

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

Thursday, May 21, 2015 – 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, May 21, 2015, at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel, Conrad Hilton Ballroom, Second Floor, 4800 Calhoun Road, Houston, Texas, with the following members participating:

ATTENDANCE –

Member(s) Present

Paula M. Mendoza, Chair
Durga D. Agrawal, Vice Chair
Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., Member
Asit R. Shah, Student Regent
Tilman J. Fertitta, Ex Officio

Non-Member(s) in Attendance

Spencer D. Armour, III, Regent
Jarvis V. Hollingsworth, 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, Paula M. Mendoza called the meeting to order. Regent Mendoza stated the committee would be presented six (6) agenda items: three (3) action items and three (3) information items.

AGENDA ITEMS

Action Item(s):

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

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

- February 19, 2015, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting

Following the approval of the minutes, Regent Mendoza 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 Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank – University of Houston System, Item C – A&SS-C

Dr. Paula Myrick Short introduced and presented this action item requesting Board approval of Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank recommendations from the four (4) university campuses that will become effective September 1, 2015. Dr. Short reminded the committee

that when these promotions are brought forward from the various campus presidents for the Board's consideration and approval, their faculty had been through a very rigorous review; an annual review; and at the time they are scheduled to be considered for promotion, they go through another year of rigorous review both at the department level and at the college level; and then the dean level, the university level, and to the Provost; and then the final recommendation from the Provost to the Chancellor. The Chancellor then brings these recommendations to the Board for consideration.

Dr. Short stated that all recommendations submitted from the four (4) System campuses (UH-Clear Lake, UH-Downtown, UH-Victoria and University of Houston) were highly recommended.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Wilson, Jr., and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the approval of Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank – University of Houston System was approved. These will become effective September 1, 2015.

3. Approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston System - Item D - A&SS-D

Dr. Short presented this item requesting approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments at the University of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake and the University of Houston-Downtown. The emeritus title is only conferred upon retired, tenured faculty, who have made a significant contribution to the university through a long and distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and/or service. Emeritus faculty are expected to remain willing to assist and advise the university as requested, particularly in their areas of competence. There are 20 nominations from the University of Houston; three (3) from the UH-Clear Lake campus, and three (3) from UH-Downtown. Dr. Short recommended committee approval of this item.

On motion of Regent Wilson, Jr., seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston System was approved.

4. Approval of Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Houston-Victoria – UH-Victoria, Item E – A&SS-E.

Dr. Short requested approval of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Houston-Victoria (UHV). This proposed degree would require 60 hours with an RN degree. The degree plan will be set at 120 hours. With both face-to-face and online/hybrid formats, the new degree will appeal to students who desire personalized contact with faculty, as well as to students who are place bound and would prefer purely online or hybridized format. The BSN will also appeal to transfer students, who would come from community college feeders throughout the UHV service region and across the State. Finally, with the possible establishment of a joint admissions program with Victoria College, for whom UHV shares a campus, FTIC students might well wish to enroll in institutions that make the RN and the BSN affordable and accessible.

A review of the job market for nursing in the State of Texas revealed over 47,000 jobs currently available in Texas. The university is in an area that does not produce enough nurses to fill the current and the future demands of the Healthcare Industry. The expectation is that UHV will enroll 18 students in their first cohort and they will be revenue-generating the third year when the State appropriations of formula funding kicks into the program.

UHV would need to hire a new Director of Nursing and a full-time faculty member in Nursing in order to initiate the program. Dr. Short stated that this program had gone through Victoria's campus review; through the Provost Council review (all four (4) provosts from the System campuses); and it was recommended that the committee approve this item.

On motion of Regent Armour, seconded by Regent Wilson, Jr., and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the approval of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Houston-Victoria – UH-Victoria was approved.

At the conclusion of the approval of the last action item presented, Regent Mendoza called for a motion to place all three (3) 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 for later today, Thursday, May 21, 2015.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Wilson, Jr., and by a unanimous vote of the committee members present, the following three (3) action items will be placed on the Board of Regents' Consent Docket Agenda for final approval at the May 21, 2015 Board meeting as listed below.

1. Approval of Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank – University of Houston System;
2. Approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston System; and
3. Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Houston -Victoria – UH-Victoria.

