A FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING EXCELLENCE

THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY *of* TEXAS SYSTEM

THE UNIVERSITY *of* TEXAS SYSTEM

Nine Universities. Six Health Institutions. Unlimited Possibilities.

2013
UPDATE

HOW WE'RE DOING

At the UT System Board of Regents meeting in August 2013, I presented an update on the Framework for Advancing Excellence throughout The University of Texas System.

The Framework presents nine overarching goals to advance the UT System's 15 health and academic institutions to higher levels of excellence and to increase student access and success. In just two years, almost all of the recommendations in the plan have been put into action.

The Framework was unanimously adopted by the Board of Regents in August 2011, and today, about 95 percent of the initiatives in the following areas are in full implementation:

Student access and success

Recruit and retain outstanding faculty and staff

Research

Productivity and efficiency

Information technology infrastructure investments

Philanthropy

Ph.D. programs

Health and medical education

Expand educational opportunities in South Texas

Our Framework Action Plan is addressing the challenges and opportunities of higher education in the 21st century, and it has received an overwhelmingly positive response from educators and policymakers across the nation.

We want to make each UT institution the best it can be among its national peers, and if we want to be the leader in education, research and health care, we have to track and quantify exactly what it is going to take to be the best, and that's the purpose of the Framework. The Framework isn't just data and metrics; it is a comprehensive analysis that keeps us continuously informed and allows us to make effective and substantive decisions

How do we make higher education more accessible and affordable to an increasing number of students? How do we produce more doctors, nurses and health professionals, and improve the quality of health care in Texas?

This is a team effort — not only from UT institutions but experts and consultants beyond our campuses. We will succeed if we continue to work together to transform higher education at all University of Texas institutions.

Francisco G. Cigarroa

Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D.
Chancellor, The University of Texas System

HOW WE'VE CATEGORIZED OUR PROGRESS

These indicators provide a snapshot showing the current completion status of strategies in each initiative:

Progress

Indicates progress, with some strategies on hold or about to begin.

Good Progress

Indicates progress with strategies advancing on schedule.

Substantial Progress

Indicates progress at an optimum rate, with strategies close to completion.

Complete

All initiative strategies have been completed.

Undergraduate Student Access & Success

✓ Strengthen methods to increase total number of degrees conferred and establish target goals

✓ Review and strengthen enrollment management plans

✓ Enhance four-year graduation rate action plans

UPDATE

▸ Best practices in enrollment management plans concentrating on student access and success were sought from three research intensive universities and one non-intensive university representing similar student demographics within the UT academic institutions.

▸ Two workgroups were convened, one on student access and success and the other focusing on advising were charged with identification of best practices and the development of templates for student success plans focused on recruitment, retention and advising of students, increasing number of degrees conferred and improving six- and four-year graduation rates.

▸ Student success plans for all academic institutions have been developed and are currently being reviewed and vetted by the Office of Academic Affairs in collaboration with the Office of Strategic Initiatives. Institutional peers and aspirational peers have also been approved and are included within the metrics of the student success plans. Target and metrics, as outlined in the student success plans, will be monitored by the UT System Offices of Academic Affair and Strategic Initiatives. All enrollment management plans have been approved and each institution will monitor and measure their progress toward increasing the number of degrees completed, four-year graduation rate, and other indicators of student success.

▸ UT System Offices of Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives have developed additional comprehensive tools to monitor cumulative outcomes for student access and success.

✓ Implement tuition policies that incentivize four-year graduation rates

UPDATE

▸ Institutions provided tuition policies and recommendations to the Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellors for Health and Academic Affairs for Board of Regents' consideration.

▸ The Chancellor's recommendations related to proposed tuition increases and policies were presented to the Board of Regents at the July 2012 meeting, at which time, certain tuition increases and policies were approved for Fall 2012.

▸ The Office of Academic Affairs is currently reviewing plans from institutions regarding the use of Available University Funds for replacement of tuition increases to keep the cost of education flat for UT students mitigating the need for request of tuition increases for Fall 2013.

▸ The Board of Regents, at their February 2013 meeting, approved each UT System academic campus to offer four-year guaranteed tuition plans.

