



The University of Texas System
Nine Universities. Six Health Institutions. Unlimited Possibilities.

Office of the Chancellor
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November 10, 2010

Mr. Francisco G. Rendon
Chairman
Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District
Gorgas Tower
80 Fort Brown
Brownsville, TX 78520

Dear Chairman Rendon:

Earlier today, The University of Texas System Board of Regents voted to terminate the Educational Partnership Agreement between the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System and the Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District (the "Agreement"). Pursuant to Section VII of the Agreement, the attached motion approved by the Board of Regents unanimously serves as written notice of termination. Section VII of the Agreement provides that the Agreement terminates "at the end of a fiscal year" after "giving four years written notice." Accordingly, the Agreement will end no later than August 31, 2015. Termination of the Agreement will also terminate all interagency agreements which operate underneath the Agreement to operationalize the relationship between The University of Texas System (U. T. System) and Texas Southmost College (TSC).

Chairman Rendon, I am truly disappointed that we could not forge a new agreement that would propel U. T. System and TSC into the future as partners; especially after almost 18 months of inclusive and positive work towards this goal. My disappointment is increased by the fact that both representatives of U. T. System and TSC agree that the current partnership agreement is outdated and incapable of addressing the complexities and growth of The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) and TSC, thereby preventing us from assuring continuing excellence for the long term future of the students, faculty, and staff we serve. As the TSC Board of Trustees found in its March 25, 2010 resolution, we have all realized the status quo is simply unacceptable. To begin implementation of the Board of Regents' action, U. T. System is now taking the steps necessary to dissolve the current partnership and to define UTB's unique and important educational goals.

I will always remain fully committed to working with the leadership of the Brownsville community, TSC, and all partners to assure that both of our institutions will continue their mission of improving Texas' future through education, research, and service. As we enter this transitional phase, U. T. System's primary goal is to ensure and enhance its higher educational mission.

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The University of Texas at Brownsville
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Texas - Pan American
The University of Texas
of the Permian Basin
The University of Texas at San Antonio
The University of Texas at Tyler

The University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
The University of Texas
Medical Branch at Galveston
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
The University of Texas
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Tyler

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The U. T. System will take all necessary steps and access available resources now and in the future to ensure excellence in higher education for its students.

I believe you will agree with me that it is in the mutual interests of U. T. System and TSC to work together to:

1. maintain the continuity of the academic missions through the transition;
2. ensure continuation of educational opportunities for all students;
3. provide certainty through timely release of information and dialogue with students, faculty, staff, and the community at large; and
4. secure resources necessary for the independent existence of each institution.

The U. T. System believes that the first step is to negotiate a transition agreement that will guide a phased wind down of the relationship. Because of the untenable nature of the present situation and to allow both institutions to begin the future as soon as possible, I would like each of us to appoint transition teams to begin work early in the new year with a goal to achieve separation in a manner sensitive to the needs of our faculty, students, and staff well before the August 31, 2015 deadline.

As we embark on this new journey of higher education, we can look back with pride and a sense of achievement of what UTB and TSC have accomplished together. I will remain focused on assuring that the future is even brighter.

With great respect,



Francisco G. Cigarros, M.D.
Chancellor

Attachment

- c: Members, U. T. System Board of Regents
Executive Vice Chancellor David Prior
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Barry Burgdorf
Vice Chancellor Randa Safady
Vice Chancellor Barry McBee
General Counsel to the Board of Regents Francie Frederick
President Juliet Garcia