

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

Thursday, August 24, 2017 – The members of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents convened at 11:23 a.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2017, at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel, Conrad Hilton Ballroom, Second Floor, 4450 University Drive, Houston, Texas 77204 with the following members participating:

ATTENDANCE –

Member(s) Present

Paula M. Mendoza, Chair  
Beth Madison, Vice Chair  
Durga D. Agrawal, Member  
Gerald W. McElvy, Member  
Peter K. Taaffe, Member  
Roger F. Welder, Member  
Neelesh C. Mutyala, Student Regent, Non-voting

Member(s) Absent

Tilman J. Fertitta, Ex Officio

Non-Member(s) in Attendance

Spencer D. Armour, III, Regent  
Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., 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, Paula M. Mendoza called the meeting to order. Regent Mendoza stated the committee would be presented four (4) agenda items: two (2) action items for the committee's consideration and approval and two (2) information items.

Regent Mendoza moved to the first approval item, the approval of the minutes from the May 18, 2017, Academic and Student Success Committee meeting.

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AGENDA ITEMS

**Action Item(s):**

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent McElvy, and by a unanimous vote of the members present, the following minutes from the meeting listed below was approved:

- May 18, 2017, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting

Following the approval of the minutes, Regent Mendoza moved to the next item on the agenda, Item C, the Approval of Texas Public Education Grant Awarding Guidelines – University of Houston and introduced Dr. Richard Walker, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who presented this item.

Dr. Walker began his presentation by stating that this was a housekeeping item and it related to acquiring Board approval regarding the Texas Public Education Grant Awarding Guidelines for each of the four (4) UH System institutions. After extensive research, it was determined that there was no date found on when this item had been brought to the Board for approval. Dr. Walker stated that when reviewing Board policy processes, it was noted that one of the responsibilities was student financial aid and it had been discovered that this item had not been previously taken to the Board; therefore, it was being submitted at this meeting for the Board's consideration and approval. Dr. Walker stated that these guidelines were also being submitted annually to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and after a discussion with the General Counsel it was agreed that this item should be officially presented to the Board to have each of the four (4) UH System institution guidelines approved.

Dr. Walker mentioned that the presentation provided did include the guidelines for all four (4) institutions. He stated each institution does have a responsibility of establishing their own guidelines, and even though they may be slightly different, all four (4) guidelines meet all the compliance requirements of the Texas Education Code.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent McElvy, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the request for Approval of Texas Public Education Grant Awarding Guidelines – University of Houston was approved.

Item D was the next action item listed on the agenda, the Approval of UH Academic Degree Closures – University of Houston, and Regent Mendoza requested Dr. Paula Myrick Short, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost introduce this item for the committee's consideration and approval.

Dr. Short stated that this was also a housekeeping item. The university has been actively involved in reviewing degrees at the request of the Board with the intention of avoiding having low-producing programs; programs that have served their purpose; or programs that were no longer relevant. Dr. Short explained that while performing this review, it was found that there were several programs, particularly in the Graduate School inventory that had been approved several years ago that did not have any or very limited enrollment for a long period of time.

Dr. Short stated that after various discussions with the academic departments and colleges it was determined that it would be best to terminate these eighteen (18) programs since they were no longer germane to those departments and/or programs. She mentioned that in keeping with the low-producing program initiative, the university was making certain to identify programs that were not productive, which in turn, streamlines degree offerings and creates opportunities to add new degree programs to meet current needs.

Dr. Short stated that with regards to the College of Engineering, two (2) of the programs in Petroleum Well Design were recently created in response to industry demands; however, the demand for those programs ended very quickly leaving them with very low enrollment; therefore, after careful consideration, the college decided that they were no longer needed.

Dr. Short concluded that the university has brought on board various degree programs that do meet the needs of our current student population in better ways, and the university will continue to work hard on this initiative to identify low-producing programs in every college.

University of Houston  
Academic Program Closures

**College of Education**

1. EdD in Curriculum and Instruction
2. MEd in Allied Health Education and Administration
3. MEd in Health Education
4. MEd in Educational Psychology

**College of Engineering**

5. MS in Petroleum Well Design & Intervention Engineering
6. MS in Petroleum Well Design Engineering
7. MCE in Civil Engineering

**College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences**

8. BA in Linguistics
9. MEd in Physical Education
10. MS in Human Space Exploration Sciences
11. MA in Applied English Linguistics
12. MA in English Creative Writing & Literature

**College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics**

13. MA in Biochemistry
14. MA in Biology
15. MA in Chemistry
16. MA in Computer Science
17. MA in Geology
18. MA in Physics

Regent Wilson, Jr. asked Dr. Short to explain the process used to determine which low-producing degree programs should be terminated. Dr. Short explained that there were several meetings held at various levels from the faculty and the chair of the particular program, the Dean of the College, as well as the Provost and the staff of the Provost's office in order to make certain that everyone was included in the decision-making process.

