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FOR
HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Committee Meeting: 2/26/2020

Board Meeting: 2/27/2020
Austin, Texas

Janiece Longoria, *Chairman*
David J. Beck
Christina Melton Crain
R. Steven Hicks
Jodie Lee Jiles
Nolan Perez

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Convene	<i>2:30 p.m.</i> <i>Chairman Crain,</i> <i>Acting Chairman</i>		
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5. U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler: Discussion and appropriate action related to the creation and establishment of a school of medicine including approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Medicine degree program	<i>2:49 p.m.</i> Action <i>President Calhoun</i>	Action	302

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6. U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler: Discussion and appropriate action regarding acceptance of a gift from the East Texas Medical Center Foundation in support of the establishment of a school of medicine	2:54 p.m. Action <i>President Calhoun</i>	Not on Agenda	303
Adjourn	3:00 p.m.		

1. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration**

RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Consent Agenda items assigned to this Committee are [Items 42 - 58](#).

2a. U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston: Discussion and appropriate action regarding retention of low-producing programs recommended for consolidation or elimination by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve the retention of the following low-producing program:

Master of Medical Science in Medical Science Research degree program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Texas Education Code Section 61.0512(f) permits the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) to recommend the consolidation or elimination of a degree program based on the number of degrees awarded by the program. *Texas Education Code* Section 61.0512(f) requires that the Coordinating Board recommend such action to an institution's governing board. The governing board may accept or reject the Coordinating Board's recommendation.

The Coordinating Board rules for low-producing programs are in the *Texas Administrative Code*, Title 19, Chapter 4, Subchapter R, Rules 4.285 to 4.290. Based upon the rules, the Coordinating Board staff may recommend to an institution's governing board the consolidation or closure of any non-exempt degree program that has been on the low-producing list for three or more consecutive years. If the governing board chooses not to accept the recommendation of the Coordinating Board, then the university system must identify the programs that were recommended for consolidation or closure on its next Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). If the minimum standard is not achievable, the institution needs to provide a rationale describing the merits of continuing the degree program.

Minimum Standards

- Bachelor's Degree Program: An average of five degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than twenty-five degrees awarded for any five-year period.
- Master's Degree Program: An average of three degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than fifteen degrees awarded for any five-year period.
- Doctoral and Special Professional Degrees: An average of two degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than ten degrees awarded for any five-year period.

Beyond the programs identified by the Coordinating Board, the University of Texas System institutions continuously review academic programs. Over the last four years, the six U. T. health institutions have created nine new degree programs (5 masters and 4 doctoral). Over this same period, the U. T. health institutions have requested and received approval from the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs for the phase out of nine degree programs (7 masters and 2 doctoral) and consolidation of 16 programs (8 masters and 8 doctoral).

Data Related to the Programs

		Degrees Awarded by Year				
Degree	Program Name	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019
M.M.S.	Medical Science Research	4	4	5	8	2

		Number of Declared Majors				
Degree	Program Name	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019
M.M.S.	Medical Science Research	2	2	2	1	6

Summary of Institution’s Response

The U. T. System Offices of Academic Affairs and Health Affairs jointly developed a process for when an institution requests to retain a low-producing program. The institution must submit a rationale and an action plan designed to recruit, retain, and graduate more students from the program.

The institution has expanded its target audience for this unique pathway to include current physicians, promoting engagement in basic science research as a way to bridge the gap between the laboratory and the bedside, which is expected to increase the number of degrees awarded. There are no similar degree programs in Texas. There are no permanent faculty and the program coordinator is assigned to two other degree programs, making direct costs for this degree program less than \$20,000 per year.

The Office of Health Affairs will notify the Coordinating Board of the U. T. System Board of Regents' action and will report the continued programs on the U. T. System LAR.

2b. U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio: Discussion and appropriate action regarding retention of low-producing degree programs recommended for consolidation or elimination by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve the retention of the following low-producing programs:

Master of Science in Personalized Molecular Medicine; and

Master of Science in Medical Health Physics

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Texas Education Code Section 61.0512(f) permits the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) to recommend the consolidation or elimination of a degree program based on the number of degrees awarded by the program. *Texas Education Code* Section 61.0512(f) requires that the Coordinating Board recommend such action to an institution's governing board. The governing board may accept or reject the Coordinating Board's recommendation.

The Coordinating Board rules for low-producing programs are in the *Texas Administrative Code*, Title 19, Chapter 4, Subchapter R, Rules 4.285 to 4.290. Based upon the rules, the Coordinating Board staff may recommend to an institution's governing board the consolidation or closure of any non-exempt degree program that has been on the low-producing list for three or more consecutive years. If the governing board chooses not to accept the recommendation of the Coordinating Board, then the university system must identify the programs that were recommended for consolidation or closure on its next Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). If the minimum standard is not achievable, the institution needs to provide a rationale describing the merits of continuing the degree program.

Minimum Standards

- Bachelor's Degree Program: An average of five degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than twenty-five degrees awarded for any five-year period.
- Master's Degree Program: An average of three degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than fifteen degrees awarded for any five-year period.
- Doctoral and Special Professional Degrees: An average of two degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than ten degrees awarded for any five-year period.

Beyond the programs identified by the Coordinating Board, the University of Texas System institutions continuously review academic programs. Over the last four years, the six U. T. health institutions have created nine new degree programs (5 masters and 4 doctoral). Over this same period, the U. T. health institutions have requested and received approval from the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs for the phase out of nine programs (7 masters and 2 doctoral) and consolidation of 16 programs (8 masters and 8 doctoral).

