



**AGENDA  
FOR MEETING OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**May 11-12, 2016**  
Austin, Texas

	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b><u>Wednesday, May 11, 2016</u></b>		
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	<i>9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</i>	
CONVENE THE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION	<i>12:00 p.m.</i>	
RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO <i>TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE</i> , CHAPTER 551 (working lunch at noon)		
1. Personnel Matters Relating to Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Assignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Officers or Employees – Section 551.074		
<b>U. T. Austin: Discussion and appropriate action regarding individual personnel matters relating to assignment and duties of the president including responsibilities associated with outlining a vision and plans for the future of the institution (Regents' <i>Rules and Regulations</i>, Rule 20201)</b>		
2. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Legal Matters or Pending and/or Contemplated Litigation or Settlement Offers – Section 551.071		
<b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues concerning implementation of Senate Bill 11 (Campus Carry)</b>		
3. Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits – Section 551.076		
<b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding safety and security issues, including security audits and the deployment of security personnel and devices, regarding implementation of Senate Bill 11 (Campus Carry)</b>		
RECESS	<i>2:00 p.m.</i>	
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	<i>2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.</i>	

	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b><u>Thursday, May 12, 2016</u></b>		
RECONVENE THE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEMS	<i>8:30 a.m.</i>	
1. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Approval of Consent Agenda items and consideration of any items referred to the full Board</b>	<i>8:31 a.m.</i> <b>Action</b>	<b>6</b>
2. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Update from Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Paredes on the long-range strategic plan for Texas higher education</b>	<i>8:35 a.m.</i> <b>Report</b> <i>Commissioner Raymund Paredes Dr. Fred Farias III</i>	<b>7</b>
3. <b>U. T. System: Review and possible action regarding institutional and U. T. System Administration campus carry rules, regulations, and provisions</b>	<i>8:55 a.m.</i> <b>Review/Possible Action</b> <i>Deputy Chancellor Daniel</i>	<b>8</b>
4. <b>U. T. System: Annual Meeting with Officers of the U. T. System Student Advisory Council</b>	<i>9:15 a.m.</i> <b>Report/Discussion</b> <i>Chair Varun Joseph, U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio</i>	<b>9</b>
5. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Award of Regents' Outstanding Student Awards in Arts and Humanities -- recognition of visual arts winners and display of artwork</b>	<i>10:15 a.m.</i> <b>Presentation</b> <i>Dr. Leslie</i>	<b>22</b>
6. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action related to appointments to the Board of Directors of The University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMCO), including proposed appointment and reappointment to the UTIMCO Board and proposed appointment of member to the UTIMCO Board's Audit and Ethics Committee</b>	<i>10:22 a.m.</i> <b>Action</b>	<b>23</b>
7. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Proposed appointments to the University Lands Advisory Board</b>	<i>10:24 a.m.</i> <b>Action</b>	<b>24</b>
8. <b>U. T. System: Report on strategic Quantum Leaps initiatives</b>	<i>10:26 a.m.</i> <b>Report</b> <i>Chancellor McRaven</i>	<b>25</b>
9. <b>U. T. Austin: President's Report on the Strategic Vision and Institutional Priorities</b>	<i>10:45 a.m.</i> <b>Report</b> <i>President Fenves</i>	<b>26</b>
10. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Student Regent Justin A. Drake and Comments by Regent Drake</b>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i> <b>Presentation</b>	<b>27</b>
STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO THE BOARD	<i>11:15 a.m.</i>	

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO *TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE*, CHAPTER 551 (working lunch at noon)

11:25 a.m.

1. Deliberations Regarding the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, Sale, or Value of Real Property – Section 551.072
  - a. **U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and U. T. Health Science Center - Houston: Discussion and appropriate action regarding the lease and/or exchange of land and use of common facilities at the proposed TMC3 collaborative research development, located on approximately 28 acres bounded by Old Spanish Trail, South Braeswood Boulevard, and bisected by William C. Harvin Boulevard, from Texas Medical Center, Inc., for research and related uses**
  - b. **U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding ground lease of real property bounded by West 6th Street, Lavaca Street, West 7th Street, and Colorado Street, in Austin, Travis County, Texas**
2. Negotiated Contracts for Prospective Gifts or Donations – Section 551.073
  - a. **U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed negotiated gifts with potential naming features**
  - b. **U. T. San Antonio: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed negotiated gifts with potential naming features**
  - c. **U. T. Tyler: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed negotiated gifts with potential naming features**
  - d. **U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed negotiated gifts with potential naming features**
  - e. **U. T. Austin: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed negotiated gifts with potential naming features**
3. Personnel Matters Relating to Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Assignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Officers or Employees – Section 551.074
  - a. **U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding individual personnel matters relating to appointment, employment, evaluation, compensation, assignment, and duties of presidents (academic and health institutions), U. T. System Administration officers (Executive Vice Chancellors and Vice Chancellors), other officers reporting directly to the Board (Chancellor, General Counsel to the Board, and Chief Audit Executive), members of the Board of Regents, and U. T. System and institutional employees**
  - b. **U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding individual personnel matters relating to assignment and duties of the Chancellor, including responsibilities associated with the admissions procedures set forth in Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 40303**

4. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Legal Matters or Pending and/or Contemplated Litigation or Settlement Offers – Section 551.071
  - a. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion with Counsel on pending legal issues**
  - b. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues concerning pending legal claims by and against U. T. System**
  - c. **U. T. El Paso: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues related to expenditure of proceeds of sale of property from Cotton Trust**
  - d. **U. T. Health Science Center - Houston and U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues related to thermal energy plant at Texas Medical Center**
  - e. **U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues related to termination of the Siemens Medical Solutions, USA, Inc. Agreement for Patient Management, Scheduling, and Billing Systems, dated October 14, 2011, as assigned to Cerner Corporation**
  - f. **U. T. Austin: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues related to a proposed acquisition by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center of a significant collection of works by a noted playwright**
  - g. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues concerning classification of University Lands income from water, caliche, sand, and surface damage payments**
  - h. **U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and U. T. Health Science Center - Houston: Discussion of legal issues related to proposed TMC3 collaborative research development**
  - i. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding legal issues related to the process for termination of tenured faculty (Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 31008)**
5. Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits – Section 551.076

**U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding annual update on safety and security issues, including security audits and the deployment of security personnel and devices**

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO CONSIDER ACTION, IF ANY, ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS AND TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM

2:00 p.m.

11. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding interpretation and possible clarification of the process for termination of tenured faculty under Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 31008 (Termination of a Faculty Member), including compliance with termination procedures under special circumstances or where potential conflicts may exist**

Discussion/Action

ADJOURN

2:30 p.m.

1. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Approval of Consent Agenda items and consideration of any items referred to the full Board**

RECOMMENDATION

The Board will be asked to approve the [Consent Agenda](#) items located at the back of the book under the Consent Agenda tab and will discuss any items referred for consideration by the full Board.

2. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Update from Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Paredes on the long-range strategic plan for Texas higher education**

REPORT

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Paredes will provide an update on the long-range strategic plan for Texas higher education.

Coordinating Board member Dr. Fred Farias will also attend the meeting.

3. **U. T. System: Review and possible action regarding institutional and U. T. System Administration campus carry rules, regulations, and provisions**

RECOMMENDATION

The presidents of the U. T. System institutions submit each institution's rules, regulations, and other provisions regarding the carrying of handguns by license holders on campus for review by the Board of Regents with the recommendation that the Board not amend the provisions in whole or in part. Chancellor McRaven submits U. T. System Administration's policy regarding the carrying of handguns by license holders at U. T. System Administration for review by the Board, with the recommendation that the Board not amend the provisions in whole or in part.

The rules, regulations, and other provisions begin on [Page 318](#).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Senate Bill 11, as passed by the 2015 Texas legislature, requires universities to create rules allowing for the carrying of handguns by license holders by August 1, 2016. The bill created *Texas Government Code* Section 411.2013, which permits the university presidents to establish reasonable rules, regulations, or other provisions that may not generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting license holders from carrying a handgun on the institution's campus. Under (d-2) of Section 411.2031, the Board must review the provisions not later than the 90th day after the date the rules are established. The Board may only amend the provisions by a two-thirds vote of the full Board.

Following Board review, each president and the Chancellor will be responsible for formatting the rules and including the rules in their respective handbooks of operating procedures. The presidents and the Chancellor are required by law to widely distribute the provisions to students, staff, and faculty and must include the rules prominently on the institution's website.

4. **U. T. System: Annual Meeting with Officers of the U. T. System Student Advisory Council**

INTRODUCTION

The U. T. System Student Advisory Council will meet with the Board of Regents to discuss recommendations of the Council and plans for the future. The Council's recommendations are set forth on the following pages.

Council members scheduled to attend are:

**Chair:** Mr. Varun Joseph, U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio, General Doctor of Dental Surgery

**Academic Affairs Committee:** Ms. Caitlynn Fortner, U. T. Dallas, International Political Economy

**Student Involvement and Campus Life Committee:** Mr. Grant Branam, U. T. Dallas, Arts and Technology

**Health and Graduate Affairs Committee:** Mr. Sergio Rodriguez, U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston, Microbiology and Immunology

**Financial and Legislative Affairs Committee:** Mr. Alberto Adame, U. T. Rio Grande Valley, Economics and Finance

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The U. T. System Student Advisory Council was established in 1989 to provide input to the U. T. System Board of Regents working through and with the Chancellor and U. T. System Administration on issues of student concern. The operating guidelines of the Council require that recommendations have a multi-institutional focus and that the Council explore individual campus issues with institutional administrators prior to any consideration thereof. The Student Advisory Council consists of two student representatives from each U. T. System institution enrolling students, and meets three times yearly in Austin. The Standing Committees of the Council are Academic Affairs, Student Involvement and Campus Life, Health and Graduate Affairs, and Financial and Legislative Affairs.





THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM  
FOURTEEN INSTITUTIONS. UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES.

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Austin, Texas 78701-2980  
512-499-4233  
WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU

April 1, 2016

William H. McRaven, Adm (Ret.)  
Chancellor  
The University of Texas System  
601 Colorado

Chancellor McRaven:

On behalf of The University of Texas System Student Advisory Council (UTSSAC) and the over 217,000 students we represent, I would like to thank you and the Board of Regents for providing us the opportunity to present our recommendations for the 2015-2016 academic year.

This past year has been a transformative year for the U. T. System. From a new university and multiple medical schools opening to new infrastructure like the state of the art dental clinic in San Antonio, the U. T. System is undoubtedly moving forward boldly into an era of unprecedented growth and service to the State of Texas and beyond. Perhaps one of the most important changes that has occurred is the new leadership team with you at the helm. We are excited and enthusiastic about the bold and visionary strategic plan and Quantum Leaps you have put forward. We are confident that you will strive to ensure that all aspects of the plan become reality which will impact the lives of students in new and meaningful ways.

I have truly enjoyed my two years of service on the Council, and it has been an honor to be a part this process. The student leaders I have met and their passion for service to others is only matched by their desire to bring about positive change. I am heartened by the sincerity and ambition of our representatives to tackle any issue that they thought could impact students' lives throughout the U. T. System and share thoughtful recommendations with U. T. System leadership.

With this letter, we are submitting the recommendations passed by the Council and we look forward to discussing these recommendations in more detail at the Board of Regents meeting in May.

Sincerely,

Varun P. Joseph, MA  
Chairman, U. T. System Student Advisory Council, 2015- 2016 Academic Year  
D.D.S Candidate - Class of 2017  
U. T. Health Science Center San Antonio School of Dentistry

## **Joint Committee Recommendation – Financial and Legislative Affairs and Campus Life Committees**

### **Recommendation 1: Increase the allocation of resources to sexual assault prevention, research, and related initiatives and increase outreach and education regarding Title IX policies on sexual assault**

The U. T. System Student Advisory Council (SAC) supports the efforts of the U. T. System Board of Regents in recently funding a comprehensive Systemwide study – Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments (CLASE). The CLASE project seeks to understand sexual assault, dating violence, sexual harassment, and stalking crimes at thirteen campuses in the U. T. System. The CLASE project assesses student experiences with intimate interpersonal violence and the impact of programming, policy, and efforts among students who have experienced violence and those who have not. CLASE also addresses concerns about student safety and compliance by systematically benchmarking student intimate interpersonal violence on The University of Texas System campuses using an empirical, comprehensive, collaborative, and iterative process.

Additionally, SAC also commends U. T. Austin’s Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in their provision of exams with a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). A SANE is a registered nurse who has been specifically trained to:

1. Provide comprehensive care to sexual assault patients;
2. Demonstrate competency in conducting a medical forensic exam to include evaluation for evidence collection;
3. Have the expertise to provide effective courtroom testimony; and
4. Show compassion and sensitivity to survivors of sexual assault.

**The Council recommends that the CLASE study and similar initiatives receive consideration when requesting additional funding, and that all U. T. System institutions be given adequate resources to expand the SANE program.**

**While increasing allocations will provide long-term institutional support, the Council also recommends enhancing and aligning Title IX policies and procedures to incorporate students in their respective campus’ efforts in addressing sexual assault, as outlined below.**

The U.S. Department of Education’s [Office for Civil Rights](#) (OCR) enforces, among other statutes, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects students from harassment connected to any of the academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs or activities of schools, regardless of the location. Title IX protects all students from sexual harassment by any school employee, another student, or a non-employee third party.

