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Committee Meeting: 8/12/2026

Board Meeting: 8/13/2026
Austin, Texas

Christina Melton Crain, Chairman
Robert P. Gauntt
Jodie Lee Jiles
Janiece Longoria
Nolan Perez
Stuart W. Stedman

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Convene	2:30 p.m. <i>Chairman Crain</i>		
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2. U.T. System: Approval to distribute a portion of The University of Texas System Professional Medical Liability Benefit Plan premium returns and approve rates for the Plan	Action <i>Chancellor Zerwas</i> <i>Mr. Sharphorn</i>	Action	116
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Adjourn	3:00 p.m.		

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Board will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda beginning on [Page 144](#).

2. U.T. System: Approval to distribute a portion of The University of Texas System Professional Medical Liability Benefit Plan premium returns and approve rates for the Plan

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of The University of Texas System Professional Medical Liability Benefit Plan (Plan) Management Committee, chaired by the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel and comprised of the Chair, the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, and the Executive Vice Chancellors for Academic and Health Affairs, after consultation with Milliman, Inc., actuary for the Plan, that

- a. overall premium rates remain unchanged; and
- b. \$6 million in premiums be returned to the participating U.T. institutions based on a methodology that considers each institution's payments to the Plan and loss experience.

The proposed distribution of \$6 million is set forth as Exhibit 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Medical Liability Management Committee (Committee) reviews the annual actuarial fund and rate studies to ensure Plan revenue from premiums charged and investment income provide adequate capitalization from which to pay claims, reserves for future claims, and administrative expenses.

For the coming year, the Committee recommends maintaining overall premiums at the current rates. Based on Plan investment income and efficient management of claims, the Committee recommends a return to the contributing institutions of \$6 million. The combination of unchanged rates along with these distributions should still allow for adequate capitalization of the Plan.

The methodology for distribution of \$6 million to participating institutions considers the proportion of each institution's payment into the Plan, as well as each institution's loss experience. Thus, those institutions with higher claims receive lower distributions.

Exhibit 1

The University of Texas System Professional Medical Liability Benefit PlanProposed Distribution of Plan Returns

FY 2026

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Premium Paid</i>	<i>Claims Expense</i>	<i>Net Contribution Amount</i>	<i>Rebate based on Net Contribution</i>
	<i>2024-2026 (3 year)</i>	<i>2024-2026 (3 year)</i>	<i>3 Yr (Premium - Expenses)</i>	<i>FY 2026</i>
UT Arlington	18,651.50	-	18,651.50	3,943.77
UT Austin	1,151,086.58	196,494.90	954,591.68	201,843.91
UT Dallas	7,310.00	5,012.00	2,298.00	485.90
UT El Paso	9,390.20	-	9,390.20	1,985.51
UT Permian Basin	9,220.00	-	9,220.00	1,949.53
UT Rio Grande Valley	655,440.22	82,256.80	573,183.42	121,196.93
UT San Antonio ¹	6,463,829.51	1,994,886.52	4,468,942.99	944,936.90
Stephen F. Austin	3,200.00	-	3,200.00	676.63
UT Tyler ²	1,727,438.72	1,290,663.80	436,774.92	92,353.99
UTSWMC	9,577,399.38	3,907,859.62	5,669,539.76	1,198,797.42
UTMB	5,825,999.07	1,822,747.75	4,003,251.32	846,468.60
UTHSCH	13,256,118.73	4,508,727.32	8,747,391.41	1,849,594.62
UTMDACC	4,702,688.88	1,222,988.15	3,479,700.73	735,766.29
Subtotal	43,407,772.79	15,031,636.86	28,376,135.93	6,000,000.00

TOTAL DISTRIBUTION FY 2026:**\$ 6,000,000.00****TOTAL DISTRIBUTION FY 2024-2026:****\$ 18,000,000.00**¹ **UT San Antonio split:**

UT San Antonio	2,206.00	-	2,206.00	466.45
HSC at UTSA	6,461,623.51	1,994,886.52	4,466,736.99	944,470.45
	6,463,829.51	1,994,886.52	4,468,942.99	944,936.90

² **UT Tyler split:**

UT Tyler	6,401.25	-	6,401.25	1,353.51
HSC at UT Tyler	1,721,037.47	1,290,663.80	430,373.67	91,000.48
	1,727,438.72	1,290,663.80	436,774.92	92,353.99

3. **U.T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion and appropriate action regarding authorization to establish tuition and fee rates for the newly approved Doctor of Optometry program**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and the institutional president that the U.T. System Board of Regents approve the proposed tuition and fee rates for the newly created Doctor of Optometry program beginning in Academic Year 2027-2028, as set forth on the following page.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The U.T. Rio Grande Valley School of Optometry will begin classes in the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) program in the Fall 2027 semester, pending approval from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education. This program is critical to expanding health profession education and research and to improving healthcare access and outcomes in South Texas.

