



TO: James B. Milliken, Chancellor, U. T. System Administration; Presidents, U. T. Institutions; and Chief Business Officers

FROM: The U. T. System Student Advisory Council

DATE: May 18, 2021

RE: Recommendation to Maintain Funding Levels for Student Success Programs and Services

The U. T. System Student Advisory Council's Affordability and Academic Success Committee would like to highlight the importance of student success programs and services, especially those targeted at first generation, non-traditional, military, and other high-risk student groups. Because of the unique challenges and barriers these students face, they may require resources beyond what is currently available to the general student body in order to attain their full educational potential and succeed academically. Therefore, institutions should help level the playing field by having programs in place to identify these students and connect them to appropriate resources to successfully navigate the complex higher educational landscape.

Programs that help high-risk students transition to a university setting and succeed academically are critical, and this Committee believes that each U. T. institution should set aside student success funding commensurate with the number and proportion of these students who are enrolled. Additionally, as institutional budgets are receiving increased scrutiny due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge institutions to maintain, if not increase, student success funding.

Students who choose to attend an institution within the U. T. System should be provided a wide variety of opportunities and resources necessary to ensure their success in achieving a post-secondary education. Institutions have an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to student success by making sure that programs for first generation, non-traditional, military, and other high-risk students are maintained and strengthened in order to ensure that these students succeed in their degree plans and, ultimately, graduate from a U. T. Institution.