

1. U. T. System: Request to Adopt a Joint Resolution Between The University of Texas System and the University of Houston System

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs that the U. T. Board of Regents adopt the following Joint Resolution between The University of Texas System and the University of Houston System, which focuses on collaborative efforts to help Texas close the gaps in all levels of educational participation and achievement:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The economic and social health of any society depends on a well-educated citizenry, and this educational imperative is even more critical in the present knowledge-based and global economy;

WHEREAS, Texas lags behind other large states and the national average in many key measurements of economic and social vitality, such as the educational level of the workforce, high school graduation rates, university attendance rates, the percentage of adults with a college degree, and per capita income;

WHEREAS, Given the reality of demographic change in Texas and the fact that the fastest growing groups have had the lowest educational achievement rates, the State will fall even further behind in the early 21st Century unless current trends are reversed;

WHEREAS, Population growth and demographic change represent a great opportunity for Texas to develop one of the world's most dynamic economies and most vibrant societies if pressing educational challenges are addressed successfully;

WHEREAS, Texas higher education, through an initiative administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is committed to a comprehensive program of "closing the gaps" in educational participation and achievement at all levels;

WHEREAS, The University of Houston System and The University of Texas System are major participants in the 'Closing the Gaps' initiative and related efforts to assist the State's elementary and secondary schools in fulfilling their educational missions;

WHEREAS, Both of these university systems have established records of excellence in educational research; development and implementation of research-based instructional programs; innovative teacher education and professional development programs; addressing the educational needs of disadvantaged students and underrepresented segments of the population; and fostering collaboration with the public schools on many fronts;

WHEREAS, Together, the U. H. and U. T. Systems have a presence in all of the State's major urban areas, where the key educational challenges facing Texas are exhibited in their fullest and most complex forms;

WHEREAS, The Boards of Regents of both the U. H. and U. T. Systems affirm that one of the central responsibilities of public higher education institutions is to focus their resources on advancing a state's economic strength and diversification as well as its social vitality and coherence, and that these worthy goals are often best pursued through collaborative efforts involving partnerships among diverse institutions and organizations; and

WHEREAS, By combining their efforts in dealing with many aspects of the serious educational issues facing Texas, the U. H. and U. T. Systems are well positioned to create synergies that offer the likelihood of far greater progress than either system could achieve working alone; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Boards of Regents of the University of Houston System and The University of Texas System are committed to an expanded series of collaborative efforts between the two systems in order to better address the need for Texas to close the gaps in all levels of educational participation and achievement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, to further these new collaborations, the two Boards of Regents establish the UH/UT Alliance for Educational Progress, a partnership that will build on the diverse strengths of institutions in each university system to encourage a broad range of collaborations among faculty and administrators, with goals that include:

- Enhancing teacher training for the public schools;
- Improving professional development of current teachers;
- Expanding Advanced Placement offerings in the public schools;
- Introducing new curricula and instructional methods to the classroom, consistent with research-based best practices;

- Strengthening programs of outreach to educationally, economically, or socially disadvantaged students;
- Creating and promoting innovative approaches to delivering first-class educational services in a pluralistic urban setting; and
- Fostering the concept and practice of education as a seamless continuum that extends, in a formal sense, from pre-kindergarten through advanced university studies, but is, in the truest sense, a lifelong challenge and adventure that is the birthright of all members of a democratic society.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The resolution will also be presented to the Board of Regents of the University of Houston System.

2. U. T. Arlington: Request for Authorization to Establish a Ph.D. in Nursing and to Submit the Proposed Degree Program and Change in the Institution's Table of Programs to the Coordinating Board for Approval (Catalog Change)

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and President Witt that authorization be granted to establish a Ph.D. in Nursing at U. T. Arlington and to submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action.

The proposed doctoral degree program is consistent with the approved Table of Programs and institutional plans of U. T. Arlington for offering quality degree programs to meet student needs. A description of the degree program is included in the Background Information of this agenda item.

