



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM

# BOARD of REGENTS

Periodic Update # 2014-4  
December 15, 2014

- 1) **U. T. System's Chief Pilot Retiring in April 2015:** Rick Khalar, System's chief pilot, will retire effective April 30, 2015. During his over fourteen years as System's chief pilot, Rick helped streamline operations, assisted with the sale and purchase of aircraft, coordinated required maintenance and, most importantly, shared his knowledge and professional expertise as a pilot to create an environment in which U. T. System employees and guests feel welcome and safe during flight. The trust placed with Rick is evidenced by the rapport he has with those who regularly schedule or fly on the System aircraft; his extended family by his own definition.

The position of chief pilot has been posted, and U. T. System will work to hire a chief pilot by the end of December. To further promote safety and efficiency, U. T. System will hire an additional full-time pilot to serve as co-pilot. In the future, use of contract pilots for the U. T. System aircraft will be minimal.

- 2) **U. T. San Antonio welcomed one of its largest freshman classes in history:** U. T. San Antonio welcomed nearly 30,000 students to its campus for the fall 2014. Over 70 percent of the freshman class graduated in the top quartile of their high school classes, and all of the incoming freshmen will be enrolled in University College, a first-year experience designed to help students successfully transition to college and make connections with professors, advisors, peers, and mentors. This new program is part of U. T. San Antonio's student success initiative known as the First Year Experience Initiative, which is focused on assisting students in ways that will increase success in graduating within four years.
- 3) **U. T. System collaborating with Mexican government and universities to attract students:** Executive Vice Chancellor Pedro Reyes and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Randall Charbeneau have been working with the Mexican government and several universities in Mexico to attract some of the 100,000 students anticipated to study in the United States as part of Mexico's "Projecta 100,000" initiative, a proposal with a goal of 100,000 Mexican students studying in the United States and 50,000 U.S. students studying in Mexico by 2018. The initiative also aims to increase binational research and innovation centers, language education, and exchange opportunities. U. T. System has signed a letter of intent to work with the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology. U. T. Rio Grande Valley will be the main beneficiary of this agreement, but all academic institutions are invited to participate.
- 4) **Intelligence Reform and Counterterrorism Event Hosted by Clements Center and Strauss Center:** The [William P. Clements, Jr. Center for History, Strategy and Statecraft](#) and the [Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law](#) at U. T. Austin recently hosted a first-of-its-kind conference featuring America's most

senior intelligence and counterterrorism leaders. The conference examined the effectiveness of the intelligence and counterterrorism reforms adopted after September 11, 2001, the lessons learned, and the challenges ahead. Chancellor-Designate McRaven participated in the conference.

- 5) **Search for EREEI CEO underway:** Executive Vice Chancellor Reyes has begun the search process for the CEO of the Texas Energy Research, Education, and Engineering Initiative (EREEI).
- 6) **Hiring of University Lands Executive Director in final stages:** Executive Vice Chancellor Kelley is continuing negotiations with the preferred candidate for Executive Director of University Lands and hopes to conclude the process by the end of the year.
- 7) **U. T. Southwestern residency programs ranked among best in nation:** Five specialties at U. T. Southwestern Medical Center, including the nation's top program for plastic surgery, rank among the top 10 national medical residency programs according to listings compiled by *U.S. News & World Report* and physician referral network Doximity.

U. T. Southwestern residency programs ranking among the top 10 are:

- No. 1 in Plastic Surgery
- No. 6 in Obstetrics and Gynecology
- No. 8 in Urology
- No. 9 in Dermatology
- No. 10 in Internal Medicine

Other U. T. Southwestern residency programs that ranked in the top 25 nationally include: Surgery at No. 12, Neurology at No. 17, Neurological Surgery at No. 18, Nuclear Medicine at No. 19, Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at No. 20, Pediatrics at No. 23, Diagnostic Radiology at No. 24, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at No. 24.

In addition, U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center's Radiation Oncology residency program ranked No. 1.

