Key Points Regarding Future Actions in UTB-TSC Separation Discussed with TSC

Operational Separation and Accreditation

- Operational separation of the two institutions is targeted to take place on August 31, 2013.

- Based on currently available information obtained from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), UT System believes this date is needed to ensure independent accreditation of TSC by the end of the Partnership on August 31, 2015.
  
  o The accreditation process begins with submission of an application by TSC to SACS, which can take place before operational separation occurs – we project the last safe date for TSC to submit an application is January 2013.

  o SACS may take as much as two years to consider the application before authorizing a visit to TSC by a SACS staff member and then by an accreditation committee; however, we are hopeful that if operational separation occurs on August 31, 2013, SACS will schedule a site visit for Fall Semester 2013.

  o The visits cannot take place until after operational separation occurs.

- Based on communications with SACS, UT System believes that any significant delay in operational separation past August 31, 2013 could seriously jeopardize TSC’s ability to receive accreditation by August 31, 2015.

Faculty and Staff

- UT System had several months ago requested from TSC a listing of the programs TSC will continue to offer upon operational separation.

  o This listing would have allowed UTB to better ensure a seamless transition of some RIF’ed faculty members to TSC.

  o UTB initially requested this listing by January, then February, and finally by March 10, 2012. To date, UTB has still not received this information. In order to provide sufficient notice to faculty members and to comply with existing rules of the Board of Regents, UTB began its faculty RIF procedures about March 15, 2012.

  o UTB has conducted the same analysis with respect to its course offerings and faculty.
• In order to be sensitive to the needs and careers of faculty, UTB intends to give approximately 12 months’ notice to tenured and tenure track faculty members whose positions will be eliminated in keeping with its typical policies on annual academic year appointments which end May 31 of each year.

• The notices of reduction in force will be delivered to faculty on or before August 1, 2012.
  
  o Earlier notices were given in early March 2012 to 30 tenure track master technical instructors whose positions were to be ended under a change to UT System rules (adopted in November 2011), which provides that UT cannot grant tenure to employees who will not be teaching at the 4-year university in the future.

  o Given this, the affected faculty members requested the earlier notification.

• In accordance with past practices of the UT System, all UT System institutions will be directed to give preference to RIF’ed tenured and tenure track faculty members.

• UTB will conduct a similar analysis with respect to non-tenured and non-tenure track faculty, as well as all administrative and operational staff, beginning no later than January 2013, with notice of reductions to be given in the spring of 2013 and effective no later than August 31, 2013.

• UTB still hopes TSC will be in a position to offer to terminated faculty and staff positions at TSC, commencing in the summer of 2012, perhaps facilitated by a transfer of such employees directly from UTB to TSC.

  o To the extent funding then held by the Partnership is needed by TSC to hire such faculty and staff, it will be made available through intra-Partnership transfers.

  o TSC has indicated, however, that it will not be in a position to identify the faculty and staff it will hire by summer 2012. UT understands that TSC has expressed an intention not to seek the transfer of any employees but to interview all potential employees, which it expects to begin during the coming Fall and Spring semesters.

• As a part of this analysis, UTB will work with TSC to identify the classes to be offered during the Summer Term of 2013 and make provision for faculty and staff to be available and funded for these classes.
**Facilities**

- In order to be assured of adequate facilities in which to offer classes and serve its students, UTB is assessing its anticipated course offerings, space needs, and potential construction/lease alternatives with the goal to complete that analysis by June 1, 2012.

- UTB has requested that TSC evaluate the facilities it owns and controls and indicate to UTB which of these might be available for purchase by UTB, subject to UTB’s financial condition and budgetary constraints. UTB is not in the position to be a tenant of TSC going forward.

- If purchase options are not provided by TSC in June 2012, UTB will need to pursue options to ensure that space needs for its students are met via an action item to the Board of Regents at its July meeting.

- If TSC is unable to make decisions on facilities to offer to UTB, UTB must proceed, and TSC will lose the opportunity to have facilities considered by UTB for purchase.

**State Appropriations**

- Staff from UT System, UTB and TSC will meet to discuss approaches to seek adequate legislative funding for both institutions after operational separation and for the fiscal and academic year beginning September 1, 2013.

- The “virtual enrollment” recently undertaken by UTB gives some indication of where students may enroll in the future, but those enrollment decisions will be affected by factors such as the future tuition rates and class offerings of each institution. At present, UTB’s best projection of future enrollment is 7,400.

- Operational separation by August 31, 2013, with enrollment of students in either UTB or TSC, will help facilitate the analysis of available formula funding for each institution and the development of options to help assure adequate resources for both institutions during the period leading up to end of the Partnership on August 31, 2015.

- It is the intent for the institutions to present a proposal jointly to the local legislative delegation and then through them to legislative leadership and the Legislative Budget Board, as well as to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.