✓ Implement innovative plans to improve student advising

UPDATE

▸ An increased focus on student advising has been bolstered by the partnership with MyEdu through the use of their specialized programming for the UT campuses. More than 49,000 UT System students are presently utilizing the available tools.

▸ A working group representing all of the UT campuses continues to meet and work through the identification of best of practices in student advising from across the nation. These practices will be shared with the institutions and incorporated into their on-campus advising initiatives.

▸ As of the end of May 2013, over 93,000 students at UT academic institutions had logged into MyEdu, an increase of almost 12,000 students since January. Over 36% of UT System undergraduate students have created a customized, electronic profile that may be utilized to promote their educational and work experience to prospective employers, for both internships and other employment.

✓ Increase access to technology to improve student learning

UPDATE

▸ Pre-qualified vendors have been selected as a result of a comprehensive RFP process and contracts are now in place to provide complete menu of services and technologies from which UT System institutions may select and utilize to enhance student learning opportunities, for example, through hybrid instruction or online curricula.

UPDATE

Develop full-cost financial disclosure statements for students and their families

▸ UT System partnered with the U.S. Department of Education on the development of a shopping sheet as part of the financial aid award process to promote transparency and fully inform students and their families of college costs and financial aid options. Utilization of the shopping sheet began in the Fall 2013 with relevant information linked to more detailed information on the UT System Productivity Dashboard.

▸ A committee on reducing student debt was established and provided a comprehensive white paper to the Board of Regents outlining its recommendations for further opportunities to inform students and their families on the cost of obtaining a higher education and strategies to reduce debt. Those strategies are being implemented on the campuses as part of the enrollment management plans.

Implement blended and online learning recommendations from UT Regents' Task Force on Blended and Online Learning

Recruit an Executive Director for the UT System Institute for Transformational Learning

UPDATE

▸ Dr. Steven Mintz, a nationally recognized expert in the field of innovative learning practices began his post as Executive Director of the Institute for Transformational Learning on September 1, 2012. Dr. Mintz came to the UT System from Columbia University where he held the position of Director, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Teaching Center, Columbia University.

Establish a merit based grant program to augment innovations in student learning and success

UPDATE

▸ The newly hired Executive Director immediately began working to steward $50 million in allocations from the UT System Board of Regents to create an entrepreneurial business model by fostering educational innovation in the areas of blended and online learning across the UT System and to foster innovation through competitive grant proposals from the UT institutions.

▸ Through the establishment of a partnership with edX, the Institute for Transformational Learning issued an RFP to all UT System campuses, seeking proposal for best-in-class online gateway courses, MOOCs and for the development of new online degree and certificate programs.

▸ A merit based grant program has been established and is supporting the development and expansion of online courses through the UT System agreement with edX.

Expansion of online courses across the UT System

UPDATE

▸ Finish@UT was launched and has more than 5,199 enrolled students through the four institutions participating in this program. Finish@UT provides an avenue for adult students who have at least 90 hours in an accredited institution to finish their degrees.

▸ Opportunities for more online course offerings and robust web-based environments in which students and faculty can interact have been developed, through the use of pre-qualified technology vendors.

▸ UT System negotiated an agreement with edX to become the first public university system to join the nonprofit enterprise that advances study via the web. edX, founded by Harvard University and MIT and launched in May 2012, provides quality online interactive education globally to students. At present, UT has nine active online courses being offered through edX. There are plans to add five more UT Austin MOOCs in 2014.

▸ Executive Director Mintz has constituted a working group to study providing academic credit for MOOCs.

Faculty / Administrators / Staff Excellence

UPDATE

Faculty recruitment and retention (STARs/Teaching Awards)

‣ The UT System Board of Regents authorized an additional $20 million at their August 2011 meeting for the expansion and continuation of the STARs programs.

‣ STARS guidelines were modified and expanded to recognize and reward exceptional teaching and research by academic and health faculty.

‣ The Board of Regents presented health institution faculty with teaching excellence awards in July 2012 and recognized new members of the UT Academy of Health Science Educators. The Board of Regents will present teaching excellence awards to academic institution faculty at their August 2012 meeting.

‣ Chancellor Cigarroa approved the creation and operation of the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers for the academic institutions. The Academy selected its inaugural members in fall 2012.

