



**Academic Affairs Committee
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM
BOARD OF REGENTS
Agenda**

July 2, 2002
10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
Board Room, 9th Floor
Ashbel Smith Hall
Austin, TX

- | | | | |
|------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | 1. | Welcome and Opening Remarks | <i>Chairman Krier</i> |
| 10:05 a.m. | 2. | Report on Senate Bill 1840 Project to Conduct a Feasibility Study of the Operation of The University of Texas at San Antonio and The University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio as a Single Research University and Related Discussion
(Tab 2) | <i>Dr. Carol Aschenbrener,
Consultant</i> |
| 10:40 a.m. | 3. | Discussion of “Closing The Gaps” Plan and U. T. System Collaboration with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) | <i>Dr. Martin Basaldua,
Vice-Chair of THECB
Dr. Don Brown,
Commissioner of Higher
Education</i> |
| 11:10 a.m. | 4. | August Board of Regents’ Meeting Agenda Items | |
| | a. | U. T. Arlington: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing• Master of Arts in Communication <u>[Action Item]</u>
(Tab 4a) | <i>Dr. Witt</i> |
| | b. | U. T. El Paso: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctor of Philosophy in International Business• Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering <u>[Action Item]</u>
(Tab 4b) | <i>Dr. Natalicio</i> |

- c. U. T. San Antonio: *Dr. Romo*
- Doctor of Philosophy in Cell and Molecular Biology
 - Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science and Engineering
- [Action Item]
(Tab 4c)

- d. U. T. San Antonio: *Mr. Sanders*
- Addition to Capital Improvement Program
- [Action Item]
(Tab 4d)

- 11:30 a.m. 5. **Presentation by The Honorable Roberto Gutierrez on his Proposal for a Law School in the Valley and Related Discussion** *The Honorable Roberto Gutierrez, Member of the Texas House of Representatives*
- 11:50 a.m. 6. **Consideration of the Resolution Regarding an Urban Education Collaboration between the U. T. System and the University of Houston System** *Dr. Sharpe*
[Action Item]
(Tab 6)
- 12:00 p.m. 7. **Adjourn** *Chairman Krier*

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

7703 Floyd Curl Drive San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900

Office of the President - MSC 7834



HEALTH AFFAIRS OFFICE
UT SYSTEM
Phone (210) 567-2000
HAD # _____

May 23, 2002

UT System-Academic Affairs

✓ James C. Guckian, MD
Acting Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
Edwin R. Sharpe, PhD
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
The University of Texas System
601 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2982

MAY 29 2002

to _____ for info return
to _____ please advise me
to _____ please handle

RE: Update on SB 1840 Project to Conduct a Feasibility Study of the Operation of UTSA and UTHSCSA as a Single Research University.

Dear Dr. Guckian and Dr. Sharpe:

As you know, SB 1840 requires The University of Texas Board of Regents, with the assistance of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to conduct a feasibility study of the operation of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and The University of Texas San Antonio as a single research institution. This report is due to the Texas Legislature no later than October 1, 2002. We therefore request that an information item be placed on the agenda of the July 1-2, 2002 Board of Regents Committee meetings in Austin, with Board action scheduled for the meeting on August 7-8, 2002.

The Board of Regents delegated responsibility for the feasibility study through the Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellors for Academic and Health Affairs. The Presidents of each institution jointly developed a Project Team to assist with the study. The University of Texas System, with the concurrence of the Presidents and the Executive Vice Chancellors for Academic and Health Affairs, contracted with a consultant, Carol A. Aschenbrener, MD, to conduct the study.

Senate Bill 1840 specifically requires that the study include:

1. Consultation with students, faculty, and administrators at both institutions to obtain input regarding any concerns those persons may have regarding the proposed change in the operations of the institutions.
2. Identification and evaluation of the potential benefits and advantages concerning the change.
3. Evaluation and recommendations concerning any legal, administrative, or practical problems concerning the proposed change.
4. Completion of the study and report of the results of the study to the Legislature on or before October 1, 2002. The report must include the Board's recommendations

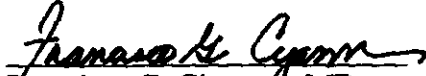
concerning the proposed change in the operation of the institutions and, if the Board determines it appropriate, must:

- a. Establish a proposed timeline for implementing the proposed change; and
- b. Identify specific actions necessary to implement the proposed change.