Data Related to the Programs

		Degrees Awarded by Year				
Degree	Program Name	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
M.S.	Personalized Molecular Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
M.S.	Medical Health Physics	1	0	0	1	0

		Number of Declared Majors					
Degree	Program Name	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	Fall 2019
M.S.	Personalized Molecular Medicine	0	0	0	0	1	10
M.S.	Medical Health Physics	1	1	2	2	2	1

Summary of Institution's Response

The U. T. System Offices of Academic Affairs and Health Affairs jointly developed a process for when an institution requests to retain a low-producing program. The institution must submit a rationale and an action plan designed to recruit, retain, and graduate more students from the program.

M.S. Personalized Molecular Medicine: Approval to launch this stand-alone master's degree program was given in Spring 2018 but the Coordinating Board has linked the reporting of graduates with the previous M.S. in Molecular Medicine, a degree program which has been discontinued by the institution. Approved in Spring 2018, the M.S. in Personalized Molecular Medicine enrolled one student for Fall 2018 and nine entering students for Fall 2019. A new recruitment plan projects 10 new students for Fall 2020, and the expectation of meeting the minimum number of graduates by 2022.

M.S. Medical Health Physics: This unique, nationally accredited professional Medical Health Physics degree program is the only one of its kind in Texas. The degree program leverages resources across the institution and requires only one course that is not part of another existing Ph.D. program offered by the institution. While enrollment in the program will continue to be limited, the program is unique and offered at minimal cost to the institution.

The Office of Health Affairs will notify the Coordinating Board of the U. T. System Board of Regents' action and will report the continued programs on the U. T. System LAR.

3. **U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler: Update and discussion regarding the East Texas Health System, LLC**

REPORT

President Calhoun will introduce a discussion on the East Texas Health System, LLC.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On February 15, 2018, the U. T. System Board of Regents approved the formation of a health care system with Ardent Health Services, including formation of a limited liability company, extension of credit, approval of a common name and logo, and finding of public purpose.

4. **U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler: Discussion and appropriate action regarding agreement to provide physician services to East Texas Health System, LLC**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, and the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel, that the U. T. System Board of Regents, on behalf of The University of Texas Health Science Center - Tyler, approve terms of an agreement to provide physician services to East Texas Health System, LLC, as described below.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In furtherance of the joint venture formed by U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler and Ardent Health Services to create East Texas Health System, LLC (doing business as U. T. Health East Texas Health System), U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler seeks approval of a Master Services Agreement by which U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler will provide physician services to East Texas Health System, LLC. In consideration for providing the physician services, East Texas Health System, LLC will pay U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler fair market value compensation. The contract value will vary each year, and cumulatively, based on the actual services provided by U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler to East Texas Health System, LLC, but is estimated to total approximately \$115,793,000 over the initial three-year term of March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2023. The contract automatically renews for consecutive four-year terms unless and until cancelled by one of the parties.

5. U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler: Discussion and appropriate action related to the creation and establishment of a school of medicine including approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Medicine degree program

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents authorize steps necessary for the creation and establishment of a school of medicine by approving:

- a. preliminary authority for U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler to establish a Doctor of Medicine degree program; and
- b. notification of the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed Doctor of Medicine degree program will prepare physicians to be skilled clinicians, biomedical scientists, professional leaders, and innovators in the ongoing transformation of the health care system not only in the Northeast Texas region, but throughout Texas and nationally. The proposed degree program will establish a broad-based curriculum integrating the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social, health system, and population health sciences, which would emphasize community and population health, primary care, behavioral and mental health, and preventive medicine.

In addition to preparing students for the independent professional practice of medicine, the proposed program will include instruction in the basic medical sciences, clinical medicine, examination and diagnosis, patient communications, medical ethics and law, professional standards, and include undergraduate and graduate medical education in specialties, such as internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, neurology, ophthalmology, radiology, clinical pathology, anesthesiology, family medicine, and psychiatry. Finally, the program will draw on the U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler's existing teaching and research strengths in the programs of public health, health administration, and medical biological sciences.

Once preliminary planning authority is approved, U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler will submit the full degree program proposal for approval by the U. T. System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

6. **U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler: Discussion and appropriate action regarding acceptance of a gift from the East Texas Medical Center Foundation in support of the establishment of a school of medicine**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel, and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents, acting on behalf of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, accept a gift in the amount of up to \$80,000,000, from the East Texas Medical Center Foundation in support of the establishment of a school of medicine.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The gift commitment from the East Texas Medical Center Foundation is contingent upon approval by the Board of Regents of the creation and establishment of a medical school in Smith County, Texas. The Foundation commits to work with U. T. Health Science Center's leadership to create a multiyear payment schedule that provides partial underwriting for the startup, operational, and related expenses associated with a new medical school. The Foundation places a profound interest in ensuring that the medical school emphasizes rural health care and mental and behavioral issues.

The Foundation has offered a number of milestones to be achieved, aligned with the payment schedule, the first of which commences with the approval and written notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) also being requested from the Board of Regents. Other milestones include key activities, such as the recruitment of a founding dean, application submission to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, submission of proposals to THECB, achievement of accreditation status, student recruitment, and enrollment of a charter class ideally by 2023, with a goal of increasing enrollment to at least 130 students by 2027.