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FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Committee Meeting: 5/22/2019

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Austin, Texas

Rad Weaver, Chairman
Christina Melton Crain
R. Steven Hicks
Janiece Longoria
Nolan Perez
Kelcy L. Warren

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Convene	<i>2:00 p.m.</i> <i>Chairman Weaver</i>		
1. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration	<i>2:00 p.m.</i> Discussion	Action	122
2. U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Audiology degree program	<i>2:10 p.m.</i> Action <i>President Bailey</i>	Action	123
3. U. T. San Antonio: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology degree program	<i>2:20 p.m.</i> Action <i>President Eighmy</i>	Action	124
Adjourn	<i>2:30 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 12 - 43](#).

2. U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Audiology degree program

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve

- a. preliminary authority for U. T. Rio Grande Valley to create a Doctor of Audiology degree program; and
- b. notification of the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

U. T. Rio Grande Valley requests approval to begin the planning process to offer a Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree program. Audiology is a health-related profession that requires a clinical doctorate and subsequent licensing and certification to provide patient services to persons who exhibit hearing loss, tinnitus, and/or disturbances in balance due to inner ear dysfunction.

The proposed Au.D. program will consist of 119 hours of course, laboratory, and clinical work. The four-year full-time curriculum will be based on the guidelines of the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The number of students in the cohort will increase as the program develops with the initial expected cohort consisting of six students. At maturity, it is anticipated that the annual cohort will be approximately 12 students. The Au.D. program will build on the strength of the existing speech-language disorders program and respond to the shortage of clinical audiologists in the Rio Grande Valley and Texas.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national employment rate of audiologists is expected to grow much faster than average. Between 2016-2026, an additional 3,000 audiologists will be needed to fill the demand nationwide, which represents a 20% increase in job openings. Within the State of Texas, five Au.D. programs exist at U. T. Austin, U. T. Dallas, Lamar University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and the University of North Texas. There are approximately 14,800 audiologists nationwide with a projected need of 17,800 audiologists by 2026.

For an Au.D. program running at full capacity, approximately eight core faculty will be needed. Four of these faculty must possess a research doctorate (i.e., Ph.D.) in audiology as accreditation standards require that a majority of didactic classes be taught by audiologists with research doctorates. The additional four faculty members will hold a professional doctorate (i.e., Au.D.) and teach classes related to professional and clinical practice and supervise practicum experiences.

Once preliminary authority has been approved, U. T. Rio Grande Valley will submit the full degree program proposal for approval to the U. T. System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

3. U. T. San Antonio: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology degree program

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve

- a. preliminary authority for U. T. San Antonio to create a Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology degree program; and
- b. notification of the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

U. T. San Antonio requests preliminary authority to amass the resources needed to offer a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in School Psychology degree program. The program will prepare graduates for careers as scientist-practitioners and professional health service psychologists. The overarching goal of the program is to prepare future psychologists capable of contributing to the academic, emotional, and social-behavioral well-being of children and adolescents through direct and indirect services, as well as to the science that informs psychological practice. The institution has a long-term goal of seeking American Psychological Association (APA) accreditation.

The institution currently has four tenure-track faculty members with doctoral degrees and licensure in School Psychology. The department also includes six support tenure-track faculty with doctoral degrees in Educational Psychology. All the faculty will contribute to the new doctoral program through teaching, mentoring students, participating on dissertation committees, and seeking external funding to support doctoral students.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an increase of 7.4% for the national employment rate of clinical, counseling, and school psychologists from 156,063 to 167,582 by 2026. The Texas Workforce Commission projects an increase in jobs in Texas of 20% from 7,848 to 9,418 by 2026. No doctoral programs in school psychology are offered at any university in San Antonio. Seven institutions across the state currently offer a doctoral-level program in school psychology, four of which are accredited by the APA.

Once preliminary authority has been approved, U. T. San Antonio will submit the full degree program proposal for approval by the U. T. System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.