Addition of this program was approved by the U.T. System Board of Regents on May 9, 2024, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in January 2025, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in December 2025.

The O.D. degree program requires completion of 183 semester credit hours over four years including summer semesters. An estimated 40 students will be admitted per year in what will be only the second public university O.D. program in the state. The proposed tuition and fees will establish the U.T. Rio Grande Valley O.D. program as the most affordable in the state.

A public hearing opportunity regarding the proposed designated tuition will be provided before the full Board prior to consideration of this item during the Committee meeting.

**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
School of Optometry / Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)
Tuition and Fee Proposal
Fall 2027**

PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES

Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) Proposed FY 2027-2028 Tuition Rates (\$/SCH)		
Category	Resident Students	Non-resident Students
Statutory-54.051	\$50	\$478
Designated-54.0513	\$272	\$272
Differential-54.008	\$50	\$50
Tuition Total per SCH	\$372	\$800

Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) Summary of Program Tuition and Fees		
Category	Resident Students	Non-resident Students
Statutory-54.051	\$9,150	\$87,474
Designated-54.0513	\$49,776	\$49,776
Differential-54.008	\$9,150	\$9,150
Tuition Total for Program	\$68,076	\$146,400
Mandatory Fees*	16,493	16,493
Lab Fees**	420	420
Total Tuition and Fees (183 Credit Hours, 4 Years)	\$84,989	\$163,313

**There are no new mandatory fees proposed.*

***Lab fees are estimated at the statutory maximum of \$30 per lab course. Actual cost may be less.*

Tuition for the Doctor of Optometry Program will be charged per semester credit hour (SCH) and will not be capped. Mandatory fee charges will continue to be capped at 12 SCHs per semester.

Two non-mandatory fees specific to the O.D. program will be established upon review and written approval by the Executive Vice Chancellor. First, the specific lab course rates will be established. Second, an Enrollment and Admission Deposit of \$250 is proposed to reserve a seat in the program and will be applied to tuition and fees upon completion of enrollment.

4. U.T. San Antonio: Approval to establish a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Health degree program and appropriate action regarding proposed tuition and fee rates

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and the institutional president that authorization, pursuant to Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 40307, related to academic program approval standards, be granted to

- a. establish a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Health degree program at U.T. San Antonio;
- b. submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action; and
- c. approve new tuition rates of \$371 per semester credit hour (SCH) for residents and \$1,124 per SCH for non-residents.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Program Description

The proposed Ph.D. in Public Health at the Kate Marmion School of Public Health will be designed to prepare post-master's students to become independent scholars who advance public health through original research, methodological innovation, and theory development, ultimately shaping public health science and informing evidence-based policy. Graduates of Ph.D. programs in Public Health typically pursue careers in academic institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, health systems, and community-based settings. The proposed degree program, comprising 48 graduate student credit hours, is intentionally flexible, allowing graduates to contribute across various domains, including data science, epidemiology and biostatistics, health promotion, environmental health, and health policy. Students will receive training that integrates rigorous research methodology with applied public health practice. Students will explore the causes, consequences, and interventions related to population health challenges, with a focus on evidence-based solutions. This program will be open to both full-time and part-time students and offered through in-person instructional delivery.

Need and Student Demand

Future job projections indicate a strong rise in demand for individuals trained in public health, both nationally and within Texas. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the healthcare and social assistance sector is projected to grow by 5.2 million jobs between 2024 and 2034, making it the fastest-growing sector in the country. Within this sector, public health roles are expected to see sustained growth as the emphasis on preventive care and population health management grows. Public health roles that typically require a Ph.D. in Public Health are projected to grow 16% from 2024 to 2034, reflecting continued demand for advanced

analytical skills in population health. Similarly, health system management positions are projected to grow 23% over the same period, driven by increasing complexity in public health systems and population health management. These roles require leadership, data analytics, policy evaluation, and systems thinking, core competencies that can be developed within this proposed Ph.D. program.