SAC highly supports the new U. T. System policy model that requires System approval of each individual institution's Title IX policy. SAC recommends that the U. T. System direct the dissemination of campus specific Title IX policies so that students and employees can be better informed about the policy and more specifically, so that students and employees can understand their obligations and procedures after a report has been filed. SAC recommends the implementation of the following criteria at each of the 14 U. T. System institutions as a best practice:

- Implement a Systemwide plan for all campuses to promote and educate members of the campus community on the roles and responsibilities of the Title IX Office to include:
  - (1) All institutions should clearly link their Title IX website to their indexed Title IX policy, using the U. T. Arlington site as a model.
  - (2) Require the institution's Title IX coordinator's contact information be placed on all student identifications.
  - (3) Include the "Mandatory Reporting Clause" in all course syllabi.
  - (4) Publicly provide the "Reporting and Responding to Campus Sexual Assault Flow Chart" to students.
- Inform and train all "Responsible Employees," including responsible student employees, of their position and responsibilities, with an emphasis on their obligation to disclose their status and possible necessary actions, including, but not limited to training for bystander intervention.
- Ensure students are informed of mandatory reporters' identities and obligations under the Title IX policy. Examples of potential mechanisms include the following:
  - Make use of Learning Management Systems to further inform
  - "It's On Us" Pledge
  - Informational skits or videos
  - Case studies of different scenarios
- Establish networks with student groups such as international and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) students that face culture-specific issues.

Alignment among campuses will reduce the lapse of information available to students, which will increase reporting efficacy and number of incidents reported.

We recognize the issues that arise with different unique campus cultures. These duties and responsibilities will strengthen individual institutional capabilities in addressing unique issues regarding sexual misconduct and gender discrimination.

### **Financial and Legislative Affairs Committee Recommendation**

#### **Recommendation 2: Draft and implement a Board of Regents' policy statement that protects the freedom of expression of all students, faculty, and staff at each institution**

Given the "Concerned Student 1950" movement at The University of Missouri, the U. T. System Student Advisory Council recommends the Board of Regents take a proactive stance on free speech and expression. Institutions of higher education have recently been forced by their student bodies to address vague or non-existent policies involving free speech. In order to address this reality, The University of Chicago appointed a Committee of Freedom and Expression that [released a letter](#) in January 2015 stating:

"In a word, the University's fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose. Indeed, fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University's educational mission."

Further, a national undergraduate study conducted by The William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale University found that 95 percent of students regard free speech as personally important at their university. Eight out of ten students responded that freedom of speech should either be less limited on college campuses or that there should be no difference compared to society at large.

Faculty and students Systemwide have expressed concern over the effect of campus carry in indirectly restricting freedom of expression and the free-flow of ideas in the classroom and in-and-around their respective campus communities. SAC, based on the above cited references, and concerned about the on-campus interaction among students, faculty, and staff and the academic development and success of students everywhere, recommends that U. T. System leadership study, research, and recommend a policy to protect the freedom of expression.

**With the consultation of institutional leadership, faculty, and students, we recommend that U. T. System appoint a group to study current trends in higher education, recommend adoption of a policy statement by the U. T. System Board of Regents, and recommend that the U. T. System assist institutions with organizing a communication plan to educate faculty, staff, and students on their rights and responsibilities regarding freedom of speech.**

### **Campus Life Committee Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation 3: Implement policies Systemwide to protect parental leave for graduate student employees including offering paid leave**

**We recommend that the U. T. System help implement policies to protect parental leave and to extend paid leave to graduate students who are employed, at least part-time, in academic-related employment at each institution.**

Currently, there is no formal policy in place protecting students' rights to paid parental leave after childbirth or adoption. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides covered employees with unpaid, job-protected leave, but no additional measures exist. Additionally, not all graduate student researchers are subject to provisions in FMLA. The current system involves the graduate student employee taking all of his or her sick and vacation time at the discretion of their advisors, who may not be willing to allow such prolonged student leave. This has the potential to jeopardize a student's new parental responsibilities. Additionally, in this situation, students are forced into taking a formal leave of absence from school and graduate teaching and research responsibilities, during which time they are uncompensated and health insurance status may be in jeopardy. The purpose of this recommendation is to implement protected paid, parental leave to all graduate students without negative repercussions to their academic progress. If this recommendation is implemented, the U. T. System will rise to join other national pioneering institutions already implementing these guidelines (ex: [University of Pittsburgh](#)) and will become the first in the State of Texas.

We recommend that the U. T. System work with institutions to implement the following guidelines regarding parental leave:

- Students should receive eight weeks paid leave for new birth or adoptive parents in accordance with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines.
- Any full-time student-employee in academic-related employment and enrolled in a graduate program in good standing could be offered paid parental benefits. Eligible students must have completed at least one full-time semester of their degree program.



- During a period of accommodation, students will continue to be enrolled as a full-time student. Because the student remains enrolled, it is not a formal leave of absence. It is instead a modification of deadlines and expectations to accommodate the student's new parental responsibilities. As such, students will continue to receive stipends, benefits, and associated tuition support.
- To facilitate the availability of resources for paid parental leave, we suggest each graduate institution set aside an adequate budget per academic year to assist advisors with providing funding for these students.
- Students will work out their modified schedule with a school official, delegated by the Dean, at least one month before leave is to begin. Upon completion of parental leave, students will return to complete their degree requirements.