In addition, Dr. Short also stated that there was another option currently being explored by the university called Stackable Certificate Programs. This entails creating a set of graduate certificates which can be awarded to a student and eventually stacked to create the requirements for a degree, instead of creating a brand new degree program that may only be relevant for a few years and then ends up being terminated. Dr. Short explained that this helps the university save on the cost of initiating a new degree program that could potentially become irrelevant or low-producing fairly quickly.

Regent Mendoza thanked both Regent Agrawal and Regent Taaffe for their work on this particular aspect to assist the university in keeping our degrees current and relevant.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent McElvy, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the request for Approval of UH Academic Program Closures – University of Houston was approved.

Following the approval of this item, a vote was called to place these two (2) action items, unanimously approved by the committee, on the Board's Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval.

1. Approval of Texas Public Education Grant Awarding Guidelines – University of Houston; and
2. Approval of UH Academic Program Closures – University of Houston.

On motion of Regent McElvy, seconded by Regent Taaffe, and by a unanimous vote of the committee members present, both action items were placed on the Board of Regents' Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval at the Board meeting held later that day, August 24, 2017.

Next on the agenda was the first information item, Item E, a Report on Academic Programs Productivity 2009-2015 – University of Houston System, and Regent Mendoza asked Dr. Short to present this item.

Dr. Short stated her office has been working on monitoring the productivity of the degree programs offered at the four (4) UH System institutions in response to a request made by various members of the Board. The programs chosen to be analyzed were those approved from 2009 to present. It was determined that the criteria that would be used to analyze

productivity of those programs would be enrollment rate and comparing the projected enrollment numbers listed on the business pro forma to the actual enrollment numbers in 2016.

Dr. Short stated that a list of the programs analyzed were assembled and would be closely monitored over the next year. There were programs in this list that met or exceeded their projected enrollment numbers; however, there were also programs that were reviewed to determine the cause of the low enrollment numbers. Dr. Short mentioned that after meetings with various departments and colleges, it was found that there were several factors that had affected the enrollment numbers, such as marketing of the program, loss of faculty, requirements acting as barriers, delay in launching the program, and external economic issues.

A brief discussion followed.

This item was presented for information only and no action was required.

The last item listed on the agenda was Item F, a Presentation on Student Success Story – University of Houston.

Before the presentation, Regent Mendoza provided the Board with a few important pieces of information regarding the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (ComD). She began by stating that the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (ComD) consists of two (2) distinct programs: 1) Communication Sciences and Disorders (COMD), which prepares graduates to work as speech-language pathologists, (also known as speech therapists); and 2) American Sign Language Interpreting (ASLI), which prepares graduates to work as sign language interpreters for the deaf.

Regent Mendoza also mentioned that UH COMD was the only academic program in the Houston metropolitan area to offer a degree in speech-language pathology, and the ASLI program was the only bachelor's degree program in sign-language interpreting in the state of Texas. In addition to that, UH offered the only master's degree in speech-language pathology, a profession that has been identified as being in the top 10 professions for better than average growth in the future by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work in schools, hospitals, out-patient clinics and in home-health environments. This master's program in speech-language pathology is nationally accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

Regent Mendoza explained that it takes two (2) years for a full time student to complete the 49 credit curriculum required to obtain a master's degree in speech-language pathology. Every year the department receives approximately 300 applications for the 40 seats available in the program;

and they graduate on average between 30-40 students per year. (The difference is for those students who elect to go part-time, it would then take these student three (3) years to complete the degree.)

Regent Mendoza also stated that they have a 99% pass rate on the national exam for certification, a 96% completion rate within the expected timeframe, and a 94% employment rate for their graduates within one-year of graduation. Over the past 12 years, they have improved their national ranking from 163 out of about 320 accredited programs in the country, to most recently in 2016, ranked 69<sup>th</sup> in the country; and from ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the state of Texas ten (10) years ago, to tie with Baylor University for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state, behind UT Austin and UT Dallas.

In order to support the clinical training program, the department has an active on-campus speech and hearing clinic, where they serve approximately 100 clients a week. In addition, they provide services to off campus sites such as adult aphasia groups at the Third Ward Multi-Service Center, speech services at KIPP Academy and Southwest Schools and speech therapy for homeless children at the House of Tiny Treasures.

Regent Mendoza concluded by mentioning that the department was currently in the process of seeking approval for a research doctoral program in communication sciences and disorders, which would be the fourth program in the state and again, the only doctoral program in the discipline in Houston. There is a considerable shortage of doctoral-level faculty in the profession and the shortage is projected to increase, thus there is a demand for this program. Only one of the top 25 nationally ranked programs in the country does not have a PhD program, and we believe the development of this program would help them break into the top 50 programs once it was established. Unfortunately, their biggest liability was the substandard facilities in which they work, which is a concern in terms of the current and future academic programs but also in our service to the community.