The first item to be presented for information only was the Presentation of Low-Producing Programs Plan – University of Houston System – Item F – A&SS-F. Dr. Short introduced this item to the committee and stated that the delegation of authority to oversee the termination or discontinuance of degree programs now reside with the Board of Regents in the various universities throughout the State rather than the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). With that in mind, it was requested at our last committee meeting that a System plan for review of Low-Producing Programs at our four (4) System campuses be completed. The four (4) provosts have worked together and submitted a timeline and a process for overseeing the review of these programs. A document was addressed which sets forth the criteria established by the THECB for what constitutes a Low-Producing Program for undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs.

As a System, it was proposed that each provost in May and June of each year, not only using documentation that is distributed by the Coordinating Board but continuing to use our own

campus data, will identify programs that are low-producing for our campus. From the June to September timeframe, at each campus going forward, the Provost's office will collaborate with college deans and those that are affected and participate in these programs to determine, based on an analysis, whether or not to continue the program, whether or not it should be placed on 3-year monitoring status, or whether the program should be recommended for discontinuation. At the October/November Board meeting each year, a report on the results from each campus on the programs identified as low producing would be given at the meeting with one of the following recommendations that either:

1. The program be retained;
2. The program be placed on monitoring status for 3 years; and/or
3. The program be discontinued.

For any program that was recommended for discontinuation, there would also be a plan presented for teach out so that students that are in those programs have the opportunity to complete that degree. So then we cycle back around and in the next May, the process begins again. The university believes that this will ensure that we will move from a reactive stance to a proactive stance and; hopefully, reach a point soon where we no longer have any low-producing programs.

Dr. Short mentioned that the THECB has currently identified seven (7) degree programs at the University of Houston; two (2) degree programs at the University of Houston-Clear Lake; one (1) program at the University of Houston-Downtown; and there were no programs at the University of Houston-Victoria. A brief discussion followed.

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

The next item presented for information was Item G, the Presentation on National Competitiveness – University of Houston – A&SS-G. Chancellor Renu Khator introduced this item and asked Dr. Maureen Croft, Interim Associate Provost Strategic Enrollment Planning and Director, Institutional Analysis & Performance Measurement, to give her powerpoint presentation entitled: “*National Competitiveness: Envisioning the Next Horizon.*” Below is a brief overview of Dr. Croft's remarks.

- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recognizes 4,600 universities and colleges in the United States. Of this large number of universities and colleges, 62 represent the elite group of universities that are members of the American Association of Universities (AAU).
- Concordance in Tier One Measures were addressed at length which included the University of Houston's performance from 2005 to 2010; how UH compared to Texas Peers in 2010; and the 2010 Carnegie Classifications: AAU Peers in Range.
- Top American Research Universities (TARU) is one of the measures we follow. There are nine (9) measures that TARU looks at research strength and productivity. In 2008, UH had one measure in the top 50 among our control group of public universities. In the most recent TARU report, it has increased to five (5) measures.
- Assessing relative ranking performance on TARU from 2008 to 2013, UH's ranking had significantly improved over this time period.
- UH graduate programs' rankings were also reviewed as a measured guide in US News & World Report. From the 2009 to 2016 report, UH has advanced the number of programs (this

is a progress card measure) the University of Houston has been identified as being in the top 50 in the nation. This is a measure of program strength rather than university strength.

- US News undergraduate education was addressed. One of the areas that has been looked at is that UH has, in the past, lagged behind the AAUs in some of our student success measures such as graduation rates, retention and average SAT for incoming freshman. Over the past few years, it is impressive how the growth of UH has increased compared to AAUs. There has been a 7 percent increase in graduation rates compared to 2.2 percent for the average public AAU; there is a 5 percent increase in retention rates compared to less than 1 percent for other AAUs; and 6 percentage points to 1 percent for SAT scores. A discussion followed.
- The value of the UH degree was discussed. Early career salaries for public AAUs: median for all universities - \$43,700; median of public AAUs - \$49,800; and for UH - \$51,600. The 20-year ROI for public AAUs: median of all universities - \$275,568; median of public AAUs - \$452,250; and for UH - \$487,700.
- ROI and Student Debt was addressed and it showed that a degree from UH is very competitive to the AAUs and also to the other research university in Texas.
- There are two phases of membership to be considered for AAU.
 - (a) Phase I – Identification Phase: “Institutional breadth and quality of research and education” are assessed by AAU using AAU specified performance indicators.
 - (b) Phase II – Qualitative judgments made by AAU members about mission, characteristics and “trajectory” of the institution.
- Phase I Indicators include the following:
 - (a) Federal Research Expenditures excluding USDA awards and ARRA expenditures
 - (b) Membership in National Academies
 - (c) Faculty Awards
 - (d) Citations
- Phase II Indicators (Qualitatively Defined) include:
 - (a) USDA, State and Industrial Research Funding
 - (b) PhD’s Conferred Annually
 - (c) Postdoctoral Appointees
 - (d) Undergraduate Education
- UH is nationally competitive in federally financed R&D expenditures; in the number of national academy members; in the number of postdoctorates; the number of doctoral degrees; and in the number of citations. A brief discussion followed.