**Recommendation 4: Increase enforcement mechanisms of U. T. System institutions' current tobacco-free policies**

SAC is concerned with the effect on students' health from being exposed to tobacco products as a result of the current lack of enforcement of existing tobacco-free policies that are already in place at U. T. System institutions. Enforcement of such policies currently relies on members of the campus community to issue a verbal warning when a violation is observed. Community enforcement is the only available mechanism, and it is largely ineffective. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors using tobacco products are abusing the lack of enforcement by smoking within non-smoking areas and even indoors with no valid consequences.

This abuse of policy is creating very serious and problematic situations. For example, pregnant students, students with asthma, and those with other compromising medical conditions are finding themselves within the same vicinity as those who are using tobacco products, jeopardizing the health of the student, faculty, or staff member. Additionally, non-smoking students are often exposed to second-hand smoke in areas designated as tobacco free. Since smokers are not complying with the required distance from doors on non-tobacco free campuses, it negatively impacts all who enter or exit nearby buildings.

All of the aforementioned situations, combined with ineffective enforcement mechanisms, could create a possible adversary relationship between students, faculty, and staff, and render existing policies ineffective.

**Therefore, SAC recommends that each campus uphold existing tobacco policies and that the onus of enforcement be placed on campus police. Those violating the campus tobacco-free policy should be given tickets or citations by campus law enforcement when current policies are clearly violated.**

**Recommendation 5: A recommendation to strengthen security within campus buildings, with an emphasis on research facilities**

Students have recently raised some significant security concerns at some U. T. System institutions that are worth noting, especially given increased anxiety over the allowance of concealed handguns on campus. SAC is aware of the current operating environment in which budget cuts are often necessary to sustain institutional priorities. However, SAC requests that the safety and security infrastructure is given priority in funding. **SAC recommends that strengthened security measures be taken, with an emphasis on needs at research facilities, to ensure the safety of all students.**

Examples of student concerns recently shared with SAC include students and members of the public bypassing existing security and authorization systems that allow unauthorized access to high security clearance areas. Sometimes badge authorization systems have been shut down in areas of high patient traffic in hospital and clinical settings for patient convenience. In these cases, however, unauthorized people have been able to shadow students into high security clearance areas like operating rooms. In non-clinical settings, students also have concerns about others bypassing existing security and authorization systems, and the lack of surveillance on some campuses inhibits the ability for police to assist in reporting crime and identifying perpetrators.

**Academic Affairs Committee Recommendations**

**Recommendation 6: Improve the availability of and reduce confusion in the process of international student transcript translation**

The U. T. System Student Advisory Council recognizes there is a large international student population at U. T. System institutions, and that this group continues to increase in size. U. T. System institutions require that international students submit an officially translated transcript or attestation if their documents are not in English; certain U. T. System institutions also require an official evaluation of the transcript if the degree was obtained from an institution or university outside of the United States.

There have been numerous accounts from international students regarding the translation and transcript evaluation process. Students have difficulty applying credit when enrolling due to translation errors or misunderstandings between course names. These discrepancies have led to international students being unable to enroll in classes required for their degree until an official translation or evaluation can be obtained. In doing this, international students are often halted in their degree plans or are forced to repeat coursework they have completed at a prior institution.

**Therefore, in order to accommodate the needs of incoming and current international students, the U. T. System Student Advisory Council recommends that the U. T. System provide a pre-approved or partnered list of online transcript evaluation services for the institutions to make available to students as well as additional communication that could help clarify requirements of this process.**

**SAC also recommends that the U. T. System work with the institutions to consider facilitating, where needed, an on-campus translation service provided through the respective International Student programs or offices at each institution.**

**Recommendation 7: Adopt best practices that improve access to advising for undergraduate students at each institution**

**The U. T. System Student Advisory Council recommends that the U. T. System implement best practices designed to improve access to advisors and advising platforms for undergraduate students.**

The 2014-2015 SAC recommended the implementation of online centralized advising platforms. Although most of the U. T. System institutions currently have the capability, SAC recommends that the U. T. System institutions continue to educate students about the existence of the platform and intended uses. The purpose of centralized academic advising is to provide all students with adequate access to course advisement at regular intervals during their studies and that the advice they receive is accurate and appropriate to the educational goals of each student. Although most institutions currently have the capability, SAC recommends that the U. T. System institutions continue to educate students about the existence of the platform and intended uses as part of a strategy to improve overall access to advising. SAC believes that advising is one of the most critical components to retention and timely and efficient degree completion.

