

**MINUTES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, August 20, 2014 – The members of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents convened at 11:01 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2014, at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel, Conrad Hilton Ballroom, Second Floor, 4800 Calhoun, Houston, Texas, with the following members participating:

ATTENDANCE –

Member(s) Present

Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., Chairman  
Paula M. Mendoza, Vice Chair  
Durga D. Agrawal, Member  
Asit R. Shah, Student Regent  
Jarvis V. Hollingsworth, Ex Officio

Non-Members in Attendance

Spencer D. Armour, Regent  
Tilman J. Fertitta, Regent  
Beth Madison, Regent  
Peter K. Taaffe, Regent  
Roger F. Welder, Regent

In accordance with a notice being timely posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum in attendance, Chair of the Committee, Welcome W. Wilson, Jr. called the meeting to order. Regent Wilson, Jr. stated the committee would consider four (4) action items and hear one (1) information item; and also stated that Item E, the information item regarding the First Year Freshman Residential Requirements – University of Houston was pulled from the agenda by the University of Houston Administration.

Regent Wilson, Jr. noted that in regards to the information item that the committee will not be discussing at the meeting because it had been pulled from the agenda by the UH Administration, that on behalf of the Academic and Student Success Committee, that the members of the committee will strongly continue to encourage the Administration to bring proposals and items for review to this committee on an ongoing basis, such as freshmen housing on campus that will continue to move this university forward in a positive manner and improve as always the student success which is our number one goal of this Academic and Student Success Committee and the Board.

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AGENDA ITEMS

**Action Item(s):**

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by a unanimous vote of the members present, the following minutes from the meetings listed below were approved:

- February 25, 2014, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting
- May 6, 2014, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting

Following the approval of the minutes, Regent Wilson, Jr. asked Dr. Paula Myrick Short, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost to introduce the items on the committee's agenda.

2. Approval of Management Board for UH Charter School – University of Houston, Item C – A&SS-C

Dr. Paula Myrick Short introduced and presented this item to the committee requesting approval to establish a management board for the University of Houston Charter School, which is an open-enrollment Charter School serving 137 students on the UH campus. The board shall be called the University of Houston Charter School Board. The UH System Board of Regents is the sponsor of the Charter School.

Dr. Short stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to employ best practices in the management and supervision of the Charter School. The Board of Regents' role with the Charter School is properly that of a supervisory board, not a management board involved in the day-to-day operations of the school. This approach that is being recommended is consistent with the management model of other university charter schools in Texas, which are run by the University of Texas and Stephen F. Austin State University. Additionally, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has suggested that a management board is appropriate for a university charter school.

The structure of this proposed board is to be composed of five (5) members, with the UH Dean of the College of Education sitting as the permanent chair; and other members shall be appointed by the Dean, and they are to include:

- A College of Education Faculty member;
- Community Representative, who is familiar with Charter Schools;
- Teacher Representative; and
- Parent Representative.

The board shall meet quarterly; and the Chair may call other meetings as necessary. The UH System Board of Regents retains the ultimate responsibility for the Charter School.

The purpose of bringing a Resolution before the committee is that the Texas Commissioner of Education must approve the delegation of authority of the Board of Regents in order to amend the charter and establish the Charter School Board. TEA procedures require that the delegation of authority take the form of a Board Resolution, which is signed by each of the board members voting in favor. We are submitting the resolution for your approval and signatures. Ms. Dona Cornell, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel, has worked very hard with TEA and with others to draft this item and was available at the meeting to answer any questions.

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the Management Board for the UH Charter School – University of Houston was approved.

3. Approval of UH Charter School Policies – University of Houston – Item D, A&SS-D

Dr. Short presented this item requesting approval for the following policies for the University of Houston Charter School. These policies have been developed as best practices and to comply with federal and state laws and regulations.

There were three (3) specific policies on the agenda:

- **Grievance Policy and Procedure** – This is required by federal law, and the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. The proposed grievance policy and procedure incorporates the UHCS Notice of Non-Discrimination, and provides for a specific process to allow individuals to present grievances, including appeals.
- **Anti-Bullying Policy** – The Texas Education Code requires that each school district adopt policies which prohibit bullying. This was previously addressed in our Student Code of Conduct, but it is more fully developed in the new policy to comply with specific requirements of the amended statute.
- **Student Code of Conduct** – This update to the current Student Code of Conduct is proposed in order to better comply with the specific elements of Texas Education Code regarding disciplinary actions which may be taken and what prior factors may be taken into consideration at the time of admission decisions. Additionally, a definition section has been added to the code. This policy has been developed from the model policies of the Texas Charter School Association.

In the future, the Board of Regents will not be required to approve policies such as these, because the UH Charter School Board will have the authority to do so.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the request of the UH Charter School Policies – University of Houston was approved.

4. Approval of Appointment of Dean, School of Education – University of Houston-Clear Lake, Item F, A&SS-F

Dr. Short presented this item requesting approval of the appointment of Dr. Mark Shermis as Dean of the School of Education at the University of Houston-Clear Lake effective August 1, 2014.