UPDATE

Incentive based compensation strategies to reward and incentivize performance

‣ Working with a national compensation consultant, an executive performance compensation plan for UT System presidents and executive officers of the UT System Administration was developed and presented to the Regents and was approved at the August 2012 Board of Regents' meeting.

UPDATE

Strengthen and assure annual performance evaluations

‣ The UT Systemwide Compliance Officer and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Benefits and Services provided a survey to, and are meeting with, the human resource directors at each campus to ensure compliance with the Regents Rules requiring annual performance appraisals and to prepare recommendations and strategies to improve current evaluation methods and practices.

‣ Regents' Rule 31102 regarding post-tenure review was also strengthened to include annual performance evaluations of faculty.

UPDATE

Strengthen and clarify post-tenure review

‣ The Board of Regents approved revisions to Regents' Rule 31102 for the evaluation of tenured faculty members at their February 2012 meeting. The revisions included clarification of rating categories and shortening the review cycle of faculty.

UPDATE

Assure external reviews of colleges/schools

‣ The Executive Vice Chancellors for Health and Academic Affairs will compile a report/schedule of all college and school administrative and programmatic reviews to assess if complete, timely, holistic reviews were conducted and if not, additional reviews of specific areas will be requested.

‣ Any identified reviews are currently being conducted and are on schedule.

UPDATE

Recruit outstanding administrative and faculty leadership: strengthen selection process for department chairs

‣ The Office of Academic Affairs has developed a draft policy, with input from provosts, which includes guidelines and requirements for the competitive selection of department chairs, their appointment, roles and responsibilities.

‣ Consideration will be given to the development of a new Regents' Rule and subsequent associate campus policies.

‣ A Systemwide leadership council on department chairs was established and they are working on developing criteria for training new department chairs in leadership, management, legal and ethical responsibilities required of this position.

‣ The Office of Academic Affairs conducted a 2-day skill workshop for department chairs in August 2013, including four Chairs from each academic institution.

‣ A new UT System policy and model Handbook of Operating Procedures Policy will be finalized and implemented by early Fall 2013.

✓ **Recruit outstanding administrative and faculty leadership: strengthen selection process for department chairs**

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▸ Consideration will be given to the development of a new Regents' Rule and subsequent associated campus policies.

▸ A Systemwide leadership council will be instituted during Spring 2013 to train new chairpersons in leadership, management, legal, and ethical responsibilities required by the position.

FRAMEWORK INITIATIVE:

Research

✓ **Promote synergistic research collaborations**

UPDATE

▸ UT System teams, including input from the institutions, evaluated commercial software to effectively identify and network faculty researchers from across all 15 UT institutions to achieve synergy in their work. Contract negotiations are currently underway to provide services to the health and academic campuses.

▸ The Chancellor's Health Fellow on Collaboration is working with the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research to develop strategies to identify and increase research collaborations and funding (e.g. appraisal of research "core" services and faculty infrastructure to benefit multiple campuses and maximize return on investment).

▸ The UT System Office of Federal Relations is seeking to hire two individuals who have expertise in, and relationships with, the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense. Return on investment of these positions will be tracked.

▸ The UT System Discovery Leadership Council, comprised of the vice presidents for research and Clinical Translational Science Award recipients of all 15 institutions, continues to meet to develop joint research efforts - such as the Texas Cancer Dream Research Consortium, to submit collaborative requests.

▸ Contracts with two companies have been completed for effectively identifying and networking faculty researchers.

✓ **Establishment of the Horizon Fund to advance technology transfer and commercialization**

UPDATE

▸ The Board of Regents approved establishing and funding the Horizon Fund at their August 2011 meeting.

▸ Process of application, review and granting of Horizon Fund allocations was presented to the Board of Regents at their November 2011 meeting.

▸ UT System technology transfer and commercialization draft plan has been developed and recommendations to be presented to the Board at its August 2012 meeting with a possible action item for the November 2012 Board of Regents' meeting.

▸ The Board of Regents authorized $12.5 million at its February 2013 meeting as the first allocation under a four-year plan to continue and enhance the goals of the Horizon Fund ($10 million for fund investments; $2.5 million for associated services provided by the Office of Technology Commercialization).