Upon approval by the Coordinating Board, the next appropriate catalog published at U. T. Arlington will be amended to reflect this action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Healthy People 2010, the national health agenda for the United States, calls for the elimination of health disparities among Americans and requires access to health services for all citizens. As the population of the U. S. has become more diverse, there is a need for educators, practicing nurses, and researchers with greater skills and understanding of culturally related health care. Increasingly, subpopulations within the U. S., whether defined by age, gender, ethnicity, financial status, clinical health problems, or geography, are targets for specialized health care.

Currently, no doctoral program in Texas has as its primary goal the preparation of nurse scientists who have the knowledge and skills to integrate nursing and related health disciplines for the purpose of designing and testing nursing interventions with culturally diverse populations. Similarly, there are no doctoral programs in Texas that have as their goal the preparation of faculty who are able to assist students gain knowledge in caring for diverse and/or vulnerable populations. The proposed program is specifically designed to prepare nurse scientists, and to increase the number of faculty, to meet the health needs of a rapidly changing and culturally diverse population.

Program Description

The proposed program initially includes two major areas of study: Academic Role Development and Health Services Research.

The Academic Role Development area provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge and skills required for a successful academic role (faculty, dean, director) in institutions of higher education that prepare nursing students who are capable of careers in a culturally diverse society.

The Health Services Research area provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge and skills required for a successful role in health research focused on culturally diverse and/or vulnerable populations.

Program Quality

The Ph.D. program in Nursing was designed using the “indicators of quality in research-focused doctoral programs in Nursing” and will be evaluated in accordance with these indicators (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, November 2001). The excellence of the undergraduate and graduate programs in nursing at U. T. Arlington has been consistently demonstrated through a 10-year average pass rate of 92% on the national licensing exam (B.S.N. program) and

national certification exam pass rates between 96% and 100% (M.S.N. program) for the past three years. The M.S.N. program is ranked in the top 23% of all graduate programs in nursing in *U. S. News and World Report*. External funding for the school has grown from \$255,300 in 1996 to \$1,442,393 in 2000-2001. Forty-two doctorally prepared faculty have a variety of scholarship initiatives in which doctoral students will become involved. The full cadre of nurse practitioner and administrative faculty hold certifications in their areas and are practicing clinicians.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures of \$1,892,240 for the first five years of the program include \$1,338,081 for 9.5 new faculty; \$151,200 for five graduate assistants; \$132,729 for clerical staff; \$31,956 for supplies, materials and library resources; \$159,274 for program administration; \$28,000 for equipment; and \$51,000 for faculty salaries for summer semesters. The institution has committed \$243,000 in existing resources in addition to \$1,655,000 in formula funding to finance the first five years of the program.

3. U. T. Arlington: Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Communication; Approval to Submit the Proposed Degree Program and Change in the Institution's Table of Programs to the Coordinating Board for Approval (Catalog Change); and Authorization of Certification that Coordinating Board Criteria for Approval Are Met

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and President Witt that authorization be granted to establish a Master of Arts in Communication at U. T. Arlington; to submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action; and to authorize the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to certify on behalf of the Board of Regents that relevant Coordinating Board criteria for approval by the Commissioner of Higher Education have been met.

The proposed master's degree program is consistent with the approved Table of Programs and institutional plans of U. T. Arlington for offering quality degree programs to meet student needs. A description of the degree program is included in the Background Information of this agenda item.

Upon approval by the Coordinating Board, the next appropriate catalog published at U. T. Arlington will be amended to reflect this action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed Master of Arts in Communication degree will be designed to enhance and update the skills and knowledge base of media professionals. The introduction of new technologies has resulted in rapid change in media professions. A recent trend in the media professions involving the convergence of the various communications fields (e.g., speech, journalism, public relations) has also caused changes in media professional roles. The proposed program will emphasize an integrated approach to the discipline, incorporating the varied fields represented in the U. T. Arlington Department of Communication. As a result, the program will be uniquely situated to prepare traditional graduate students and media professionals for the rapidly changing media professions.