In Texas, the Health Professions Resource Center projects significant shortages in health-related occupations through 2036. This shortage is driven by increased demand, including for epidemiologists and prevention specialists, disaster and emergency preparedness, disease prevention, and population health professionals. Recent data from the Department of State Health Services, the state's lead public-health agency, reveal that 1 in 5 employees in public health leadership positions are nearing retirement. The proposed doctoral program is designed to provide rigorous methodological training and advanced theoretical grounding in public health sciences, with focused scholarly engagement relevant to central and south Texas. The research-focused curriculum will be delivered by faculty with expertise in rural, military, and community health research, emphasizing the development of independent investigators capable of generating original, impactful research important to Texas. The proposed Ph.D. program will be the only doctoral-level public health program offered within 200 miles of San Antonio.

Increasing the number of public health professionals trained and retained in Texas is critically needed to enhance population health and address health gaps in South Texas and statewide. U.T. San Antonio, situated in a high-need region and already serving a large pool of graduate students in health-related fields, is uniquely positioned to meet this demand and make a meaningful contribution to the state's and nation's public health infrastructure.

Program Quality

The proposed Ph.D. program combines academic rigor with professional relevance, ensuring quality through accomplished faculty with strong research records and applied expertise. It will be supported by 18 core faculty from four Departments in the Kate Marmion School of Public Health, which in the less than five years since it was established, has risen to a rank of 36 in National Institutes of Health research funding for professionally accredited public health schools nationwide. Additionally, faculty collaborations with the Department of Public Health in the College for Health, Community and Policy will forge expanding opportunities for faculty engagement and provide students with wide-range possibilities to develop public health expertise that is responsive to community needs. No new hires are required at program launch, though strategic additions could occur within three to five years, depending on program growth.

The proposed program is designed to prepare students for advanced research, leadership, and academic careers in public health and population health sciences, emphasizing interdisciplinary training, methodological rigor, and real-world application, with a curriculum that integrates foundational public health competencies and two specialized concentrations – applied public health data sciences and public health systems, management, and policy. Through coursework and research mentorship with faculty members, students will be trained to integrate advanced data science methodologies with public health practice, ensuring that their research is both methodologically rigorous and directly responsive to public health needs.

Revenue and Expenses

Projected Enrollment	5-Year Total
Number of Students Used for Formula Funding Calculation (for years 2 and 4)	27
Total Number of Students	61
Expenses	5-Year Total
<i>Faculty</i>	
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 2,038,963
Graduate Teaching Assistant Salaries and Benefits	\$ 232,200
<i>Staff & Administration</i>	
Administrative Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$ 210,228
<i>Other Expenses</i>	
Scholarships, Materials, Marketing	\$ 238,281
Total Expenses	\$ 2,719,672
Revenue	5-Year Total
<i>From Student Enrollment</i>	
Formula Funding	\$ 414,170
Tuition and Fees	\$ 437,723
<i>From Other Revenue Sources</i>	
Institutional Support	\$1,867,779
Total Revenue	\$ 2,719,672

Tuition and Fees

The tuition and fee rates for this proposed Ph.D. program are benchmarked to existing Ph.D. programs in U.T. San Antonio's academic programs and are in line with similar programs statewide. The proposed rates are \$371 per SCH for residents and \$1,124 per SCH for non-residents. Existing mandatory fees will also be assessed for students enrolled in this proposed program. As a post-master's doctoral program, this proposed program of 48 SCH will accommodate full-time and part-time students.

Ph.D. Public Health Resident Tuition Per SCH	
Statutory Authority	Proposed FY 2027-2028 Rate (\$/SCH)
Statutory-54.051	\$50
Designated-54.0513	\$221
Differential-54.008	\$100
Tuition Total per SCH	\$371
Annual SCH for Program	24
TOTAL Annual Tuition	\$8,904

Ph.D. Public Health Non-Resident Tuition Per SCH	
Statutory Authority	Proposed 2027-2028 Rate (\$/SCH)
Statutory-54.051	\$478
Designated-54.0513	\$546
Differential-54.008	\$100
Tuition Total per SCH	\$1,124
Annual SCH for Program*	24
TOTAL Annual Tuition	\$26,976

A public hearing opportunity regarding the proposed designated tuition will be provided before the full Board prior to consideration of this item during the Committee meeting.

Coordinating Board Criteria

The proposed program meets all applicable Coordinating Board criteria for new doctoral degree programs.