

## **UT Developing Campuses**

Issues for Consideration in Research Expansion  
for the Future of the Four Campuses

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# Overview - Regional Role

- South, East, and West Texas regions are economically underdeveloped relative to state and national metrics
- Regional economic development highly dependent on strong university education, research, and outreach programs

# Overview - Regional Role (cont.)

- Economic development opportunities linked to implementable research in health, education (K-12), and business-related topics
- Strong community leadership involvement and support exists throughout – exceptional at UT Tyler and UT Brownsville/TSC

# Overview: Regional Impact

- The four institutions represent a very substantial direct contribution to the economies of their regions (jobs and purchases)
- The four educate much of the college-educated workforce in their regions

# Overview – Regional Impact (cont.)

- The four educate/certify many/most teachers in their regions who then educate K-12 students who enter a regional college or directly enter the regional workforce
- Research performed at the four fuels innovational and qualitative improvement in regional businesses, K-12 schools, and health care delivery

# Overview: Competitive Position

- For FY2000, only UTPA at 378th ranked among the top 589 U.S. universities in research expenditures (National Science Foundation rankings)
- For FY2002, research expenditure totals were:
  - UTPA \$2.606 M
  - UTB \$1.287 M
  - UTPB \$0.981 M
  - UTT \$0.376 M

(Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

# Overview: Research Initiation/Collaboration

- Regional research collaborations could be more fully developed to the benefit of community citizenry, businesses and institutions (students and faculty)
- Three of the four campuses (UTB, UTPA, and UTT) have RAHC or UTHC neighbors, affording diverse collaborative research opportunities

# Overview: Research Initiation/Collaboration

(cont.)

- All four campuses have additional research opportunities in collaboration with research-intensive Texas campuses and other research agencies (federal and state)
- Nationally competitive research initiation/collaboration stimulus and review needed for all four campuses

# Overview: Research Transition Issues

- Transition of faculty culture and institutional facilities toward carefully selected research program development opportunities required (some now underway)
- Departmental leadership for nationally competitive research transition relatively untested

# Overview – Research Transition Issues (cont.)

- Oversight (with outside peer review) of research programs, faculty appointments, and facility investments needed during transition
- Transitional priorities must include balance of investment in evolving research programs and burgeoning educational programs

# Overview: Transitional Constraints

- Education mission critical: largely non-traditional students (part-time, commuters, family responsibilities, employed, high financial need)
- Limited on-campus student housing (grad & undergrad)

# Overview: Transitional Constraints (cont.)

- Rapid enrollment increases have led to high faculty teaching loads
- Faculty cultures and standards generally focused on teaching much more than research
- Without research opportunities, research-skilled faculty difficult to recruit and to retain if recruited

# Institution: UT Brownsville/TSC

## Distinctions

- Successful melding of university and community college leadership and culture
- Internationally recognized gravitational-wave physics research faculty and program a model for other departments/ universities

# Institution: UT Brownsville/TSC

## **Distinctions** (cont.)

- Strong community linkages for economic development, K-12 education, and international commerce (new ITEC campus)
- Co-located RAHC facility with Public Health research focus

# Institution: UT Brownsville/TSC

## Issues

- Very rapid growth in non-traditional student population strains all resources
- Faculty vacancies, particularly Education, exacerbate teaching load pressures

# Institution: UT Brownsville/TSC

## Issues (cont.)

- Articulation between TSC curriculum and UTB undergraduate curriculum needs improvement
- Collaboration opportunities with UTPA underdeveloped

# Institution: UT Pan American

## Distinctions

- Active Ph.D. program in Business with international focus
- Research programs in School of Education having strong qualitative impact on regional K-12 schools, therefore, incoming college students

# Institution: UT Pan American

## **Distinctions** (cont.)

- Developing research strength in Engineering, Science, and Mathematics led by capable and energetic faculty
- Potential research synergy with on-site RAHC Research Facility (UTSA)
- Core faculty capability in Arts and Humanities

# Institution: UT Pan American

## Issues

- Presidential search underway
- New strategic plan needed for priority academic growth areas and facilities planning
- Policy for teaching loads/research release time needs revision

# Institution: UT Pan American

## Issues (cont.)

- Mentoring efforts for younger tenure-track faculty needs strengthening
- Collaborations with UTB a missed opportunity

# Institution: UT Permian Basin

## Distinctions

- Superb Fine Arts facility for educational and community outreach programs
- John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute gives UTPB statewide visibility among prospective students and parents
- School of Business, with strong leadership and research potential, moving to first UTPB professional accreditation

# Institution: UT Permian Basin

## **Distinctions** (cont.)

- Strong relationship with Midland College for course offerings and space use (other CC relationships developing)
- Distance-learning ranks second in Texas for number of on-line courses

# Institution: UT Permian Basin

## Issues

- Incomplete strategic plan for the future
- Lack of promulgated policies on criteria for faculty promotion, renewal, and tenure that include research
- Poor overall faculty research productivity (82% of faculty submitted no proposals last year)

# Institution: UT Permian Basin

## Issues (cont.)

- Lowest teaching loads among four campuses – most faculty have research waivers
- Little faculty accountability for producing research proposals – one faculty member accounted for over 70% of funded research last year
- Minimal collaboration with research-intensive, Ph.D.-granting universities

# Institution: UT Tyler

## Distinctions

- High academic quality undergraduates: SAT & GPA metrics
- Strong and developing collaboration with UTHCT in graduate research, educational programs, and “tech transfer” (new Biomedical Institute)

# Institution: UT Tyler

## Distinctions (cont.)

- Some effective linkages to other Ph.D.-granting institutions to “bootstrap” indigenous doctoral programs and enhance graduate “feeder” role
- Early recognition of catalytic role in health, K-12 education, and business sectors for regional economic development

# Institution: UT Tyler

## Issues

- Classroom capacities restricted (buildings designed for smaller, upper-division class sizes)
- Laboratory space for teaching and research inadequate in science and engineering (constrained elsewhere)

# Institution: UT Tyler

## Issues (cont.)

- Limited on-campus student housing
- Academic performance “gap” issues for community college transfer students suggests regular, focused coordination required