With your approval, an oral report by Dr. Aschenbrener will be provided at the Board of Regents Committee Meetings in July.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

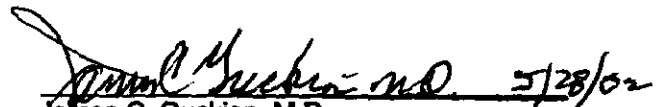


Francisco G. Cigarro, MD
President, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

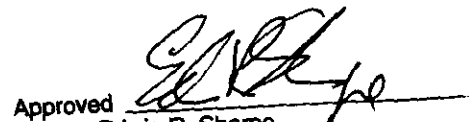


Ricardo Romo, PhD
President, The University of Texas at San Antonio

APPROVED:



James C. Guckian, M.D. 5/28/02
Acting Executive Vice Chancellor
for Health Affairs



Approved
Edwin R. Sharpe
Exec. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Date 5-29-02

1-1 AN ACT

1-2 relating to a study regarding the operation of The University of
1-3 Texas at San Antonio and The University of Texas Health Science
1-4 Center at San Antonio as a single research university.

1-5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 65, Education Code, is
1-7 amended by adding Section 65.47 to read as follows:

1-8 Sec. 65.47. STUDY REGARDING THE OPERATION OF THE UNIVERSITY
1-9 OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE
1-10 CENTER AS SINGLE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY. (a) The board, with the
1-11 assistance of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall
1-12 conduct a study to evaluate the feasibility and potential benefits
1-13 of operating The University of Texas at San Antonio and The
1-14 University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio as a
1-15 single research university.

1-16 (b) In conducting the study, the board shall:

1-17 (1) consult with students, faculty, and administrators
1-18 at both institutions to obtain input regarding any concerns those
1-19 persons may have regarding the proposed change in the operation of
1-20 the institutions;

1-21 (2) identify and evaluate the potential benefits and
1-22 advantages concerning the proposed change; and

1-23 (3) evaluate and make recommendations concerning any
1-24 legal, administrative, or practical problems concerning the
1-25 proposed change.

2-1 (c) The board shall complete the study and report the
2-2 results of the study to the legislature on or before October 1,
2-3 2002. The report must include the board's recommendations
2-4 concerning the proposed change in the operation of the institutions
2-5 and, if the board determines appropriate, must:

2-6 (1) establish a proposed timeline for implementing the
2-7 proposed change; and

2-8 (2) identify specific actions necessary to implement
2-9 the proposed change.

2-10 (d) This section expires September 1, 2003.

2-11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-15 Act takes effect September 1, 2001.

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1840 passed the Senate on
May 16, 2001, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0, one present,
not voting.

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1840 passed the House on
May 23, 2001, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, two
present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor

The University of Texas at Arlington
Ph.D. in Nursing

The University of Texas at Arlington proposes a Ph.D. in Nursing to be administered by the School of Nursing.

Healthy People 2010, the national health agenda for the United States, calls for the elimination of health disparities among Americans and requires access to health services for all citizens. As the population of the U. S. has become more diverse, there is a need for educators, practicing nurses, and researchers with greater skills and understanding of culturally related health care. Increasingly, sub-populations within the U. S., whether defined by age, gender, ethnicity, financial status, clinical health problems, or geography, are targets for specialized health care.

Currently, no doctoral program in Texas has as its primary goal the preparation of nurse scientists who have the knowledge and skills to integrate nursing and related health disciplines for the purpose of designing and testing nursing interventions with culturally diverse populations. Similarly, there are no doctoral programs in Texas that have as their goal the preparation of faculty who are able to assist students gain knowledge in caring for diverse and/or vulnerable populations. The proposed program is specifically designed to prepare nurse scientists and to increase the number of faculty to meet the health needs of a rapidly changing and culturally diverse population.