✓ **Identify new revenue streams to support research**

UPDATE

▸ Institutional vice presidents for research, other campus research leaders, and UT institution vice presidents for development formed a consortium and continue to meet to determine best practices for fundraising in support of research.

▸ The Chancellor's Technology Commercialization Advisory Cabinet has convened twice and has made recommendations for technology commercialization efforts.

UPDATE

Development of business plans for the emerging research universities

▸ Model comprehensive business plans were developed and reviewed by the Offices of Academic Affairs and Business Affairs, as well as external review panels, and were approved by the Board of Regents at its May 2013 meeting. The business plans include target goals on 12 indicators and related metrics (e.g., research expenditures, number of degrees produced, and philanthropy.) The Office of Strategic Initiatives is building internal dashboards to assess progress on all 12 indicators for each campus.

FRAMEWORK INITIATIVE:

Productivity and Efficiency

Identify and develop a long-term strategy for standardized systemwide operations systems

Implement additional shared services initiatives

UPDATE

▸ Organizational structure is in place to support re-engineering of UT System business practices – from standardizing systemwide operational systems (e.g., PeopleSoft implementation for eight campuses and System Administration will go live March 2014) to shared services initiatives. Accenture was hired to review health institutions (procure to pay, hire to retire, etc.).

▸ Thirty shared services projects have been identified and are in various stages of evaluation, business planning, implementation, and sustainment.

▸ A provider to enhance existing supply chain infrastructure, improve quality and outcomes for patients, and to control costs has been engaged.

Conduct external administrative organizational reviews across the UT System

UPDATE

▸ Reviews to be conducted at all 15 institutions and UT System Administration every five years (3 reviews a year) by a team of seven members who will compare organizational structure to benchmarks and best practices (from within and outside of higher education).

▸ Reviews scheduled for FY 2012-2013 include UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, UT Dallas, UT Medical Branch at Galveston and UT Tyler. UT Medical Branch at Galveston, UT Dallas, and UT Tyler have all established review committees and are in various stages of their reviews. UT Dallas has engaged a consultant and has meetings scheduled, and UTMB has identified and received a proposal from their consultant and will be scheduling a review soon.

Review and implement space utilization strategies

UPDATE

▸ The Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs constituted a space utilization efficiencies working group of various experts from academic and health institutions, the UT System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, UT System Office of Strategic Initiatives, as well as obtaining advice from outside experts specializing in space utilization efficiencies. The group meets weekly and anticipates producing an initial report in February 2012.

▸ The Office of Facilities Planning and Construction presented the completed written report and recommendations of the working group at the February 2013 Board of Regents' meeting. UT System is working with campuses to implement the recommendations and will provide periodic updates to the Board of Regents.

Strategic Information Technology Infrastructure Investments

Develop a systemwide information technology plan to expand computing power and capacity in support of U.T. institutions

UPDATE

‣ Through an RFP process, the UT System Administration contracted with PricewaterhouseCoopers to develop a systemwide information technology plan.

‣ Plan was received and is currently under review. PricewaterhouseCoopers outlined 13 key recommendations toward the development on a comprehensive information technology plan for UT System.

‣ A UT System work group has been formed to prioritize the recommendations from PricewaterhouseCoopers and will provide them to institution presidents for comment.

‣ The Board of Regents is expected to consider financial support for the plan.

Establish an interactive dashboard and supporting data warehouse

UPDATE

‣ Phase One of the Productivity Dashboard is online and provides interactive electronic information on eleven core indicators:

1. Multiple aspects of enrollment
2. Degree production
3. Graduation rates
4. Faculty teaching load
5. Research expenditures
6. Technology transfer
7. Endowments
8. Doctoral programs
9. Healthcare revenues
10. Cost of degrees
11. Post-graduation success

‣ Phase Two of the Dashboard is ongoing and populating more information into the data warehouse.

‣ Expert groups continue to meet to provide plans for the other multiple dashboards to be added in the coming months.

‣ The Office of Strategic Initiatives is working collaboratively with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to develop procedures and partnerships to automate the flow of data from THECB to the UT data warehouse.

