

1. U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston: Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Occupational Therapy Degree; Approval to Submit the Proposed Degree Program 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 Acting Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and President Stobo that authorization be granted to establish a Master of Occupational Therapy at U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston; to submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action; and to authorize the Acting Executive Vice Chancellor for Health 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. Medical Branch - Galveston 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. Medical Branch - Galveston will be amended to reflect this action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Program Description

The proposal seeks to implement a Master of Occupational Therapy degree, an entry-level professional program in the School of Allied Health Sciences, to prepare generalist occupational therapy graduates for licensure and practice in the State of Texas. The program will target students with bachelor's degrees in Texas who seek careers in this established health and rehabilitation field. If approved, the first students would be admitted in August 2003. The proposed curriculum will require 82 semester credit hours of didactic coursework and 18 semester credit hours of clinical instruction, spanning eight semesters (30 months). Expected enrollment is 35-40 students in each entering class based on a 10-year average for the existing bachelor's degree program. The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy

Education requires that a professional program be offered at the post-baccalaureate level in order to maintain accreditation after 2007.

Program Quality

The proposed program would continue a long-standing tradition of excellence established by the current baccalaureate program, which was one of the first in the Southwest and has graduated over 1,000 students in its 34-year history. Ninety percent of program graduates successfully complete the national certification examination on the first attempt and the attrition rate for program completion has been less than 1%.

There are 8.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty assigned as regular faculty in the current program. An increase of 2.0 FTE faculty positions is anticipated for the new program. Clinical and adjunct faculty from the U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston hospitals and clinics and other academic areas in rehabilitation augment this group. Collectively, this group of regular and adjunct faculty represents the most recognized and highly published occupational therapy scholars and academicians in the Southwest and compares favorably with the top 10 faculty groups in this area nationally.

The proposed program would admit students holding a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution who have successfully completed 29 prerequisite credits in nine specified foundational areas. The proposed curriculum also includes interdisciplinary instruction, integrated practice, and community-based service-learning activities. The curriculum will focus on theory and practice in medical rehabilitation and occupational science (understanding lifestyles, habits, routines and time-use of daily life and their influences), treatment approaches and techniques, assistive technologies, service delivery systems, evidence-based decision-making, ethics, cultural awareness, communication skills, and medical jurisprudence.

Program Cost

The five-year cost projection for the proposed program totals \$3,988,343. Of this amount, \$455,000 represents the estimated incremental cost above current expenditures for the existing baccalaureate program that the proposed program will replace. Approximately \$1.2 million of the total funding to support the program will come from formula income, \$2.6 million will be derived from reallocation of existing resources from the institution (including both legislative appropriations and local income), \$26,000 from school and departmental program endowment funds, and \$168,758 from current federal grant funding that will overlap the projected start of the program. Additional potential sources of funding include endowments from

estate bequests currently on file and committed to the program, and anticipated future grant awards, as well as faculty practice revenues. If fully realized during the five-year period, these potential funding sources would total an estimated \$145,000, for total program funding of \$4,139,758.

This item was reviewed by the Health Affairs Committee on October 10, 2002.

2. U. T. Health Science Center - Houston - Medical School Building - Perimeter Berms: 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 Business Affairs, the Acting Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and President Willerson 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 Medical School Building - Perimeter Berms project at U. T. Health Science Center - Houston at a preliminary project cost of \$10,000,000 with funding from Insurance Proceeds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This project will continue efforts to recover from Tropical Storm Allison in June 2001. The work includes repair and completion of the perimeter berm system to protect against a 500-year flood event. This project will reinforce, heighten, and augment the existing berm system, and include protection of the surrounding perimeter of the entire building using concrete walls and floodgates.

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

This item was reviewed by the Health Affairs Committee and the Facilities Planning and Construction Committee on October 10, 2002.

3. U. T. Health Science Center - Houston - Medical School Building - Roof Top Vivarium and Exterior Elevator: 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 Business Affairs, the Acting Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and President Willerson 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 Medical School Building - Roof Top Vivarium and Exterior Elevator project at U. T. Health Science Center - Houston at a preliminary project cost of \$38,000,000 with funding from Insurance Proceeds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This project will continue efforts to recover from Tropical Storm Allison in June 2001. The work includes relocation of the vivarium to the roof and installation of an associated exterior elevator. The Animal Care Facility was located in the basement level of the Medical School Building that was flooded during the storm. This facility is a crucial element of the academic and research programs. U. T. Health Science Center - Houston proposes to relocate this vital function to protect from future flooding.

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

This item was reviewed by the Health Affairs Committee and the Facilities Planning and Construction Committee on October 10, 2002.

4. U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio: Request for Authorization to Accept a Cash Contribution from the City of Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas, for the Medical Research Division of the Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) as Fulfillment of Operating Fund Requirements

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Acting Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and President Cigarroa that U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio be authorized to accept a cash contribution of \$1 million from the City of Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas, for operating expenses associated with the Medical Research Division of the Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC).

It is acknowledged that this contribution will fulfill the U. T. Board of Regents' requirement set forth at the November 11, 1998 meeting for local contribution of funds for operating expenses for this division of the RAHC.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board of Regents approved construction of the Hidalgo County Medical Research Division of the RAHC in November 1998 contingent on "(1) a gift of the land satisfactory to the U. T. System in its sole discretion, on which the facility will be constructed, and (2) the contribution of funds satisfactory to the U. T. System in its sole discretion for operating expenses from the Foundation, city and county governmental agencies, and the medical and business communities in the designated area."

If accepted, this gift will fulfill the operating fund requirements. It is understood that an additional \$500,000 will be given over the next two years, if funding is available. The Board accepted a cash contribution in lieu of a gift of land on November 11, 1999.

The Board redesignated the Hidalgo County Medical Research Division as the Medical Research Division of the RAHC on August 8, 2002.

This item was reviewed by the Health Affairs Committee on October 10, 2002.