Dr. Shermis obtained his undergraduate degree with honors in Psychology, with a minor in German, from the University of Kansas; and he earned his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and his M.A. degree from the University of Michigan. Upon graduation from his doctorate, he completed two Post-Doctoral Internships in Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Shermis is a Professor of Educational Foundations and Leadership and of Psychology at the University of Akron, where he previously served as Dean of the College of Education. He has also served as the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Education at Florida International University, and as a Department Chair in the College of Education at the University of Florida.

Dr. Shermis has served as Editor or Consulting Editor for many professional journals in the field of psychology; and he has published over 80 scholarly publications in major journals in his discipline. He also has received many honors and awards for his work including being a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association and the American Psychological Association.

Dr. William Staples, President of UH-Clear Lake commented that Dr. Shermis was a very experienced administrator having served as Department Chair, Associate Dean and Dean. He has outstanding credentials from the University of Michigan. Dr. Staples stated they were delighted to have Dr Shermis onboard and requested committee approval of this appointment.

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the request of the Appointment of Dean, Dr. Mark Sharmis, School of Education at the UH-Clear Lake effective August 1, 2014 was approved.

5. Approval of Appointment of Dean, College of Sciences and Technology – University of Houston-Downtown, Item G, A&SS-G.

Dr. Short introduced this item requesting the approval of the appointment of Dr. James Uzman as Dean of the College of Sciences and Technology at the University of Houston-Downtown effective June 1, 2014.

Dr. Uzman received a B.S. in Zoology, a M.S. in Environmental Health Science from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of California at Berkeley. After working as a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, he served as a Visiting Assistant Professor from 1989-1991 in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of California-Berkeley, followed by two years as a Staff Scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He then served as a visiting assistant professor, research associate, and lecturer at the University of Houston in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry.

He joined the faculty of the Department of Natural Sciences at UH-Downtown in 1997 as an assistant professor of biology and biochemistry, and in 2009 he was promoted to full professor.

In 2003, Dr. Uzman was selected to serve as Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences. He served as chair for two consecutive four-year terms until 2011, at which time he was asked to serve as Interim Dean of the College of Sciences & Technology.

Dr. Uzman is a very accomplished scholar and administrator. The number of graduates in Natural Sciences had more than doubled while he was chair of that department. He served as

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PI or Co-PI on \$8 million worth of grants from the Department of Education, the Army Research Office, and the National Science Foundation. As Interim Dean, he reorganized two academic departments and obtained approval for a BS in Geosciences at UHD, which has already exceeded enrollment expectations.

Dr. William Flores, President of UH-Downtown introduced and recognized Dr. James Uzman who had attended the meeting.

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the request of the Appointment of Dean, Dr. James Uzman, College of Sciences and Technology at UH-Downtown effective June 1, 2014 was approved

At the conclusion of the approval of the last action item presented, Regent Wilson, Jr. called for a motion to place all four (4) action items presented to the committee on the Board of Regents' Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval at the Board of Regents meeting scheduled Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by a unanimous vote of the committee members present, the following four (4) action items will be placed on the Board of Regents' Consent Docket Agenda for final approval at the August 20, 2014 Board meeting as listed below.

1. Approval of Management Board for UH Charter School – University of Houston;
2. Approval of UH Charter School Policies – University of Houston;
3. Approval of Appointment of Dean, School of Education – UH-Clear Lake; and
4. Approval of Appointment of Dean, College of Sciences and Technology – UH-Downtown.

No Executive Session was held.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

All documentation submitted to the Committee in support of the foregoing action items, including but not limited to “Passed” agenda items and supporting documentation presented to the Committee, is incorporated herein and made a part of these minutes for all purposes; however, this does not constitute a waiver of any privileges contained herein.

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Others Present:

Renu Khator  
Carl Carlucci

Wayne Beran  
Shannon Harrison

Carl Stockton  
Joe Brueggman

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Others Present (cont'd):

Paula Myrick Short  
Dona Cornell  
Rathindra Bose  
Richie Hunter  
Elwyn Lee  
Richard Walker  
William Flores  
William Staples  
Victor Morgan  
Dana Rooks  
Jeanne LaMontagne  
Lauri Ruiz  
Marquette Hobbs  
Brian Thomas

Brandon Alexander  
Richard Bonnin  
Mike Harold  
Chris Stanich  
Jeffrey Cass  
Mark Clarke  
David Bradley  
Don Guyton  
Jon Aldrich  
Don Price  
Michelle Dotter  
James Uzman  
Brenda Robles  
Gerry Mathisen

Keith Kowalka  
Phil Booth  
Dick Phillips  
Dan Wells  
Joanna Wolff  
Maria Elena Soliño  
Oscar Guterrez  
Tom Ehardt  
Dan Maxwell  
Emily Messa  
Mike Yancey  
Lisa Shumate  
Ben Aldrich