‣ The Office of Strategic Initiatives has updated existing metrics and new metrics are available on the dashboard and iPad app. OSI currently has 33 metrics and 80 different reports.

‣ Global impact: UT System has visitors to the dashboard from more than 30 countries.

Enhance Philanthropic Success

Develop and implement multi-year business plan

Renewal of Strength in Numbers Initiative

UPDATE

‣ In August 2011, the Board of Regents approved $10 million in funding for the Strength in Numbers initiative. Institutions provided proposals for potential grant awards to supplement their current philanthropic programs. Allocations of Strength in Numbers were made at the end of November 2011 to those institutions providing proposals. Those programs will be monitored for return on investment.

‣ Philanthropic business plans have been completed for all 15 institutions to assure balanced fundraising programs.

‣ Year 1 Strength in Numbers awards of $2.6million resulted in 45 new professional fundraising positions and 15 new or enhanced programs (annual giving, planned giving, database training).

‣ Collectively, for every dollar budgeted in UT development programs $9.44 was returned to institutions.

Ph.D. Programs

✓ **Strengthen criteria for review of Ph.D. programs**

✓ **Create innovative plans for student and career advising**

UPDATE

▸ The Office of Academic Affairs met with graduate deans and developed strategies to reduce time to Ph.D. completion by producing criteria for review, elements of advising, and agreements between students and departments.

▸ The Office of Academic Affairs provided coordination with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide efficiencies in the criteria review process for Ph.D.'s to avoid duplicative efforts.

▸ The Office of Health Affairs requested results of all Ph.D. program evaluations and has received and is evaluating written reports describing current policies, practices, and criteria used to review doctoral education programs (with suggestions for improvement). Criteria for review of Ph.D. programs were discussed at meeting with graduate school deans in June 2012.

▸ Health presidents presented information on robust career advising for Ph.D. students at the May 2012 Board of Regents' meeting.

▸ Academic campuses have implemented additional strategies to improve career advising for Ph.D. students.

✓ **Develop agreements between Ph.D. students and department**

UPDATE

▸ The UT health institutions are using a model American Association of Medical College's (AAMC) agreement between graduate students, including post-doctoral students, and their mentor/advisors that improves student advising, shortens time to degree, and provides career advising.

▸ The UT academic institutions are using a revised model agreement, developed by the Council of Graduate Schools, between graduate students and their mentor/advisors that improves student advising, shortens time to degree, and provides career advising.

▸ The Office of Academic Affairs met with graduate deans to reduce time to Ph.D. completion by producing criteria for review, elements of advising, and agreements between students and department. The Office of Academic Affairs' draft agreements and criteria for review have been developed and will be implemented this coming academic year.

▸ UT System Student Advisory Council provided recommendations for changes to the Milestones Agreement form for graduate degree programs, at the May 2013 Board of Regents' meeting.

▸ The Office of Academic and Health Affairs are reviewing and responding to the thoughtful recommendations.
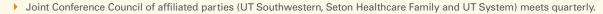
The Health of Texas

✓ **Implement Transformation in Medical Education (TIME) pilot projects**

UPDATE

▸ Dr. Molly Cooke, Professor of Medicine at the University of California – San Francisco and co-author of "Educating Physicians: A Call for Reform of Medical School and Residence," has been engaged as a national expert to review and evaluate the TIME program and pilot projects.

▸ Dr. Steve Lieberman, Vice Dean of Academic Affairs at UTMB and co-chair of TIME project, updated the Board of Regents at its May 2012 meeting on pilot projects. The pilot projects were subsequently presented to the Liaison Committee of Medical Education (LCME) and were approved to be appropriate activities; final LCME decisions will be rendered when student matriculate.

▸ The Board of Regents approved $4 million in additional funding for TIME at the February 2012 meeting. TIME participant institutions will submit competitive proposals for the new funding.

▸ Participation in TIME Projects are currently underway.

✓ **Expand UT Southwestern Medical Center/Seton Healthcare Family/UT System affiliations to enhance medical education and research in Austin.**

UPDATE

▸ Joint Conference Council of affiliated parties (UT Southwestern, Seton Healthcare Family and UT System) meets quarterly.

