

2. **U. T. System: Approval of resolution to improve graduation rates**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor recommends that the Board approve the following resolution to improve the graduation rates at all U. T. System academic institutions:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Board recognizes the importance of the State of Texas Initiative "Closing the Gaps by 2015," a plan to close the educational gaps in student participation and success within Texas, as well as between Texas and other states;

WHEREAS, Graduation rates are a critical component of such plan;

WHEREAS, Although the Board recognizes the progress in student participation among the academic institutions, the Board is not satisfied with the status of student success (graduation rates) among the academic institutions;

WHEREAS, The Board understands that each academic institution has a set of contextual factors that affect graduation rates, such as the proportions of students who are full-time, part-time, Coordinated Admissions Program enrollees, joint degree students, and transfer students; and

WHEREAS, The Board wishes to enhance the quality of the educational experience and does not approve lowering academic standards nor inflation of grades among academic institutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on behalf of The University of Texas System, the Board expresses concern about the student success rates among all academic institutions and thus makes improving graduation rates one of its highest educational priorities for the next decade, and the Board directs:

- That all academic institution presidents align institutional policies to maximize their positive impact on graduation rates -- policies such as financial aid, academic advising, performance reviews, tuition, course scheduling, campus housing, curriculum, admissions, and any other institutional policy that improves graduation rates;
- That all academic institution presidents develop specific targets by April 15, 2006, to meet or exceed national averages for four-year, five-year, and six-year graduation rates for full-time, part-time, and transfer students;
- **That students, faculty, and staff at all academic institutions be involved in discussions to improve graduation rates; and**
- That all academic institution presidents report each quarter the specific steps taken to align policies and to improve graduation rates and that they provide statistics and progress toward the specified targets annually to the Board for each group of students.