Regent Mendoza along with Regent Armour stated that this was an outstanding program and they both have had an opportunity to tour the department and were very impressed by the job they were doing for their students and the community with such limited resources and facilities. They both thanked the department for their hard work and agreed that this program deserves as much support as the university could give them.

Regent Mendoza then introduced Ms. Kate Regan, a second-year graduate student at the University of Houston, pursuing a Master of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders (COMD).

Kate thanked Regent Mendoza and the members of the Board and President Khator for the opportunity to present her story at the meeting.

Kate grew up in Houston and graduated from the Kinkaid School in 2006. She attended the University of Southern California as a Trustee Scholar, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Music Industry in 2010. After graduation, she quickly determined the artist's lifestyle didn't suit her and ended up working in online marketing for Warner Bros. Records and two web start-up firms.

In 2013, Kate became a mother to her son Ethan, and grew interested in his burgeoning speech and language development. This interest led her to discover the field of speech-language pathology. She loved that the field capitalized on her long-time love of voice and communication, the scientific nature of the coursework, and that it would enable her to help others including children and adults, cases in which people have had strokes, stutter, voice disorders, brain injuries, and hearing loss. In addition, speech pathologists were also involved with helping infants with difficulty learning how to feed and/or swallow. Kate also mentioned that speech pathologists worked in many different places, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, private clinics, ENT offices, and many more.

Kate earned her second bachelor's degree in Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education via distance education from Utah State University, with a 4.0 GPA in her post-baccalaureate coursework; and once she completed the necessary requirements, she realized that being back in her hometown, close to her family and access to the Texas Medical Center, the University of Houston was the place where she needed to be.

As a UH COMD graduate student, Kate has attended full-time classes, served clients at the UH Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic, served as a teaching assistant, and maintained a 4.0 GPA in her course and clinic work. She is also pursuing a specialty concentration on rehabilitation of voice and swallowing in patients with laryngeal cancer. For the Fall 2017 semester, she will be interning at Shriners Hospital for Children where she will help improve speech, swallowing, and cognitive skills in infants and children who have had spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries. For the Spring 2018 semester, Kate was recently selected from a nationwide pool of applicants to do an externship in the Speech Pathology section of MD Anderson Cancer Center's Head and Neck Surgery department. She was thrilled with the opportunities UH had given her to take something she has loved for so long (voice and communication) and apply it in a way that helps others. Kate thanked the faculty for all the support that she has received from them, and the entire department for always encouraging their students.

Kate concluded her presentation by expressing her wish to see the department to continue to grow; however, that would not be possible with the limited resources and facilities they currently have on hand. She hopes the department receives more support from the university in the future in order to overcome the challenges they face in their everyday activities and she has no doubt that this program has the potential to become the #1 program in the state of Texas.

Regent Mendoza thanked Kate for sharing her story, and for her passion for her program and the University of Houston.

This item was presented for information only, and no further committee action was required.

Regent Mendoza congratulated the School of Nursing on an article included in the Hispanic Outlook on Education publication regarding the Bilingual Certificate in the Nursing Program. She also mentioned speaking with Provost Short regarding the possibility of creating a Bilingual Certificate in the Speech Pathology Department available to their clinicians. In addition, she congratulated Dr. Margaret Kidd, Professor in the College of Technology for being honored with an award at the Houston Woman Magazine Luncheon for her work in developing a curriculum and certification for Supply Chain Management, an important field in an area with the busiest port in the nation. And finally, the University of Houston Law Center offers a Summer Pipeline Program to students in pursuit of Law School and their LSAT. Regent Mendoza was informed by Dean Baynes, that in doing so, they have helped increase their LSAT scores by 12-points. Regent Mendoza thanked Dean Baynes and Provost Short as well for providing students with this great opportunity.

It was noted that an Executive Session was not held.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.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  
Jim McShan  
Paula Myrick Short  
Dona Cornell  
Amr Elnashai  
Elwyn Lee  
Eloise Dunn Brice  
Jason Smith

Don Guyton  
David Oliver  
Mara Affre  
Cindy Mejia  
Nadar Ibrahim  
Raymond Bartlett  
Glen Houston  
Traynor Swanson

Don Price  
Macie Kelly  
Brian Thomas  
Dick Phillips  
Mike Britt  
Dan Maxwell  
Phil Booth  
Tiffany Melchers



Others Present (cont'd)

Richard Walker  
Ira K. Blake  
Juan Sánchez Muñoz  
Raymond “Vic” Morgan  
Mike Johnson  
Lisa Holdeman  
Mary Ann Ottinger  
Ray Raulerson  
Oscar Dubernig  
Gerry Mathisen

Sabrina Hassumani  
David Bradley  
Lynn Mayer  
Matt Castillo  
Mark Boone  
Jean Carr  
Antonio Tillis  
Ryan Harrison  
Marquette Hobbs

Tomikia LeGrande  
Shannon Harrison  
Caesar Moore  
David Jackson  
Ed Hugetz  
Mike Rosen  
Pam Muscarello  
Jon Aldrich  
Brenda Robles