Program Description

The proposed Master of Arts in Communication degree has both thesis and non-thesis options. The thesis option consists of 24 semester credit hour of organized coursework and a six semester credit hour thesis. The non-thesis option requires 33 hours of organized coursework and a three semester credit hour final project. Individual courses will integrate theory and research from the various communication fields. The majority of organized courses will be offered in the late afternoon and evening to ensure that employed professionals are able to complete the degree in a reasonable period of time.

Program Quality

Faculty in the Department of Communication are active in scholarly research and publication, and all faculty who will supervise student theses have significant records of research accomplishment. External reviewers for the 1999 departmental program review praised the unique, integrated focus of the undergraduate Communication

program and judged it to be well suited to the needs of the profession. They also noted the tremendous asset of the institution's geographic location with its multiple media outlets, creating an opportunity they judged to be "unparalleled among public universities in the nation."

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures of \$660,800 for the first five years of the program include \$409,000 for two new tenure-track faculty members and \$107,500 for four graduate teaching assistants, \$60,800 for computer software and equipment, \$80,500 for clerical staff, and \$3,000 for supplies. State formula funding projected for years three through five of the program is expected to total \$301,294. In addition, the institution has committed \$395,248 of institutional resources to support the first five years of the program.

4. U. T. El Paso: Request for Authorization to Establish a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and to Submit the Proposed Degree Program and Change in the Institution's Table of Programs to the Coordinating Board for Approval (Catalog Change)

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and President Natalicio that authorization be granted to establish a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at U. T. El Paso and to submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action.

The proposed doctoral degree program is consistent with the approved Table of Programs and institutional plans for U. T. El Paso for offering quality degree programs to meet student needs. A description of the degree program is included in the Background Information of this agenda item.

Upon approval by the Coordinating Board, the next appropriate catalog published at U. T. El Paso will be amended to reflect this action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The most recent report by the American Society of Civil Engineers on America's infrastructure provides an analysis of the infrastructure situation in Texas highlighting specific concerns for roads, bridges, water, and transit. The report suggests that Texas must invest \$6.4 billion over the next 20 years to upgrade sewage treatment plants and improve water pollution control systems. In the border region of Texas the situation is even more serious, with problems complicated by low economic and education levels and high population growth.

The proposed program is designed to sustain research activities in infrastructure systems that will help the region and the State resolve the massive infrastructure development challenges anticipated in the next several decades and to address a critical state and national shortage of Hispanics in engineering fields.

Program Description

The proposed program consists of 72 semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's level (or at least 48 semester credit hours beyond the master's level). The program focuses on infrastructure engineering systems, a critical area for research and education in the border region. The proposed program emphasizes research and education on environmental, transportation, and structural systems. This emphasis complements existing U. T. El Paso Ph.D. programs in Environmental Science and Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Geological Sciences.

Program Quality

The U. T. El Paso Civil Engineering faculty has a remarkable and consistent record of scholarly accomplishment and research activity. The department currently generates about \$1 million per year in externally supported research.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures for the first five years of the program are \$1,700,000. This includes \$585,000 for two new faculty positions, \$558,000 for additional teaching assistant positions, \$175,000 for additional staff, and \$382,000 for equipment, library resources, and supplies. U. T. El Paso will commit \$1,196,000 of existing resources in addition to \$504,000 in formula funding to finance the first five years of the program.

5. U. T. El Paso: Request for Authorization to Establish a Ph.D. in International Business and to Submit the Proposed Degree Program and Change in the Institution's Table of Programs to the Coordinating Board for Approval (Catalog Change)

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and President Natalicio that authorization be granted to establish a Ph.D. in International Business at U. T. El Paso and to submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action.