Program Description

The proposed program initially includes two major areas of study: Academic Role Development and Health Services Research.

The Academic Role Development area provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge and skills required for a successful academic role (faculty, dean, director) in institutions of higher education preparing nursing students who are capable of careers in a culturally diverse society.

The Health Services Research area provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge and skills required for a successful role in health research focused on culturally diverse and/or vulnerable populations.

Program Quality

The PhD program in Nursing was designed using the “indicators of quality in research-focused doctoral programs in Nursing” and will be evaluated in accordance with these indicators (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Nov., 2001). The excellence of the undergraduate and graduate programs in nursing at UTA has been consistently demonstrated through a ten year average pass rate of 92% on the national licensing exam (BSN program) and national certification exam pass rates between 96 and 100% (MSN

program) for the past three years. The MSN program is ranked in the top 23% of all graduate programs in nursing in *US News and World Report*. External funding for the school has grown from \$255,300 in 1996 to \$1,442,393 in 2000-2001. Forty-two doctorally prepared faculty have a variety of scholarship initiatives in which doctoral students will become involved. The full cadre of nurse practitioner and administrative faculty hold certifications in their area and are practicing clinicians.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures for the first five years of the program are \$1,892,240. The largest anticipated expenditure will be \$1,338,081 for 9.5 new faculty. In addition, \$151,200 will be expended for 5 graduate assistants. The institution will commit \$243,000 in existing resources in addition to \$1,655,000 in formula funding to finance the first five years of the program.

The University of Texas at Arlington
Master of Arts in Communication

The University of Texas at Arlington proposes to establish a Master of Arts in Communication program.

The proposed Master of Arts in Communication degree will be designed to enhance and update the skills and knowledge base of media professionals. The introduction of new technologies has resulted in rapid change in media professions. A recent trend in the media professions involving the convergence of the various communications fields (e.g., speech, journalism, public relations) has also caused changes in media professional roles. The proposed program will emphasize an integrated approach to the discipline, incorporating the varied fields represented in the UTA Department of Communication. As a result, the program will be uniquely situated to prepare traditional graduate students and already employed professionals for the rapidly changing media professions.

Program Description

The proposed Master of Arts in Communication degree has both thesis and non-thesis options. The thesis option consists of 24 hours of organized course work and a 6 credit hour thesis. The non-thesis option requires 33 hours of organized coursework and a 3 credit hour final project. Individual courses will integrate theory and research from the various communication fields. The majority of organized courses will be offered in the late afternoon and evening, to ensure that employed professionals are able to complete the degree in a reasonable period of time.

Program Quality

Faculty in the Department of Communication are active in scholarly research and publication, and all faculty who will supervise student theses have significant records of research accomplishment. External reviewers for the 1999 departmental program review praised the unique, integrated focus of the undergraduate Communication program and judged it to be well suited to the needs of the profession. They also noted the tremendous asset of our geographic location with its multiple media outlets, creating an opportunity they judged to be “unparalleled among public universities in the nation.”

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures for the first five years of the program are \$660,800. The largest expenditures will be \$409,000 for two new tenure-track faculty members and \$107,500 for 4 graduate teaching assistants. State formula funding projected for years 3 through 5 of the program is expected to total \$301,294. Tuition revenue from the first five years of the program is expected to total \$216,000.

The University of Texas at El Paso
Ph.D. in International Business

The University of Texas at El Paso proposes a Ph.D. in International Business to be administered by the College of Business Administration.

Increasingly, business students must not only master new technologies that are being developed, they must also understand the global economic and business environments that transcend national boundaries. Within this context, the Texas border is increasingly important to the state of Texas and the United States. The passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement has brought the region to the forefront of state, national, and international attention and offers a long-standing prototype of interdependence across traditional boundaries.

Students enrolled in the proposed program will have special opportunities to develop the kind of global perspectives that the 21st century demands, not only through specific course content but also through the settings in which they will complete their studies. The region has over 350 multi-national business facilities and provides an ideal vantage point to examine contemporary international business situations in which diverse business groups interact globally.

