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Board Meeting: 2/24/2022
Austin, Texas

Christina Melton Crain, Chairman
R. Steven Hicks
Jodie Lee Jiles
Janiece Longoria
Nolan Perez
Stuart W. Stedman

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Convene	<i>4:30 p.m.</i> <i>Chairman Crain</i>		
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Adjourn	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>		

1. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration**

RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Consent Agenda items assigned to this Committee are [Items 21 - 37](#).

2. U. T. System Health Institutions: Discussion and appropriate action regarding low-producing degree programs recommended for consolidation or elimination by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and delegation of authority to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs to approve retention of future degree programs identified as low-producing

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and the institutional presidents that the following low-producing degree programs recommended for consolidation or elimination by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board be retained:

Institution	Program Name	Degree	Recommended Action
U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston	Clinical Science	Ph.D.	Retain
U. T. Health Science Center at San Antonio	Medical Health Physics	M.S.	Retain
U. T. Health Science Center at San Antonio	Personalized Molecular Medicine	M.S.	Retain
U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	Cytotechnology	B.S.	Retain

It is also recommended that the Board delegates authority to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs to approve retention of future health institution degree programs identified as low producing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Texas Education Code Section 61.0512(f) permits the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) to recommend the consolidation or elimination of a degree program based on the number of degrees awarded by the program and requires that the Coordinating Board make recommendations to an institution's governing board. The governing board may accept or reject the Coordinating Board's recommendation. If the governing board chooses to not accept the recommendation of the Coordinating Board, then the university system must identify the programs that were recommended for consolidation or closure on its next Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). If the minimum standard is not achievable and in accordance with a process developed jointly by the Office of Health Affairs and the Office of Academic Affairs, the institution must submit a rationale and an action plan designed to recruit, retain, and graduate more students from the program. *Regents' Rules and Regulations*, Rule 31003, Sec. 2.3, authorizes the Executive Vice Chancellor to close degree programs.

The Coordinating Board administrative rules for low-producing programs (Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Chapter 4, Subchapter R, Rules 4.285 to 4.290) allow Coordinating Board staff to recommend consolidation or closure of any nonexempt degree program that has been identified as low-producing for three or more consecutive years. If the governing board does not accept the recommendation, the programs must be identified on the next Legislative Appropriations Request.

Coordinating Board Rule 4.287 defines low-producing programs as follows:

(4) Low-Producing Degree Programs--Degree programs that do not meet the following minimum standards for degrees awarded in the program:

(A) For career technical certificates, associate and bachelor's programs, an average of five degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than twenty-five degrees awarded for any five-year period;

(B) For master's programs, an average of three degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than fifteen degrees awarded for any five-year period; and

(C) For doctoral and special professional degrees, an average of two degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than ten degrees awarded for any five-year period.

In May 2021, the Coordinating Board recommended the closure or consolidation of eight low-producing programs at three health institutions within the U. T. System. The eight programs constitute only 3% of the total degree programs offered by the health institutions. The three institutions request retention of four programs and provided the justification responses set forth on the following pages.

If retention is approved, the Office of Health Affairs will notify the Coordinating Board of the Board of Regents' action and will report the continued programs on the U. T. System Legislative Appropriations Request.

The current process for institutional and System review and recommendations concerning low-producing programs is well-established and robust. In accordance with a process developed jointly by the Office of Health Affairs and the Office of Academic Affairs, an institution requesting to retain a program must submit a rationale and an action plan designed to recruit, retain, and graduate more students from the program. The Office of Health Affairs and the Office of Academic Affairs, working with the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis, have also developed a dashboard to monitor the progress of each low-producing program as part of its annual review.

Some programs are small by design and will continue to be reported as low producing by the Coordinating Board despite being recently approved for continuance. For programs proposing improvements, it can take at least four years for demonstrable improvement to be reflected in retention and completion rates. However, the Coordinating Board is required to continue

reporting such programs as low producing, necessitating repetitive action by the Board of Regents. Based upon experience with the review practices now in place at the institutions and the exercise of oversight and approval by the Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the recommended delegation will remove the need for Board consideration of these items and streamline the agenda preparation process.

On a biennial basis, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs will provide the Board with a report identifying those low-producing programs approved for retention.

U. T. Medical Branch - GalvestonData Related to the Program

Unduplicated Headcount (certified data reported to THECB)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Fall 2021
Ph.D. in Clinical Science	8	6	8	15	16	16

Degrees Awarded (certified data reported to THECB)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Ph.D. in Clinical Science	1	2	0	0	0

Summary of Institution's Response

The research environment at U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston provides many opportunities for clinical research and support during training and career development. Clinical research resources include the Institute for Translational Science (ITS) Clinical Research Center, which has been awarded continuous National Institute of Health funding for over 47 years and provides inpatient and outpatient facilities, experienced nursing staff, biostatistical and study design support, computer support, and various specialized equipment for human research. ITS provides core resources in biostatistics, bioinformatics, genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and community outreach.

The program will focus on increasing recruitment of medical doctors with research interests, medical students seeking to pursue a combined M.D./Ph.D. degree, and faculty members in programs with terminal masters who seek to augment their research skills.

