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Committee Meeting: 11/18/2020

Board Meeting: 11/19/2020
Austin, Texas

Janiece Longoria, Chairman
David J. Beck
Christina Melton Crain
R. Steven Hicks
Jodie Lee Jiles
Nolan Perez

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Convene	<i>10:00 a.m.</i> <i>Chairman Longoria</i>		
1. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration	Discussion	Action	56
2. U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Health Care Administration in Population Health Leadership and Analytics	Action <i>President Calhoun</i>	Action	57
Adjourn	<i>10:15 a.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 26 - 43](#).

2. U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Health Care Administration in Population Health Leadership and Analytics

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:

- a. preliminary authority to create a Doctor of Health Administration degree program in Population Health Leadership and Analytics; and
- b. notification of the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This program, the first doctoral-level program at the U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler, will be offered from within the School of Community and Rural Health as a collaboration with Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), a self-described Mutual Legal Reserve Company and an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Such a collaboration among insurer, provider, and academia is rare and an important and distinctive feature of the proposed program. The Doctor of Health Administration Program in Population Health Leadership and Analytics is an advanced practice doctorate program for a broad spectrum of health industry professionals that will integrate theory with the practice health ecosystem perspectives of the payer, provider, and public health with the intent for multi-factor health improvement of populations. The program intends to prepare professionals to apply empirically-based, synthesized concepts and interventions to change the culture of the health ecosystem for improved health status, quality of life, and reduced costs in communities and to evaluate those improvements and changes associated with improving and maintaining health in groups and communities in society. The program will emphasize six domains: Population Health Leadership; Prevention Management; Analytics; Quality; Innovation; and Communication.

The proposed program will support the need for advanced practice professionals in the health industry to develop knowledge, skills, and abilities for integrative, efficient, and effective population health improvement solutions focused on enhanced health status, quality outcomes, lower cost of health, and appropriate access to services for populations across the myriad of societal challenges and opportunities. New synergistic models of practice are required by governmental entities, healthcare providers, health insurers, and employers as payment models, risk, and upward cost pressure in the industry have changed, shifting pressure to communities to absorb. New integrative solutions from inter-disciplinary health professionals with advanced practice training are required now and, in the future, to solve problems of societal changes regarding policy, reimbursement, demographic shifts, and socio-economic factors of groups, communities, and populations.

Only three other universities in Texas offer a similar doctorate; Texas A&M University, U. T. Health Science Center - Houston, and Baylor University each offer a Ph.D. in Health Services Research. The latter is a collaboration between the Robbins Institute for Health Policy and Leadership at Baylor and the Center for Clinical Effectiveness at the Baylor Scott & White Health system.

According to the last five years of data available through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Texas A&M and U. T. Health Science Center - Houston have awarded a total of 27 doctorates (averaging two per year for U. T. Health and four per year for Texas A&M). Baylor's program has no data available in IPEDS within the timeframe.

Despite the low statewide completion data for these programs, national aggregate doctoral degree completions in the field rose from 326 conferrals in 2013 to 344 conferrals in 2017: supporting a slow but stable 1.4% annualized growth rate over the five-year range. These trends point to stable student interest in related programs across the United States. This is further supported by aggregate master's degree completions in health administration, population health, and medical analytics related fields, which show stronger than average five-year completions growth (8.6% versus 1.6% nationally, 4.5% versus 0.5% in the Southwest, and 4.0% versus 2.9% in Texas), indicating a rapid increase in the number of students who may be interested in pursuing studies at the more advanced doctoral level.

The School of Community and Rural Health already has critical resources in place to support the proposed program. Given that the proposed program is integrative, all four departments of the School (Healthcare Policy, Economics and Management; Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; and Community Health) will contribute to the success of the program. Current resources to be leveraged include 32 faculty, 11 support staff team members, and library resources already in place for the two related existing programs (Master of Public Health and Master of Health Administration programs). The school is housed in a new 93,000 square foot academic building that has sufficient information technology to support a doctoral program at a modern school. In addition, several faculty members have taught and supported doctoral programs at other institutions, and the dean has significantly contributed to the development, planning, launch, teaching, and success of four advanced practice doctoral programs at research intensive universities in two states.

Anticipated additional resources for the proposed program include five new faculty, one data/analytical support professional, four dedicated IT support professionals, two program support professionals, and additional online/digital library resources commensurate with a doctoral-level degree program.

Once preliminary authority has been approved, a request to establish the degree program will be submitted to the U. T. System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.