The proposed program capitalizes on UTEP's border location to serve as an intellectual resource in the development of globalized business ventures that represent a vital element of the economic future of Texas and the border region.

Finally, the proposed program will not only help address the critical shortage of Hispanic Ph.D. trained faculty but will also help close the gap in participation rates across the State for minority students. The program also enhances UTEP's position as a nationally and internationally recognized center for research and education related to the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Program Description

The proposed program consists of 69 credit hours beyond the bachelor's level, or a minimum of 45 hours beyond the master's level. While the program is designed for individuals with significant formal business training, it will accommodate individuals from a broad variety of disciplinary backgrounds. Students will complete coursework that emphasizes the latest developments in business theory, quantitative techniques, research methodologies, and empirical evidence in the field of international business. In addition, the program will build on the unique assets available in the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez border region to address transnational manufacturing and supply chain and capital flow issues.

Program Quality

The existing UTEP Business faculty has an established record of scholarly accomplishments and research productivity. Current research and outreach programs are linked to research centers on campus and have systematically involved graduate students.

All programs currently offered by the College of Business Administration are accredited by the AACSB International.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures for the first five years of the program are \$2,484,250. This includes \$1,197,000 for four new faculty positions, \$888,000 for additional teaching assistant positions, \$110,000 for additional staff, and \$289,250 for improved facilities, equipment, and library resources. UTEP will commit \$1,624,500 of existing resources in addition to \$859,750 in formula funding to finance the first five years of the program.

The University of Texas at El Paso
Ph.D. in Civil Engineering

The University of Texas at El Paso proposes a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering to be administered by the Department of Civil Engineering.

The most recent report by the American Society of Civil Engineers on America's infrastructure provides a discouraging assessment of the state of infrastructure in the United States. The report's analysis of the infrastructure situation in Texas highlights specific concerns for roads and bridges, water, and transit. For example, the report states that 27% of Texas roads are in poor condition, 22% of bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, 26% of urban freeways are congested, and of the 818 "high hazard" dams in Texas, 49% are structurally deficient. The report also suggests that Texas must invest \$6.4 billion over the next 20 years to upgrade sewage treatment plants and improve water pollution control systems. In the border region of Texas the situation is even more serious, with problems complicated by low economic and education levels and high population growth.

Because the severity of the infrastructure deficiencies are greater in the border region while the area is becoming increasingly more economically important to Texas and the nation, there is a pressing need for research on infrastructure systems that addresses the needs of the region explicitly.

The combination of population growth and neglected infrastructure will over the next several decades require enormous investments in infrastructure development and improvement. This in turn will place substantial pressure on Texas institutions of higher education to produce qualified civil engineering graduates. Expanding the number of graduates will require the recruitment of substantial numbers of new faculty. Moreover, if universities are to achieve the state goal of dramatically increasing the number of minority graduates, it will be important to not only expand but to diversify the current faculty.

The proposed program is designed to sustain research activities in infrastructure systems that will help the region and the state resolve the massive infrastructure development challenges anticipated in the next several decades and to address a critical state and national shortage of Hispanics in engineering fields.

Program Description

The proposed program consists of 72 credit hours beyond the bachelor's level (or at least 48 hours beyond the master's). The program focuses on infrastructure engineering systems, a critical area for research and education in the border region. The proposed program emphasizes research and education on environmental, transportation, and structural systems. This emphasis complements existing UTEP Ph.D. programs in

Environmental Science and Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Geological Sciences.

Program Quality

The UTEP Civil Engineering faculty has a remarkable and consistent record of scholarly accomplishment and research activity. The department currently generates about \$1 million per year in externally supported research.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures for the first five years of the program are \$1,700,00. This includes \$585,000 for two new faculty positions, \$558,000 for additional teaching assistant positions, \$175,000 for additional staff, and \$382,000 for equipment, library resources, and supplies. UTEP will commit \$1,196,000 of existing resources in addition to \$504,000 in formula funding to finance the first five years of the program.

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology

The University of Texas at San Antonio proposes a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology be administered by the Department of Biology.