▸ Residency program expansion is occurring ahead of schedule with Child Neurology and Pediatric Emergency Medicine coming online in 2013 and Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery and Radiology in 2015.

▸ Dr. Steven Warach, senior investigator with the National Institutes of Health, was appointed in December 2011 as the founding executive director of the Seton/UT Southwestern Clinical Research Institute.

▸ Residency and fellowship program development continues, along with the discussion of strategies related to the startup of the new Dell Medical School and the eventual transition of the residency programs from UT Southwestern to UT Austin.

✓ **Develop a plan for four-year research intensive medical education in Austin**

UPDATE

▸ The Board of Regents, at their May 2012 meeting, committed to the development of a medical school in Austin and authorized $25 million in annual Available University Fund funding and $5 million (for 8 years) in annual STARs funding for the school. This commitment is contingent on the continuation of Seton Healthcare Family support of graduate medical education at current or increased levels and the availability of $35 million annually from local community sources for support of a medical school at UT Austin.

▸ On January 20, 2013, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation announced a $50 million gift to UT Austin to assist with the development of the new Dell Medical School.

▸ Central Health Proposition 1 passed on November 6, 2012, to fund the $25 million local match for the Dell Medical School.

▸ A UT Austin medical school steering committee and related working groups have been formed and a search firm engaged to conduct a search for a new medical school dean.

▸ The UT Austin Campus Master Plan was approved at the May 2013 Board of Regents' meeting, including new medical district.

▸ On June 17, 2013, Seton announced plans to fund and construct a primary teaching hospital to replace University Medical Center Brackenridge, to be co-located with the medical school buildings on the UT Austin campus.

✓ **Advance Austin and other metropolitan areas as technology/biotechnology hubs**

UPDATE

▸ The Chancellor's Technology Commercialization Advisory Cabinet was established and held their first meeting to review System technology commercialization efforts toward enhancing efforts in Austin and other metropolitan areas. Its next meeting is scheduled for fall 2012.

▸ Successful recruitment of executive director and establishment of Seton/UT Southwestern Clinical Research Institute will bring clinician/researchers to Austin.

▸ The Institute for Applied Cancer Science at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center was established with recruitment of over 25 research scientists from the Belfer Institute at Harvard with strong pharmaceutical industry collaborations.

▸ The Bio Center was established at UT Southwestern (13 acre / 4 building biotechpark) for commercial development of discoveries at U.T. Southwestern and elsewhere to drive biomedical innovation in North Texas.

▸ Funding for the Horizon Fund was approved by the Board of Regents and grant allocations have been awarded and returns on investment will be tracked by the Office of Technology Commercialization.

✓ **Improve patient safety and quality through systems engineering**

UPDATE

▸ The Office of Health Affairs held a successful annual Clinical Safety and Effectiveness Conference in October 2011, with 265 attendees and 83 abstracts presented.

▸ Over 1,000 UT System health care professionals completed patient safety and quality courses and produced 360 related projects.

▸ The Board of Regents approved $4 million from the medical liability fund for systems engineering efforts to improve patient safety and quality, with the Chancellor's Health Fellow on Systems Engineering leading the effort on academic/health collaborations. Proposals will be reviewed for potential projects to be funded.

▸ U.T. System health institutions will receive funding to hire student interns during the summer of 2013 to work with staff to apply systems engineering techniques to patient safety and quality improvement activities.

▸ Clinical Safety and Effectiveness classes for physicians and staff are ongoing across all health institutions with class projects aligned with institutional objectives. Those class projects will be presented at the annual UT System conference to be held in November 2013.

Expanding Educational and Health Opportunities in South Texas

✓ **Implement South Texas/Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) plan**

UPDATE

▸ The Board of Regents provided $30 million for education and health initiatives in the LRGV in August 2011 for implementation of UTeach/STEM, establishment of the Valley STARs program, building a simulated teaching hospital, development of a bio-medical research program, expansion of medical residency education, and provision of funding through the Strength in Numbers campaign.

▸ UTeach has been fully implemented at UT Brownsville and UT Pan American and they are working toward the goal of self-sustainability at the respective institutions.

