talents will continue to serve the university and the students in the years to come," said Morris Foster, chairman of the Texas A&M Board of Regents. "We agreed to her transition back into the faculty of college agriculture and life science."

Gov. Rick Perry, an A&M alumnus who appointed all nine A&M system regents, said Monday it remains to be seen whether Murano's departure is good for the university.

Perry expressed confidence in the regents and their decision-making.

"Best I can tell, I saw her perform in an acceptable way," Perry said.

Murano was not giving interviews Monday, said her spokesman, Erin Powers.

Murano's attorney, Darryl Carter, released the following statement.

"Dr. Murano was committed to a quick and constructive resolution of this matter. The transition agreement reflects our recognition of the intentions of the Chancellor and the Board of Regents. The agreement also recognizes Dr. Murano's exemplary service and continuing commitment to Texas A&M. She remains grateful for the expressions of support and loyalty that she has received from faculty, staff, current and former students, and friends of the University."

About 50 faculty members and students, some wearing black armbands, protested in support of Murano on A&M's mostly deserted campus before the regents convened. One student carried a sign that had Texas A&M's famous "Gig 'Em" thumbs up image turned upside-down.

Bob Bednarz, speaker of the A&M faculty senate, said Murano came a long way from a skeptical choice who wasn't among a search committee's three finalists to winning approval throughout campus.

"One of the frustrating things about this situation is that there is no information," Bednarz said. "We generally do not know how decisions are made, or why the regents or the chancellor makes those decisions."

The board of regents had announced the special meeting Friday, and had scheduled to discuss the university's leadership in what had every appearance of a decision on Murano's future.

In a statement Sunday, Murano said recent weeks had been "taxing" for the university and thanked those who offered messages of support.

"Our university is strong and I know that we will weather this storm," Murano said. "I sincerely hope and pray that we will intensify our efforts to protect and enhance Texas A&M's reputation. I trust that the important issues raised in recent weeks will be addressed in the Aggie way with integrity, selfless service and indomitable spirit."

Texas A&M University System Chancellor Mike McKinney conducted Murano's review, which was dated Feb. 9. In her first full year on the job, Murano got the lowest marks possible when it came

ADVERTISEMENT: Exclusively at GOODSON HONDA. Image of a blue Honda Civic and a man in a suit.

Most Popular Stories: Al, Tipper Gore Separate After 40 Years; Man Shot In Head While Returning Home; 2010 Hurricane Season Begins; Car Crashes Into Bayou Embankment; Man Rescued From Manhole. Videos and Slideshows sections with expand buttons.

Help HEB and KPRC Local 2 in honoring the unsung heroes of our city. THE JEFFERSON AWARDS. Logos for HEB, Click Here!, LOCAL 2, and KPRC.

to follow through, acting decisively and timely, and being a team player.

Murano disputed the poor review in a 10-page response sent March 10 to the chancellor and regents.

"Given the complete disconnection between Dr. McKinney's perception of my performance as president and all the evidence to the contrary, I can conclude that this review was not based on facts," Murano wrote.

Born in Cuba before fleeing with her family in the early 1960s, Murano first joined the A&M faculty in 1995 and rose to become dean of the university's agricultural school. She was also appointed to serve as undersecretary for food safety at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Murano succeeded Robert Gates, who left to become U.S. secretary of defense. In announcing her resignation, Murano said she hoped to return to the faculty.

Previous Stories:

- June 14, 2009: [Texas A&M President Murano Resigns](#)
- June 5, 2009: [A&M President's 1st Evaluation Poor](#)

Copyright 2009 by [Click2Houston.com](#). The Associated Press contributed to this report. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

ADVERTISEMENT



St. Michael's
Emergency Rooms

Tired of waiting?

[Click here to learn more](#)

Print Email Link



The views expressed are not those of Click2Houston.com, KPRC or its affiliated companies. This is a community moderated forum. (Please note the 'Like' and 'Report' tabs.) By posting your comments you agree to accept our [Terms of Use](#).

Comments

blog comments powered by Disqus

Sponsored Links

ADVERTISEMENT

Masters in Public Policy

Earn a Master's Degree in Public Policy Online at NEC. Free Brochure
[MAPP.OnlineNEC.com](#)

Anxiety Treatment Center

Specializing in Treatment of Women. Safe Environment. Contact Us Today.
[www.HollywoodPavilion.com](#)

Coffee Fool Banned

Grocery stores won't stock us because we're the truth on fresh!
[www.coffeefool.com](#)

Ads by Google

Links We Like

Sponsored Content

12 Tips To A Good Night's Sleep



Stop tossing and turning and learn how you can get a good night's sleep. [More](#)

The 15 Cheapest Cars To Own



If you're looking to save on your next new vehicle, a low sticker price is just one aspect. Consider all the costs and make the right decision. [More](#)

The 5 Anti-Cancer Foods



You've heard of certain foods that can help you prevent cancer and even halt the spread of the disease. Find out if these anti-cancer foods really work. [More](#)

Drivers Fail To Get Their Best Discounts



If you haven't had a ticket in the last 3 years, you are paying too much for auto insurance. Calculate your new payment. [More](#)

Features

1 2 3 4



See The Weather At The Houston Zoo



Jefferson Awards



5 Worst Movies Adapted From Cartoons



20 Cars That Won't Break the Bank To Insure



My House Is Worth What?

Email Alerts

RSS News Feeds

Mobile

Live Streams

Slideshows

Video

Set Click 2 Houston as Homepage | [Back To Top](#) | [Search](#)

POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS INC



Internet Broadcasting

Partners:



washingtonpost.com NBC MSNBC

©2010, Internet Broadcasting Systems, Inc.

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Microsoft MapPoint Terms of Use](#) | [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#) | [Site Map](#)