In recent years there has been dynamic growth throughout the world, the nation, and Texas in Biotechnology and Biomedicine. Consequently, there is a critical need for more trained professionals who can sustain this growth into the foreseeable future.

Cell and Molecular Biology is the basic core upon which Biotechnology and Biomedicine have developed and evolved. Advances in these fields will provide critical information to the scientific community for the development of new approaches to diagnosing and treating human injuries, disease, and inherited factors. The new knowledge the scientific community has about the human genome was obtained by the use of cell and molecular biological techniques. Continuation of the research on the human genome project and related areas will require advanced knowledge of cell and molecular biology.

The proposed program is designed to meet the challenges of the Biotechnology and Biomedical revolution by providing students the range of skills in the disciplines of cell, molecular, and developmental biology that will prepare them to become leaders of research and development efforts in biotechnology industries, academic institutions, and biomedical research facilities throughout Texas and the nation.

Program Description

The proposed program consists of 90 credit hours beyond the bachelor's level. The primary objective of the proposed program is to provide students with advanced academic and research training in all aspects of cellular function, especially those that pertain to molecular functioning of biochemical systems. Areas of emphasis of the program include biochemistry, cellular biology, molecular biology, developmental biology, immunology, virology, and molecular genetics.

One of the unique features of the program is the opportunity students will have for interdisciplinary study with the Departments of Computer Science and the College of Engineering. In addition, faculty and students will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative research efforts with The University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio and other biomedical and biotechnology research institutes and industries in San Antonio.

Program Quality

The UTSA Department of Biology currently has 27 tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Nineteen of these faculty members will form the core faculty for this program.

The Biology faculty has a consistent record of scholarly accomplishment and research activity.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures for the first five years of the program are \$2,250,000. This includes \$1,800,000 for direct student support, \$125,000 for program administration, \$200,000 for staff support, and \$125,000 for library resources. UTSA will commit \$720,000 of existing resources for the first two years of the program. It is anticipated that by year three the program will be self-sufficient through a combination of state formula funding and federal funding.

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering

The University of Texas at San Antonio proposes a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering to be administered jointly by the Departments of Earth and Environmental Science and Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The population of the world is expected to increase to over 10 billion before 2050, twice the number of people that are on the earth today. Where will these people live? What will they eat and where will their food be produced? What will be the source of clean water for these people? What will happen to all the waste they produce? These are all environmental science and engineering issues and questions that will require answers from trained environmental scientist and engineers.

The growth in the need for Ph.D. trained environmental scientists and engineers is unequivocal. The National Science Board, the steering body that develops priorities for the National Science Foundation, has identified environmental education and research as one of the three top priorities for the first decade of the 21st century.

The proposed program in Environmental Science and Engineering is designed to meet the environmental challenges of the coming decades, both through training environmental scientists and engineers and through research that will have global, national, and regional implications.

Program Description

Students must have a master's degree to be admitted to the proposed program. The program consists of 60 credit hours beyond the master's level. The primary emphasis of the program will be on natural resources, including water resources, land resources, and air resources. Within these broad areas special emphasis will be given to water quality, water pollution control, land conservation and restoration, waste disposal, air pollution control, and global changes.

Program Quality

The UTSA Department of Earth and Environmental Science currently has 11 faculty members, all of whom will be involved in the proposed program. The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department currently has eight faculty, all of whom will be involved in the program. In addition, three faculty from the Departments of Biology and Chemistry will also be involved with the program. The faculty from these departments have an excellent record of scholarship and research.

Program Cost

Estimated expenditures for the first five years of the program are \$4,270,000. This includes \$2,400,000 for direct student support, \$645,000 for new faculty, \$485,000 for staff support, and \$220,000 for library and Information Technology resources, and \$300,000 for equipment. UTSA will commit \$1,246,000 of existing resources for the first two years of the program, and an additional \$1,083,393 of institutional and federal funds for years three through five. It is anticipated that \$2,074,580 of state formula funding will be available for years three through five.