- 8) **Dr. Greenberg named Chair of Association of Academic Health Centers' Board:** The Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) has named Executive Vice Chancellor Raymond S. Greenberg the chair of its board of directors. The AAHC is a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the nation's health care system by mobilizing and enhancing the strengths and resources of the academic health center enterprise in health professions education, patient care, and research. "Dr. Greenberg is an outstanding leader who is recognized for his advocacy of the vital role academic health centers play in advancing the nation's well-being, particularly in addressing the social determinants of health," noted Dr. Steven A. Wartman, AAHC president and CEO, adding "I have had the pleasure to work with him in the past on AAHC initiatives, and very much look forward to working with him and the AAHC Board as we address the challenges and opportunities of a transforming healthcare system."

- 9) **Regents' Rules and Policy Library websites updated:** As part of ongoing improvements to the U. T. System website, the websites for both the [Regents' Rules](#) and the [U. T. System Policy Library](#) have been updated to a new webserver. The new websites display the Rules and Policies in a format that loads faster, is easier to read, and displays better on mobile devices. Kristy Orr, Carol Felkel, Tina Holloway, and Michele Kraal in the Board Office worked on this transition for over a year with Michael Trevino in the Office of External Relations. The URLs (links) to the old websites will remain active as the U. T. System institutions work to change links to the new sites. Notices of the change have been posted to the old websites and the old URLs will be phased out by early 2015.
- 10) **U. T. San Antonio announces \$40 Million GoldStar Initiative:** On September 30, 2014, President Romo unveiled a talent-recruitment effort as the next major step toward Tier One status for U. T. San Antonio as a research institution. The Initiative is a commitment of \$40 million in institutional resources to bring 60 new top-tier researchers to U. T. San Antonio over the next four years. In the first year, the "GoldStar Initiative" will recruit experts in advanced materials, open-cloud computing and cybersecurity, big data, biomedicine, social and educational transformation, and sustainable communities.
- 11) **U. T. System first in nation to provide salary, debt, and jobs data to students:** U. T. System launched seekUT+grad, a new version of [seekUT](#) that now provides data on salaries and debt of alumni who earned graduate and professional degrees. seekUT is the first site targeted to students that offers salary, debt, and jobs data in one place. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* featured seekUT in an article at the following [link](#).
- 12) **New degree program at U. T. Rio Grande Valley to be based solely on competency-based platform:** The Office of Academic Affairs and the Institute for Transformational Learning (ITL) are working with U. T. Rio Grande Valley to develop the first degree program within the U. T. System that will be based solely on a competency-based platform. The degree will be a baccalaureate in the biomedical sciences and is expected to launch Fall 2015 when U. T. Rio Grande Valley opens. The program will also engage with the local Independent School Districts to develop the foundational courses high school students will need to be successful at the undergraduate level. In addition, the first two years of the U. T. Rio Grande Valley medical school program is also being built on the same competency-based platform.
- 13) **Stephanie Huie speaks at Higher Education Summit in NYC:** On November 13, 2014, Dr. Huie presented at the Boards of Higher Education Summit in New York City. As part of a panel called "Lessons from the Leading Edge," she presented information regarding the Productivity Dashboard and seekUT. Regent Hildebrand also attended the Summit.
- 14) **System Audit Office hosts meetings for all U. T. System external chairs of internal audit committees:** On October 16 and 23, 2014, the System Audit Office organized a first-ever meeting and orientation session for the external chairs of internal audit committees from the 15 institutions and System Administration. Held at U. T. Southwestern, the events were hosted by Regent Pejovich and included a

welcome from President Podolsky. The institutions' chief audit executives attended with their internal audit committee chairs. Approximately half of each three-hour session was led by subject matter experts from PricewaterhouseCoopers' Center for Board Governance (Center).

The Center shared governance leading practices and provided insights into significant governance challenges and developments to assist audit committee members in meeting the evolving expectations of their critical roles. The specific topics presented and discussed at these sessions included:

- how audit committees can maximize the value of internal audit
- how internal audit can help the audit committee be more effective
- roundtable sharing of ideas
- risk oversight
- ethics, culture, and tone
- dealing with management challenges
- audit committee assessments
- crisis management and IT risk management

Delivery of these sessions represents a milestone in progress of the System Audit Office's initiatives to elevate internal audit governance at U. T. System institutions.

