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CHANCELLOR’S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2012

UH SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENTS

- Earlier last month, I completed four years as Chancellor of the UH System. During this short time, our enrollment has grown from 56,000 to 65,000 students, annual degree production from 11,700 to 13,700, and annual fundraising from $53 million to more than $81 million. These accomplishments have come during a very difficult fiscal time when budgets were slashed and endowments were reduced, and they are the direct result of the leadership, hard work, and dedication of UH System faculty and staff, and the exceptional guidance and support we enjoy from the Board of Regents.

- One accomplishment that is sometimes overlooked when we only focus our attention on the millions awarded for research or new buildings going up is the fact that our four universities are collaborating like never before to improve access and success for our students. Each of our UH System universities is already recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as community-engaged institutions – engines of economic and social growth for our communities. Now, we are taking that charge even further by encouraging collaboration – rather than competition – among our four universities.

These are recent developments and achievements:

--Our four universities have opened new teaching sites in Pearland and Northwest Houston and have significantly increased their academic presence in Sugar Land.

--Plans are well under way to collaborate with Houston Community College to establish teaching centers at existing HCC campuses.

--Admission applications are now cross-referenced between our universities, allowing us to find a home for all those who wish to earn a degree from a UH System university. Last fall, several thousand applications were transferred among our universities.

--Similarly, students at any UH System university are now able to take up to six credit hours at another one without any financial or academic penalty.

--To ensure we can function as a cohesive system, I have been meeting with all Presidents and senior UH System officials monthly. In addition, I have entrusted Dr. Marshall Schott, Associate Vice Chancellor for Planning and Administration, with the responsibility of coordinating system-wide efforts. You can expect to get periodic updates from Dr. Schott on system-level initiatives.
Besides new teaching centers and satellite campuses – the traditional bricks-and-mortar method – our universities are earning national recognition for online education. Efforts by two UH System universities were recognized recently when U.S. News & World Report published a new “Honor Roll” of top online education programs. UH’s College of Education iSMART program and UH-Clear Lake’s School of Business online MBA program were included in this inaugural edition of the honor roll. To be considered for this ranking, online degree programs have to have at least 80% of course content available online. Though the “Honor Roll” measures overall quality, no numerical rankings were assigned for the 40 university programs listed. UHCL is one of only two Houston-based universities offering an online MBA program accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

One of the characteristics of a Tier One university is the number of faculty members who come from top-tier institutions, and the awards they receive. Five UH assistant professors have just been awarded prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER awards, which are TARU-recognized. These five-year grants are awarded to promising junior faculty members who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education, and the integration of education and research.

The five faculty members are:

---Jiming Bao, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, joined UH in 2008, his grant is for $400,000.
---Ognjen Miljanic, assistant professor of chemistry, Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, joined UH in 2008, his grant is for $600,000.
---Angela Moeller, assistant professor of chemistry, Ph.D. from the University of Hannover and D.Sc. from the University of Cologne, joined UH in 2009, her grant is for $473,000.
---Debora Rodrigues, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, Ph.D. from Michigan State University, joined UH in 2010, her grant is for $450,000.
---Gila Stein, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Barbara, joined UH in 2009, her grant is for $500,000.

In addition, several UH faculty members have received important TARU-recognized and other national awards:

---Rebecca Lee, 2012 Fulbright Scholar, assistant professor of nutrition, earned her Ph.D. at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, joined UH in 2004.
---Vassiliy Lubchenko, 2011 Sloan Research Fellowship, assistant professor of chemistry, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, joined UH in 2005.
---Catherine “Cathy” Horn, 2012 Fulbright Scholar, associate professor of educational psychology and senior research associate, National Center for Student Success, earned her Ph.D. from Boston College’s Lynch School of Education, joined UH in 2005.
--Michelangelo Sabatino, Modern Languages Association’s Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies, associate professor and coordinator, Architecture History/Theory, earned his doctorate in fine arts from the University of Toronto, joined UH in 2006.

- The University of Houston has been included in the annual list of “Best Value Colleges” released by *The Princeton Review*. The list includes 75 public and 75 private institutions which *The Princeton Review* identifies as offering excellent academics, generous financial aid, and/or relatively low cost of attendance. In August 2011, *The Princeton Review* included UH among the nation’s “Best 376 Colleges.”