The University of Texas ★ San Antonio

Office of the President

June 12, 2002

Dr. Edwin R. Sharpe
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
The University of Texas System
O. Henry Hall, 601 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: University Center Expansion Phase III
The University of Texas at San Antonio

Dear Dr. Sharpe:

We respectfully request Board of Regents approval to add The University Center Expansion Phase III to the FY 2002 - 2007 Capital Improvement Program and FY 2002 Capital Budget. This addition will be the third phase to be constructed on our campus with the first and second phases being completed in 1986 and 1996. The Total Project Cost (TPC) of \$20,000,000 will be funded by Revenue Bond Proceeds retired by student fees. This project will require a student referendum with Legislative approval.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Romo
President

xc: Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino, UTSA
David R. Larson, UTSA
Mike Kerker, UT System
Sidney J. Sanders, OFPC
Jeff Kaufmann, OFPC
Philip Aldridge, UT System
Richard DeLeon, OFPC
Patrick Rogers, OFPC
Jeff Rogers, OFPC
Ysabel Trinidad, UTSA
Charles Lampe, UTSA

[DRAFT of resolution for August meetings of the UH and UTS Boards of Regents]

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS:

The economic and social health of any society depends on a well-educated citizenry, and this educational imperative is even more critical in the present knowledge-based and global economy;

Texas lags behind other large states and the national average in many key measurements of economic and social vitality, such as the educational level of the workforce, high school graduation rates, university attendance rates, the percentage of adults with a college degree, and per capita income;

Given the reality of demographic change in Texas, and the fact that the fastest growing groups have had the lowest educational achievement rates, the State will fall even further behind in the early 21st Century unless current trends are reversed;

Population growth and demographic change represent a great opportunity for Texas to develop one of the world's most dynamic economies and most vibrant societies, so long as pressing educational challenges are addressed successfully;

Texas higher education, through an initiative administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is committed to a comprehensive program of "Closing the Gaps" in educational participation and achievement at all levels;

The University of Houston System and The University of Texas System are major participants in the Closing the Gaps initiative and related efforts to assist the State's elementary and secondary schools in fulfilling their educational missions;

Both of these university systems have established records of excellence in educational research; development and implementation of research-based instructional programs; innovative teacher education and professional development programs; addressing the educational needs of disadvantaged students and underrepresented segments of the population; and fostering collaboration with the public schools on many fronts;

Together, the UH and UT Systems have a presence in all of the State's major urban areas, where the key educational challenges facing Texas are exhibited in their fullest and most complex forms;

The Board of Regents of both the UH and UT Systems affirm that one of the central responsibilities of public higher education institutions is to focus their resources on advancing a state's economic strength and diversification as well as its social vitality and coherence, and that these worthy goals are often best pursued through collaborative efforts involving partnerships among diverse institutions and organizations; and

By combining their efforts in dealing with many aspects of the serious educational issues facing Texas, the UH and UT systems are well-positioned to create synergies that offer the likelihood of far greater progress than either system could achieve working alone.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Boards of Regents of The University of Houston System and The University of Texas System are committed to an expanded series of collaborative efforts between the two systems in order to better address the need for Texas to “Close the Gaps” in all levels of educational participation and achievement;

To further these new collaborations, the two Boards of Regents establish the UH/UT Alliance for Educational Progress, a partnership that will build on the diverse strengths of institutions in each university system to encourage a broad range of collaborations among faculty and administrators, with goals that include:

- enhancing teacher training for the public schools;
- improving professional development of current teachers;
- expanding Advanced Placement offerings in the public schools;
- introducing new curricula and instructional methods to the classroom, consistent with research-based best practices;
- strengthening programs of outreach to educationally, economically or socially disadvantaged students;
- creating and promoting innovative approaches to delivering first-class educational services in a pluralistic urban setting; and
- fostering the concept and practice of education as a seamless continuum that extends, in a formal sense, from pre-kindergarten through advanced university studies, but is, in the truest sense, a lifelong challenge and adventure that is the birthright of all members of a democratic society.

Approved by the Board of Regents of The University of Houston System on August xx, 2002.

(Signed)

Approved by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System on August xx, 2002.

(Signed)