- 15) **U. T. Austin Dell Medical School receives \$50 million gift from LIVESTRONG Foundation:** The LIVESTRONG Foundation has pledged \$50 million to create the LIVESTRONG Cancer Institute at U. T. Austin's Dell Medical School. The LIVESTRONG Cancer Institute will be designed in collaboration with cancer patients and survivors with the goal of developing and promoting innovative patient-centered teaching practices and research. With this gift, LIVESTRONG took U. T. Austin's total giving during the Campaign for Texas over its goal of \$3 billion.
- 16) **Dr. Mintz participates in Texas Tribune panel discussion:** On November 13, 2014, Dr. Mintz participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Texas Tribune about how technology is transforming public and higher education. A webcast of the event is available at this [link](#).
- 17) **William P. Clements, Jr. University Hospital opens:** On December 6, 2014, U. T. Southwestern Medical Center opened its innovative new [William P. Clements, Jr. University Hospital](#) – successfully transferring approximately 200 patients from St. Paul University Hospital during the single-day move. U. T. Southwestern physician-faculty members, nurses, and staff participated in the move to the new 12-floor, 460-bed hospital at 6201 Harry Hines Blvd., named in honor of the late Texas Gov. William P. Clements, Jr., whose \$100 million donation was instrumental in building the state-of-the-art facility.
- 18) **Chancellor Cigarroa appointed to Ford Foundation Board of Trustees:** The Ford Foundation recently announced the election of Chancellor Cigarroa to serve as a member of its Board of Trustees. Ford Foundation trustees are elected by the full board and serve six-year terms. Trustees set broad policy relating to grant making, geographic focus, investments, governance, and professional standards, and they oversee internal and independent audits. The Foundation's trustees hail from four continents and have extensive experience in the worlds of higher education, business and finance, technology, law, government, and the nonprofit sector.

The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization. For over 75 years it has worked on the frontlines of social change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement.

- 19) **U. T. El Paso receives \$22.6 million NIH grant:** U. T. El Paso successfully secured a five-year, \$22.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for the creation of BUILDing SCHOLARS (Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity: Southwest Consortium of Health-Oriented Education Leaders and Research Scholars), a consortium made up of 19 institutions with U. T. El Paso at the helm. The program's aim is to diversify the workforce by training the next generation of underserved and underrepresented biomedical and socio-behavioral scientists and engineers.
- 20) **Chancellor Cigarroa appointed to Journal Oversight Committee of JAMA:** Chancellor Cigarroa recently accepted a role as a member of the Journal Oversight Committee (JOC) of the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA). The JOC serves as subject experts that evaluate the performance of the Editor in Chief and acts as a buffer to protect editorial independence and integrity of JAMA publications. His service runs through December 31, 2016.
- 21) **U. T. System institutions receive CPRIT grants:** The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute recently awarded grants for product development, prevention, and research towards advancing the fight against cancer. Of the \$65 million awarded, \$46,442,171 was awarded to U. T. System institutions as follows:

Product Development Grants

U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center - 3 grants totaling \$5,045,493  
U. T. Austin - 3 grants totaling \$4,949,450  
U. T. Southwestern Medical Center - 3 grants totaling \$4,521,535  
U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio - 2 grants totaling \$3,990,904  
U. T. Health Science Center - Houston - 2 grants totaling \$3,481,666  
U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston - 1 grant totaling \$1,605,119

Prevention Grants

U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center - 1 grant totaling \$1,441,085  
U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston - 1 grant totaling \$1,406,919

Research Grants

*Recruitment of Established Investigators\*:*

- Robert Mattrey, M.D., recruitment to U. T. Southwestern Medical Center from the University of California, San Diego - \$6,000,000

*Recruitment of Rising Stars\*:*

- Samara L. Reck - Peterson, Ph.D., recruitment to U. T. Southwestern Medical Center, Department of Cell Biology from Harvard Medical School - \$4,000,000
- Andres E. Leschziner, Ph.D., recruitment to U. T. Southwestern Medical Center from Harvard University - \$4,000,000
- Issam El Naqa, Ph.D., DABR, recruitment to U. T. Southwestern Medical Center from McGill University Health Center - \$4,000,000

*Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members\*:*

- Marcin Imielinski, M.D., Ph.D., Recruitment to U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center from Broad Institute of Harvard - \$2,000,000

*\* Recruitment grants awarded indicate only approval to negotiate offers; at the time of release, candidates have not accepted offers*



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