The proposed doctoral degree program is consistent with the approved Table of Programs and institutional plans of U. T. El Paso for offering quality degree programs to meet student needs. A description of the degree program is included in the Background Information of this agenda item.

Upon approval by the Coordinating Board, the next appropriate catalog published at U. T. El Paso will be amended to reflect this action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Increasingly, business students must not only master new technologies that are being developed, they must also understand the global economic and business environments that transcend national boundaries. The passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement has brought the region to the forefront of state, national, and international attention and offers a long-standing prototype of interdependence across traditional boundaries.

Students enrolled in the proposed program will have special opportunities to develop the kind of global perspectives that the 21st Century demands, through specific course content and through the settings in which they will complete their studies. The region has over 350 multinational business facilities and provides an ideal vantage point to examine contemporary international business situations in which diverse business groups interact on a global basis.

The proposed program capitalizes on U. T. El Paso's border location to serve as an intellectual resource in the development of globalized business ventures that represent a vital element of the economic future of Texas and the border region.

The proposed program will help address the critical shortage of Hispanic Ph.D.-trained faculty and will help to close the gap in participation rates across the State for minority students. The program will also enhance U. T. El Paso's position as a nationally and internationally recognized center for research and education related to the U. S.-Mexico border region.

Program Description

The proposed program will consist of 69 semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's level, or a minimum of 45 hours beyond the master's level. While the program is designed for individuals with significant formal business training, it will accommodate individuals from a broad variety of disciplinary backgrounds. Students will complete coursework that emphasizes the latest developments in business theory, quantitative techniques, research methodologies, and empirical evidence in the field of international business. In addition, the program will build on the unique assets available in the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez border region to address transnational manufacturing and supply chain and capital flow issues.

Program Quality

The existing U. T. El Paso College of Business Administration faculty has an established record of scholarly accomplishments and research productivity. Current research and outreach programs are linked to research centers on campus and have systematically involved graduate students.

All programs currently offered by the College of Business Administration are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures for the first five years of the program are \$2,484,250. This includes \$1,197,000 for four new faculty positions, \$888,000 for additional teaching assistant positions, \$110,000 for additional staff, and \$289,250 for improved facilities, equipment, and library resources. U. T. El Paso will commit \$1,624,500 of existing resources in addition to \$859,750 in formula funding to finance the first five years of the program.

6. U. T. San Antonio: Request for Authorization to Establish a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology and to Submit the Proposed Degree Program and Change in the Institution's Table of Programs to the Coordinating Board for Approval (Catalog Change)

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and President Romo that authorization be granted to establish a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology at U. T. San Antonio and to submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action.

The proposed doctoral degree program is consistent with the approved Table of Programs and institutional plans of U. T. San Antonio for offering quality degree programs to meet student needs. A description of the degree program is included in the Background Information of this agenda item.

Upon approval by the Coordinating Board, the next appropriate catalog published at U. T. San Antonio will be amended to reflect this action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years there has been dynamic growth throughout the world, the nation, and Texas in biotechnology and biomedicine, creating a critical need for more trained professionals who can sustain this growth into the foreseeable future.

Cell and molecular biology is the basic core upon which biotechnology and biomedicine have developed and evolved. Advances in these fields will provide critical information to the scientific community for the development of new approaches to diagnosing and treating human injuries, disease, and inherited factors. Continuation of the research on the human genome project and related areas will require advanced knowledge of cell and molecular biology.

The proposed program is designed to meet the challenges of the biotechnology and biomedical revolution by providing students the range of skills in the disciplines of cell, molecular, and developmental biology that will prepare them to become leaders of research and development efforts in biotechnology industries, academic institutions, and biomedical research facilities throughout Texas and the nation.

Program Description

The proposed program consists of 90 semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's level. The primary objective of the proposed program is to provide students with advanced academic and research training in all aspects of cellular function, especially those that pertain to molecular functioning of biochemical systems. Areas of emphasis of the program include biochemistry, cellular biology, molecular biology, developmental biology, immunology, virology, and molecular genetics.