**In addition to the implementation of a centralized academic advising structure, SAC also recommends that additional best practices are considered to increase access to advising:**

- Increase the number of advisors at each U. T. System institution thereby decreasing the student/advisor ratio to a level that is congruent with a national best practice;
- Require students to meet with their advisor upon completing 30 hours, 60 hours and 90 hours;
- Develop a comprehensive advising website where students can receive assistance and answers to frequently asked questions;



- Promote nonpeak advising periods encouraging students to use those periods for their advising appointments; and
- Consider the addition of other communication tools and platforms such as online chatting and Skype that enhance the student/advisor relationship.

Students also receive inconsistent or conflicting advice from two or more different advisors. In order to reduce the problem, **SAC also recommends that institutions continually stress and reiterate to advisors in training that more than one option may exist for students to effectively meet degree requirements.** A “preferred option” offered by one advisor might be a secondary option to another advisor. This will help the student realize that differing advice may not always be detrimental or conflicting advice.

### **Recommendation 8: Implement policies to protect student researchers from retaliation from Principal Investigators (PI)**

SAC recognizes that there is a long-standing cultural acceptance within academia regarding the relationship between a graduate student and their Principal Investigator (PI). We recognize that the majority of graduate students are solely subject to their PI’s discretion for decisions that affect the students. PIs have considerable discretion on the completion of thesis work, graduation timelines, vacation leave, and parental leave allowances.

There are few checks and balances currently in place within graduate programs on behalf of graduate students to help resolve disagreements between student and PI and to help offset the power differential. Since PIs often hold full discretion for students’ completion and eligibility for graduation, some students can feel intimidated and afraid to openly disagree. It can also be challenging to seek resolution through a third party within the institution since close relationships among faculty can take precedence over a faculty/student relationship. For the reasons outlined, SAC recommends that the U. T. System work with institutions to adopt and implement anti-retaliation policies. More specifically:

- Institutions should have a policy clearly delineating how a student should deal with disagreements with their PI; and
- Anti-retaliation policies should exist to protect students and facilitate other avenues of resolution so that students feel comfortable going outside of their PI for guidance. These policies would protect students from the potential negative implications of enforcing Milestone agreements already in place and for discreetly seeking advice outside of their primary advisor.

Addressing these important issues will ultimately aid in the establishment of reasonable research timelines and solidify working relationships between

students and PIs. Clear and enforceable policies are needed to ultimately protect graduate student interests and success.

### **Health and Graduate Affairs Committee Recommendations**

**Recommendation 9: As a component of “Winning the Talent War,” consider increasing graduate student stipends in order to recruit and retain excellent students as part of the already existing Systemwide initiative to strengthen graduate student support**

Concerning support for graduate students across all U. T. System institutions, SAC would like to reiterate and reemphasize the resolution made by the SAC in 2014-2015 regarding career development for graduate students. Since the time of the resolution’s proposal, there has been a significant variance in application of the proposal’s tenets throughout the member institutions. Although some campuses have seen increased career support and stipend adjustment, these changes have not been uniform across the U. T. System. Overall, support for graduate students in the form of stipends ranges from \$14,000 - \$35,000, with some students approaching what the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) defines as the federal poverty level (i.e., ~\$12,000).

This level of compensation compromises U. T. System’s competitive advantage in attracting and retaining excellent graduate talent, given the attractive nature of the financial and benefits packages of peer institutions. It also disregards the notion that graduate education is a public good, benefiting the whole of society, and critical to maintaining U. T. System’s position as a premier institution of higher education. We believe these steps are necessary in order to rise to the standards outlined by the Quantum Leaps initiative, to analyze and increase graduate stipends, specifically positioning the System to ***“Win the Talent War.”***

Moreover, SAC recommends that the Regents continue the support of campus-specific task forces as well as student-led networks and initiatives with the sole intention of innovating and encouraging graduate professional development. These task forces should take specific care to promote interdisciplinary, intercollegiate, and intercampus collaboration so that advances may be actualized across the System. These programs should include, but are not limited to: mentorship networks, development of business acumen and financial skills for non-business students, scholarly support for academically inclined professional students, and the promotion of teaching-emphasized degree programs.

SAC believes that this recommendation offers a visionary path forward for the Board of Regents to effectively and fairly address the needs of graduate and professional students across the U. T. System.

**Recommendation 10: Continue to support access to mental health and mandate reporting of mental health service-related metrics**

Graduate and professional students experience significant amounts of pressure and anxiety that can lead to stress-related depression, which can be life-threatening. As the U. T. System continues to expand the number of professional and graduate student slots, UTSSAC recommends that continued support of mental health be a top priority in the education of students. Institutions across the System have adopted successful strategies at promotion such as:

- ID badge placards
- Campus-wide wellness events
- 24-Hour Crisis hotlines
- Class syllabi with prominent language/information displayed

We encourage the U. T. System to continue to examine successful institutional strategies in mental health awareness. Additionally, any way to mitigate the stigma associated with seeking psychological well-being would be ideal in promoting student wellness broadly.