U. T. Health Science Center - San AntonioData Related to the Programs

Unduplicated Headcount (certified data reported to THECB)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Fall 2021
M.S. in Medical Health Physics	2	2	2	1	2	2
M.S. in Personalized Molecular Medicine			1	10	19	16

Degrees Awarded (certified data reported to THECB)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
M.S. in Medical Health Physics		1			1
M.S. in Personalized Molecular Medicine				1	7

Summary of Institution's Response

M.S. Personalized Molecular Medicine: Approval to launch this stand-alone master's degree program was given in Spring 2018, but the Coordinating Board has linked the reporting of graduates with the previous M.S. in Molecular Medicine, a degree program which has been discontinued by the institution. Approved in Spring 2018, the M.S. in Personalized Molecular Medicine enrolled one student for Fall 2018 and nine entering students for Fall 2019. Eight students have graduated from the program through the end of FY 2021, with the program expected to meet the minimum number of graduates by the end of FY 2022.

M.S. Medical Health Physics: This unique, nationally accredited professional Medical Health Physics degree program is the only one in Texas and the only graduate degree program in the Coordinating Board's classification of instructional program code in Texas. The degree program leverages resources across the institution and requires only one course that is not part of existing Ph.D. programs offered by the institution. While enrollment in the program will continue to be limited, the program is unique and offered at minimal cost to the institution.

U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer CenterData Related to the Program

Unduplicated Headcount (certified data reported to THECB)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Fall 2021
B.S. in Cytotechnology	3	0	0	4	16	18

Degrees Awarded (certified data reported to THECB)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
B.S. in Cytotechnology	3	0	0	0	7

Summary of Institution's Response

B.S. in Cytotechnology: The institution has expanded its enrollment since the reactivation of the program in 2019, which is expected to increase the number of degrees awarded. The program is one of only 19 cytotechnology programs in the nation and the only program in Texas. Graduates will supply a critical shortage in this specialized field. The program has two full-time personnel, making the direct cost for this degree program affordable to the institution.

3. **U. T. System Health Institutions: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed revisions to Mission Statement for U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston, and reaffirmation of Mission Statements for U. T. Southwestern Medical Center, U. T. Health Science Center at Houston, U. T. Health Science Center at San Antonio, and U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and the institutional president that proposed changes to the Mission Statement for U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston as set forth in congressional style on the following pages be approved by the U. T. System Board of Regents.

Further, the Board is asked to reaffirm the Mission Statements for U. T. Southwestern Medical Center, U. T. Health Science Center - Houston, U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio, U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center as set forth on the following pages.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2013, the Texas Legislature repealed *Texas Education Code* Section 61.051(e), which directed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to review the mission statements of public institutions, typically, every four years. However, each public institution of higher education is required to have a mission statement under *Texas Education Code* Section 51.359. Section 51.352 of the Code, regarding the Responsibility of Governing Boards, requires governing boards to "insist on clarity of focus and mission of each institution under its governance." *Regents' Rules and Regulations*, Rule 10402, states that the Academic Affairs Committee or the Health Affairs Committee must review proposed changes to institutional mission statements.

Further, approval of institutional mission statements helps ensure compliance with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges accreditation requirements regarding the periodic review and approval of each institution's mission statement by its governing board.

U. T Southwestern Medical Center

CURRENT mission statement – (approved May 1, 2018)

Promoting health and a healthy society that enables achievement of full human potential

We:

EDUCATE

Physicians, scientists, and caregivers optimally prepared to serve the needs of patients and society

DISCOVER

Research that solves for unmet needs by finding better treatments, cures, and prevention with a commitment to ensuring real world application

HEAL

Best care possible today, with continuous improvement and innovation for better care tomorrow

U. T. Medical Branch – Galveston

CURRENT mission statement – Revised (approved February 15, 2018)

Mission, Vision, and Values Statement

Preamble

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's mission is to improve health for the people of Texas and around the world. UTMB is an inclusive, collaborative community of forward-thinking educators, scientists, clinicians, staff, and students dedicated to a single purpose - improving health. We prepare future health professionals for practice, public service, and lifelong learning through innovative curricula and individualized educational experiences. We advance understanding and treatment of illness and injury through groundbreaking research, in lab and at the bedside, including the commercialization of such research, as appropriate. We deliver skilled and patient-centered health care, and we continue to shape the future of health sciences education, research, and clinical care by always asking, "What's next?"

Mission

To improve health ~~for the people of Texas and around the world~~ by offering innovative education and training, pursuing cutting-edge research, and providing the highest quality patient care.

Vision

We work together to ~~work wonders as we~~ define the future of health care and ~~strive to~~ be the best ~~in all of our endeavors~~.

Values

~~Our values define our culture and guide our every interaction.~~

~~We demonstrate cCompassion for all.~~

~~We always act with iIntegrity.~~

~~We show rRespect to everyone we meet.~~

~~We embrace dDiversity to best serve a global community.~~

~~We promote excellence and innovation through lLifelong lLearning.~~

U. T. Health Science Center - Houston

CURRENT mission statement – (approved May 6, 2020)

As a comprehensive health science university, the mission of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston is to educate health science professionals, discover and translate advances in the biomedical and social sciences, and model the best practices in clinical care and public health.

We pursue this mission in order to advance the quality of human life by enhancing the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease and injury, as well as promoting individual health and community well-being.

U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio

CURRENT mission statement – (approved August 24, 2017)

The mission of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio is to make lives better through excellence in education, research, health care and community engagement.

Strategies for achieving this mission are:

- Educating a diverse student body to become excellent health care providers and scientists.
- Engaging in research to understand health and disease.
- Commercializing discoveries, as appropriate, to benefit the public.
- Providing compassionate and culturally proficient health care.
- Engaging our community to improve health.
- Influencing thoughtful advances in health policy.

U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

CURRENT mission statement – (approved May 6, 2021)

The mission of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center is to eliminate cancer in Texas, the nation, and the world through outstanding programs that integrate patient care, research, and prevention, and through education for undergraduate and graduate students, trainees, professionals, employees, and the public.