One of the unique features of the program is the opportunity students will have for interdisciplinary study with the Departments of Computer Science and the College of Engineering. In addition, faculty and students will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative research efforts with U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio and other biomedical and biotechnology research institutes and industries in San Antonio.

Program Quality

The U. T. San Antonio Department of Biology currently has 27 tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Nineteen of these faculty members will form the core faculty for this program. The Biology faculty has a consistent record of scholarly accomplishment and research activity.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures of \$2,250,000 for the first five years of the program include \$1,800,000 for direct student support, \$125,000 for program administration, \$200,000 for staff support, and \$125,000 for library resources. State formula funding will provide \$2,360,402 in years three through five. In addition, the institution will commit \$789,598 of existing resources to support the program.

7. U. T. San Antonio: Request for Authorization to Establish a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering and to Submit the Proposed Degree Program and Change in the Institution's Table of Programs to the Coordinating Board for Approval (Catalog Change)

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and President Romo that authorization be granted to establish a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering at U. T. San Antonio and to submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action.

The proposed doctoral degree program is consistent with the approved Table of Programs and institutional plans of U. T. San Antonio for offering quality degree programs to meet student needs. A description of the degree program is included in the Background Information of this agenda item.

Upon approval by the Coordinating Board, the next appropriate catalog published at U. T. San Antonio will be amended to reflect this action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The growth in the need for Ph.D.-trained environmental scientists and engineers is unequivocal. The National Science Board, the steering body that develops priorities for the National Science Foundation, has identified environmental education and research as one of the three top priorities for the first decade of the 21st Century.

The proposed program in environmental science and engineering is designed to meet the environmental challenges of the coming decades, both through training environmental scientists and engineers and through research that will have global, national, and regional implications.

Program Description

Students must have a master's degree to be admitted to the proposed program. The program consists of 60 semester credit hours beyond the master's level. The primary emphasis will be on natural resources, including water, land, and air resources. Within these broad areas, special emphasis will be given to water quality, water pollution control, land conservation and restoration, waste disposal, air pollution control, and global changes.

Program Quality

The U. T. San Antonio Department of Earth and Environmental Science currently has 11 faculty members that will be involved in the proposed program. The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department currently has eight faculty members and three faculty members from the Departments of Biology and Chemistry will also be involved with the program. The faculty from these departments have an excellent record of scholarship and research.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures of \$4,270,000 for the first five years of the program include \$2,400,000 for direct student support, \$645,000 for two new faculty, \$485,000 for staff support, \$220,000 for library and information technology resources, and \$300,000 for equipment. State formula funding projected for years three through five of the program is expected to total \$2,074,580. U. T. San Antonio will commit \$1,246,000 of existing resources for the first two years of the program and an additional \$1,083,393 of institutional and federal funds for years three through five.

8. U. T. San Antonio - University Center Expansion Phase III: Request for Approval to Amend the FY 2002-2007 Capital Improvement Program and the FY 2002-2003 Capital Budget to Include Project

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, and President Romo that the U. T. Board of Regents amend the FY 2002-2007 Capital Improvement Program and the FY 2002-2003 Capital Budget to include the University

Center Expansion Phase III project at U. T. San Antonio at a preliminary project cost of \$20,000,000 with funding from Revenue Financing System Bond Proceeds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

U. T. San Antonio requests approval to add a new project to the Capital Improvement Program entitled University Center Expansion Phase III. This addition of approximately 68,000 gross square feet will consist of facilities to include meeting rooms, food services and dining facilities, student advising and administrative offices, program and reception space for student organizations including a large function venue, student lounges, study spaces, art gallery, and storage/support areas. This facility is needed to provide essential student services to keep pace with record enrollment growth. The first and second phases of the University Center Expansion were completed in 1986 and 1996.

This off-cycle project has been approved by U. T. System staff and meets the criteria for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program.