Many institutions are left understaffed and do not have the appropriate funding required to maintain an adequate number of mental health professionals. According to the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAHC) and International Association of Counseling Society (IACS), accreditation standards recommend a minimum ratio of 1:1,500 mental health clinicians to students. The closest U. T. System institutional benchmark on staffing ratios is U. T. San Antonio, which has a 1:2,000 provider to student ratio. The IACS reports that exceeding recommended ratios results in lengthy waitlists, increased institutional liability, and inability to conduct campus/population-based outreach.

Through this recommendation, UTSSAC seeks the implementation of the following goals to see improvement in the following areas:

- Decreasing the ratio of students to each mental health counselor;
- Decreasing the time it takes to schedule an appointment for professional help; and
- Increasing the availability of mental health professionals during emergency situations.

**UTSSAC recommends that the System mandate that each university record and report various metrics regarding their mental health services (e.g., mental health and counseling services wait times, availability, and staffing, among others) in order to accomplish these goals. Furthermore, these records should include an overall satisfaction survey of the services provided to not only ensure that the services are available, but also that they are of high quality.** These records should be reported to the U. T. System and available to students at large. It is our hope that the maintenance and

periodic evaluation of such metrics will allow the institutions to track performance over time and identify successful, value-adding interventions that could be expanded across the U. T. System. This will ensure continued improvement in the quality of mental health and counseling services at all U. T. System institutions.

**Recommendation 11: Ensure protection of student status for students with health-related or extenuating circumstances**

The Patient Care and Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires all individuals above the age of 26 to purchase and maintain some form of health insurance or pay a monetary penalty. For professional and graduate students who are frequently ineligible to be on their parents' insurance policy and unable to afford adequate coverage on the open market, a student health insurance option represents the only financially viable choice.

One unique requirement of student health insurance policies is that the covered individual be in good academic standing and remain enrolled in a requisite number of credits in order to maintain their insurance. Due to this policy, students who become unable to maintain full-time status, due to health-related or other extenuating circumstances, represent a particularly vulnerable population. Our most vulnerable students lose the protections afforded to them through their insurance policy by the very situation that requires them to take their leave of absence.

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides many of these same protections to public and private employees by requiring employers to provide job-protected and unpaid leave for qualified medical and other personal reasons. Additionally, peer institutions have pioneered policies that allow students to maintain their "student status" for health insurance purposes up to 6 months into their leave of absence. We believe a similar policy is financially and logistically feasible for the U. T. System institutions.

The majority of graduate and professional students are among the healthiest demographics (USDHHS) and do not present a high risk population for insurance companies. However, the peace of mind offered by maintaining insurance for those individuals, who require a leave of absence for any reason, is greatly beneficial to their well-being and will expedite a return to their studies.

**Therefore, the Student Advisory Council recommends that the U. T. System strongly consider maintaining student status for all students who take a leave of absence falling under FMLA guidelines. This will permit students to continue receiving coverage under their original health insurance and alleviate a significant burden on our colleagues.**

5. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Award of Regents' Outstanding Student Awards in Arts and Humanities -- presentation of visual arts winners and display of artwork**

REPORT

Executive Vice Chancellor Leslie will report on the results of the Regents' Outstanding Student Awards in Arts and Humanities and introduce the visual arts winners.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recognition of its support of the arts and humanities, on February 9, 2012, the Board of Regents authorized the Office of Academic Affairs to establish the Regents' Outstanding Student Awards in Arts and Humanities. The awards program is designed to provide a framework that fosters excellence in student performance, rewards outstanding students, stimulates the arts and humanities, and promotes continuous quality in education. This year's awards are for the visual arts.

The nominees were evaluated on the following elements: originality, use of media, and artistic composition, with the following recognitions:

**Ms. Haley Parsa**, U. T. Austin, for outstanding two-dimensional artwork

**Ms. Heather Mawson**, U. T. El Paso, for outstanding three-dimensional artwork

Samples of works by the award winners will be shown at the Board meeting.

6. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action related to appointments to the Board of Directors of The University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMCO), including proposed appointment and reappointment to the UTIMCO Board and proposed appointment of member to the UTIMCO Board's Audit and Ethics Committee**

RECOMMENDATION

Chairman Foster and The University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMCO) Chairman Hildebrand recommend the reappointment of Mr. J. Kyle Bass to the UTIMCO Board of Directors for a term expiring April 1, 2019. They will also recommend a new appointment to the UTIMCO Board of Directors for a term expiring on April 1, 2019, to replace Mr. Ardon Moore who has served three terms.