This item was presented for information only and required no committee action. A copy of Dr. Croft’s presentation was filed in the Board office.

The last item presented for information only was the Presentation of University of Houston “Student Success Story” – University of Houston, Item H – A&SS-H. Regent Mendoza introduced this item and mentioned a news article entitled, “*Power Across Texas 2015 Energy Innovation Challenge Culminates at Texas Capitol.*” On May 1, 2015, the signature program of Power Across Texas, culminated with presentations and judging today at the Texas Capitol. This is the third bi-annual semester-long competition in which graduate students from interdisciplinary academic programs at five major Texas universities are challenged to bring research and imagination to help solve an existing energy problem in Texas.

Student teams were challenged to research, evaluate and develop the most creative and economic use for water produced from hydraulic fracturing of wells, whether that solution includes recycling, disposal or discharge.

Regent Mendoza introduced and welcomed Dr. Hanadi Rifai, Professor of Civil Engineering, who introduced the UH team that was very successful in Austin, to give their success story.

Dr. Rifai, Associate Dean for Research and Facilities in the Cullen College of Engineering, and on behalf of Dean Tedesco, thanked the Board for their kind invitation to showcase their students and their successes as they competed in the Texas Energy Innovation Challenge. Their journey began numerous months ago and Dr. Rifai was honored and delighted to have advised them through the process as they prepared for the competition. They started out in September 2014 with support from UH Energy - thanks to Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti. They were able to convene an internal competition before they headed off to the State competition. A total of four (4) teams, self-formed, had competed from three (3) colleges (Engineering, Business and Law), all of whom were graduate students. Several meetings and informational sessions were held. The internal competition was held in early April and the winning team was the one who stood before the committee at the meeting. They have a very unique and innovative idea; and hopefully, a lot of good things will come out of that. Dr. Rifai introduced the four (4) students who presented their powerpoint (ppt) presentation to the committee. They were as follows:

1. Rose Sobel – PhD student in Environmental Engineering;
2. Amin Kiaghadi – PhD student in Environmental Engineering;
3. Varun Sreenivas – College of Business; and
4. Shanisha Smith – UH Law Center.

Each student briefed the committee on the various steps of their proposal as outlined in their ppt presentation which can be found at <https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=37044325>. The team presented both a written proposal and an oral presentation with their solutions to a panel of judges and as the 1st place winner, the University of Houston team won \$10,000 in scholarship prizes.

The committee thanked the team for sharing their success story and congratulated the team on their win!

A copy of this presentation has been filed in the Board office. This item was for information only and required no committee action.

It should be noted that no Executive Session was held.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 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.

Others Present:

Renu Khator
Jim McShan
Paula Myrick Short
Dona Cornell
Ramanan Krishnamoorti
Eloise Dunn Stuhr
Richard Walker
William Flores
Raymond V. Morgan
Joe Tedesco
Amin Kiaghadi
Chris Stanich
Abner Fletcher
Ed Hugetz
Gerry Mathisen

Sabrina Hassumani
Dana Rooks
Emily Messa
Don Guyton`
Wayne Beran
Mark Clarke
Phil Booth
Ben Aldrich
Caesar Moore
Dan Wells
Varum Sreenivas
Mike Emery
Nick Bowen
Marquette Hobbs

Maureen Croft
Dick Phillips
Dan Maxwell
Jeffrey Cass
Steve Wallace
Joe Brueggman
Don Price
Jon Aldrich
Katie Brown
Rose Sobel
Shanisha Smith
Raymond Bartlett
Shannon Harrison
Brenda Robles