**UH-CLEAR LAKE ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **UH-Clear Lake Pearland Campus**, which opened in Fall 2010 with 530 students enrolled in classes, experienced a 36 percent increase for a total of 720 in student enrollment in fall 2011. Semester credit hours also increased by 40%, from 2,349 to 3,291. The facility, built by the City of Pearland, is also home to the Pearland Economic Development Corporation.

- Phase I of the expansion and renovation of UHCL’s Arbor Building is now complete with new facilities for fine arts programs, a science teaching lab, and centers for psychology and autism. Phase II, now under way, focuses on the renovation of existing space and will provide additional space for photo labs, design studios, and the Center for Educational Programs. Work has also started on a “sensory playground” in the Center of Autism and Development Disabilities to give autistic children opportunities to develop interpersonal skills. An $81,344 grant from The Brown Foundation is funding the playground. Other key supporters of the Center include The Fondren Foundation, The Simmons Foundation and The George and Mary Hamman Foundation.

- UHCL’s Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement (SLICE) program develops leadership through service to the community. Since 2002, SLICE has sponsored a Day of Service each semester. On March 3, UHCL students, faculty, staff, and alumni will participate in projects with Houston Area Women’s Center, Baytown Habitat for Humanity, Krause Children’s Center, Houston Food Bank, Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, Hope Village, and several other area non-profits.

**UH-DOWNTOWN ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **UHD’s Bachelor of Social Work program began in Fall 2009** with nine students and now has 61 declared majors, with the first cohort expected to graduate in May. Of 16 candidates for graduation, 15 are first-generation college students and 13 are applying to graduate school. In Fall 2011, one of students won the National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter’s Student of the Year award. The program is the initial recipient for the Texas Pathways Project, a consortium of mental health agencies that provides stipends to students, and is a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. During the CSWE commissioner’s visit in 2011, the program passed all standards and was promoted for final accreditation review a year earlier than planned.
• Every ten years colleges and universities accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) are required to submit a Compliance Certification report in which they demonstrate their compliance with well-over 100 standards of excellence. In the fifth year between reports, institutions are required to submit an interim report. UHD is in midst of its fifth year Compliance Certification report and members of the SACS Commission will visit the university next month.

• UHD has significantly expanded its online and distance education opportunities in the past 18 months. The number of online completion degrees has grown from two to 14, including a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Science, which graduated its first cohort in December 2011, and a Master’s in Criminal Justice. Enrollment in online credit hours increased by 57.2% from FY12 to FY13.

UH-VICTORIA ACHIEVEMENTS

• UH-Victoria plays a unique role in the UH System as the college-town option for students who want a smaller residential setting for their university experience. Although Fall 2011 freshmen enrollment indicated 181 new freshmen, by semester credit hours accrued UHV had 271 freshmen and 271 sophomores. Based on student feedback, best practices, and available resources, UHV has put in place strategies for enrolling a larger number of qualified applicants and retaining those students who enroll. For fall 2012, UHV has already received 1,541 applications, and 639 (41.5 %) have been accepted. At this time in 2011, only 233 students had been accepted.

• UHV is going through a facilities master planning process with the participation of UH’s DesignLAB, a community planning committee, and Victoria College. Students have expressed the need for a space dedicated to student life, and UHV is looking at ways to accomplish this with existing buildings until a separate student life building is feasible. In addition, UHV is bringing the community into student life through part-time job opportunities, a Community as Campus Fine Arts Committee that promotes student participation in fine arts organizations, and service-learning involvement such as mentoring and Habitat for Humanity.

• Under the guidance of new Director Joe Humphreys, the Small Business Development Center provided training for 80 businesses in its 11-county coverage area during the first quarter of FY 2012. Advisers provided counseling that helped area residents start one business and expand five companies. Fifty-two jobs were retained, and an additional 24 were created. The result was $1.7 million worth of capital creation. The SBDC now has satellite offices in each of the counties it serves. This is particularly significant in assisting counties in the Eagle Ford Shale formation with business expansion and start-up opportunities.

Note: Previous Chancellor’s Reports to the UH System Board of Regents may be found at http://uh.edu/president/communications/index.php