UTIMCO requests that the U. T. System Board of Regents consider the appointment of R. Steven Hicks to the Audit and Ethics Committee of the UTIMCO Board of Directors, pending action of the UTIMCO Board on May 5, 2016.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*Texas Education Code* Section 66.08 and Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 10402, Section 4 require that the U. T. System Board of Regents appoint seven members to the UTIMCO Board of Directors of whom three must be members of the Board of Regents, three must have a substantial background and expertise in investments, and one must be a qualified individual who may be the Chancellor.

The approved UTIMCO bylaws allow external directors to serve a maximum of three terms of three years each. Mr. Bass was first appointed to the UTIMCO Board on August 12, 2010, and reappointed on May 9, 2013.

The external director position to be filled with a new appointment was previously held by Mr. Ardon E. Moore, who has served three terms. Mr. Moore was first appointed to the UTIMCO Board on July 13, 2006, and reappointed on February 12, 2009, and on May 3, 2012.

Section 66.08 of the *Texas Education Code* requires that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve the appointment of members to the Audit and Ethics Committee of the UTIMCO Board of Directors. The UTIMCO Board is to consider the appointment of Vice Chairman Hicks to the Committee on May 5, 2016.

**7. U. T. System Board of Regents: Proposed appointments to the University Lands Advisory Board**

RECOMMENDATION

Chairman Foster recommends the following appointments to the University Lands Advisory Board (ULAB) for terms as follows:

- Alex M. Cranberg, Term of three years
- Jeffery D. Hildebrand, Term of two years
- Individual to represent The Texas A&M University System, Term of three years

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On May 15, 2014, the Board of Regents established the ULAB composed of the following:

- Four (4) appointments by The University of Texas System Board of Regents, including at least one external member with industry experience
- One (1) Representative from The Texas A&M University System
- The Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs of the U. T. System (ex officio and nonvoting)

ULAB members advise the Board on operations and management of the University Lands Office, including the hiring of the Chief Executive, reviewing and recommending budgets to the Board, and providing strategic direction.

The Board approved initial appointments to ULAB on July 10, 2014.

**8. U. T. System: Report on strategic Quantum Leaps initiatives**

REPORT

Chancellor McRaven will report on implementation of strategic Quantum Leaps initiatives at the U. T. System.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On November 5, 2015, Chancellor McRaven presented his strategic vision and mission for the U. T. System following a presentation, Leading in a Complex World, a Strategic Approach, 2015-2020. He outlined the following eight Quantum Leaps for the U. T. System:

1. Texas Prospect Initiative
2. The American Leadership Program
3. Winning the Talent War
4. Enhancing Fairness and Opportunity
5. The U. T. Health Care Enterprise
6. Leading the Brain Health Revolution
7. The U. T. Network for National Security
8. U. T. System Expansion in Houston

This presentation is the second in a series of periodic updates on the status of implementation of the eight initiatives.



**9. U. T. Austin: President's Report on the Strategic Vision and Institutional Priorities**

REPORT

President Fenves will report on his strategic vision and institutional priorities for U. T. Austin. As reported in the November 2015 Five-Year Institutional Scope of Work Outline, U. T. Austin has adopted three institutional priorities to advance the University's mission as the State's leading flagship university: (1) accelerate and enhance research productivity; (2) educate leaders through next-generation learning strategies; and (3) transform health care. These three priority goals are based on increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of each activity and university operation, including strategic allocation of resources.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Pursuant to Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 20201, Section 5.1, President Fenves will present his vision and plans for U. T. Austin to the Board of Regents.

U. T. Austin's priorities and strategies were reported in the Five-Year Institutional Scope of Work Outline in November 2015. During this report President Fenves will discuss the progress made on each priority as well as plans for the 2016-17 Academic Year and beyond.

U. T. Austin's priorities and strategies include:

1. Accelerate and Enhance Research Productivity
  - Investing in the recruitment, development, and retention of faculty
  - Establishing support systems for interdisciplinary research
  - Reviewing and reallocating resources, including campus facilities, to advance core academic mission
2. Educate Leaders through Next-Generation Learning Experiences
  - Investing in academic program redesign and faculty-led education innovation
  - Supporting student success through academic and career placement support structures
  - Expanding access through Texas Extended Campus and strategic partnerships
3. Transform Health Care
  - Launching the Dell Medical School and welcoming the first class in Fall 2016
  - Catalyzing new interdisciplinary teaching and research opportunities
  - Improving all aspects of health education, access, and delivery across the University and Central Texas
  - Incubating and launching strategic research-clinical care initiatives

Starting in Academic Year 2016-2017, U. T. Austin will develop and implement a new strategic plan that is mission and responsibility-centric, measurable, transparent, and representative of U. T. Austin's unique public mission.

10. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Student Regent Justin A. Drake and Comments by Regent Drake**