▸ The Vice President for South Texas Programs is actively hiring faculty in the areas of obesity and diabetes research, to col-laborate with Valley STARs recruits of UT Pan American and UT Brownsville to populate the South Texas Research Network of six sites to advance scientific discovery in obesity and diabetes.

▸ Two outstanding candidates for South Texas initiatives, including a program director of psychiatry residency program and research scientist for the Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) research division.

▸ Substantial completion of the simulated teaching hospital is expected by October 2013.

▸ A search committee is actively searching for the Founding Director of the South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute.

▸ The South Texas LRGV plan will be incorporated into the development and organization of the new university in South Texas created pursuant to Senate Bill 24, adopted by the 83rd Texas Legislature.

✓ **Plan for 4-year research intensive medical education in South Texas**

UPDATE

▸ During its May 2012 meeting, the Board of Regents committed to the development of a medical school in South Texas that fully utilizes existing Regional Academic Health Center facilities and is contingent on current RAHC funding being avail-able for the medical school, the establishment of adequate residency programs, and the availability of additional resources, including local and state funding adequate to sustain the ongoing operations of a medical school.

▸ A residency program consultant has been engaged and is working to maximize program design and federal funding avail-able for family and internal medicine residency program across multiple sites.

▸ Press conference was held at the RAHC in Edinburg announcing the matriculation of medical students into a South Texas-tract via the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. The first cohort of students will matriculate in this program in 2014 and graduate in 2018, under the accreditation of the UTHSC San Antonio.

▸ The UT System Board of Regents authorized $10 million over 10 years to fund the creation of a four-year medical school in South Texas, building on current activities and resources of the RAHC activities in Harlingen, Edinburg, and Brownsville, with new activities in McAllen. The Regents further committed an additional $40 million for an academic teaching and learning center at UTHSC San Antonio to increase the class size of its medical school to establish a South Texas track of medical students that will start in the fall of 2014 and be the first class to graduate in the region.

▸ The 83rd Legislature adopted legislation to unify UT Brownsville and UT Pan American into a new, single university and to establish a new medical school as part of the university. The Legislature also increased the RAHC appropriation by $5 mil-lion a year for the next biennium.

▸ A search committee has been constituted and is working to identify, interview, and recruit a founding dean for the new medical school in South Texas. The dean selection is expected to occur during the fall of 2013.

Expanding Educational and Health Opportunities in South Texas

Enhance educational linkages in South Texas.

UPDATE

▸ The Office of Academic Affairs is preparing to expand agreements with the Regional Academic Health Center campuses, local community colleges and independent school districts. Currently 21 articulation agreements between UT Pan American and South Texas College have been negotiated with another 19 between UT Brownsville and South Texas College. An additional eight agreements are anticipated for completion in fall 2012.

▸ The articulation agreements with South Texas College are completed and in place. Articulation agreements between UT Brownsville and Texas Southmost College are in negotiation.

Expansion of the STARs Program for the Lower Rio Grande Valley

UPDATE

▸ The UT System Board of Regents authorized $9.5 million in Valley STARs funding for recruitment of exceptional STEM faculty and researchers to UT System institutions in the Lower Rio Grande Valley at their August 2011 meeting.

▸ UT Pan American and UT Brownsville are actively recruiting Valley STARs faculty in coordination with South Texas Research Network recruitments in obesity and diabetes.

▸ Eight to ten faculty are being recruited in each of the following areas: biomedical sciences, engineering and manufacturing, and energy environmental sciences.

Establish UT Brownsville as a comprehensive four-year university

UPDATE

▸ The UT System has established a transition team who has been working diligently to study complex issues regarding students, programs, facilities, services, funding and appropriate staffing levels.

▸ Currently on target with the timeline and UT Brownsville is expected to receive separate accreditation by 2015.

▸ The Board of Regents authorized the negotiation of land acquisition in downtown Brownsville and the completion of negotiations for a lease between UT Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, during its May 2013 meeting.

▸ The 83rd Texas Legislature authorized the establishment of a new university in South Texas that will combine the UT Pan American and UT Brownsville, and include a four-year medical school as part of the new institution. PUF resources will become available to the new South Texas university.

▸ In late July 2013, UT Brownsville and Texas Southmost College entered into a letter of intent regarding the exchange and lease of property, and the use of various facilities.

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