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Committee Meeting: 2/21/2024

Board Meeting: 2/22/2024
Austin, Texas

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

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Convene	<i>4:15 p.m.</i> <i>Chairman Crain</i>		
1. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration	Discussion	Action	109
2. U. T. Health Science Center - Houston: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed change in tuition and fee rates for the Doctor of Nurse Practitioner in Nurse Anesthesia degree program	Action <i>President Colasurdo</i> <i>Dr. Zerwas</i>	Action	110
3. U. T. Southwestern Medical Center, U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston, and U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center: Approval of four pharmacy distribution agreements for wholesale drug services	Action <i>Dr. Zerwas</i> <i>Mr. Pruitt</i>	Action	113
4. U. T. System: Report on medical Spanish elective learning opportunities for health professions students at U. T. institutions	Discussion <i>Mr. Eric Solberg</i>	Not on Agenda	115
Adjourn	<i>4:45 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 Board will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda beginning on [Page 159](#).

2. **U. T. Health Science Center - Houston: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed change in tuition and fee rates for the Doctor of Nurse Practitioner in Nurse Anesthesia degree program**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, and the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve the proposed change in tuition and fee rates for the Doctor of Nurse Practitioner (DNP) in Nurse Anesthesia degree program for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029, as recommended by the institution president.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On August 24, 2023, the U. T. System Board of Regents approved tuition and fee proposals for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029 for the five health institutions. At the time, U. T. Health Science Center - Houston relied upon published tuition rates of the Doctor of Nurse Practitioner in Nurse Anesthesia programs similar to that offered by the institution's Cizik School of Nursing. Several programs, however, had either just been approved or were still being considered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board so accurate comparisons were not fully available. Based on the additional information relating to recently approved similar programming and to remain competitive to attractive applicants, the institution seeks to create a specialized graduate tuition rate for the Bachelor of Science (BSN) to DNP in Nurse Anesthesia degree program only. An overview of the institution's tuition and fee proposal for the BSN to DNP in Nurse Anesthesia degree program for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029 are indicated below.

The proposal was developed after a consultative process with students currently enrolled in the BSN to DNP in Nurse Anesthesia degree program.

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

**The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)
Cizik School of Nursing (BSN to DNP Program in Nurse Anesthesia)
Tuition and Fee Five-Year Proposal Plans
Fall 2024 (FY2025) – Fall 2028 (FY2029)**

SUMMARY OF RESIDENT TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES

	Current Graduate Tuition Rate 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	Proposed 2026-27	Proposed 2027-28	Proposed 2028-29
Cizik School of Nursing						
BSN to DNP in Nurse Anesthesia 23 Semester Credit Hours (SCH) Resident	\$8,211	\$12,627	\$13,040	\$13,470	\$13,916	\$14,381

PROJECTED ANNUAL INCREASE IN REVENUE

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
BSN to DNP in Nurse Anesthesia Program	\$442,560	\$41,398	\$43,054	\$44,776	\$46,567

DETAILS OF RESIDENT TUITION FOR BSN TO DNP IN NURSE ANESTHESIA DEGREE PROGRAM

PROPOSED TUITION (New)

Cizik School of Nursing BSN to DNP in Nurse Anesthesia (23 SCH)						
Statutory Authority	Current Rate	Proposed 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	Proposed 2026-27	Proposed 2027-28	Proposed 2028-29
Statutory-54.051	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Designated-54.0513	\$257	\$449	\$467	\$486	\$505	\$525
Differential-54.008	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Tuition Total per SCH	\$357	\$549	\$567	\$586	\$605	\$625
TOTAL Annual Tuition @ 23 SCH	\$8,211	\$12,627	\$13,040	\$13,470	\$13,916	\$14,381

**The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)
Cizik School of Nursing (BSN to DNP Program in Nurse Anesthesia)
Tuition and Fee Five-Year Proposal Plans
Fall 2024 (FY2025) – Fall 2028 (FY2029)**

DETAILS OF NON-RESIDENT TUITION:

Cizik School of Nursing BSN to DNP in Nurse Anesthesia (23 SCH)						
Statutory Authority	Current Rate	Proposed 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	Proposed 2026-27	Proposed 2027-28	Proposed 2028-29
Statutory-54.051	\$470	\$460	\$460	\$460	\$460	\$460
Designated-54.0513	\$239	\$449	\$467	\$486	\$505	\$525
Differential-54.008	\$470	\$470	\$470	\$470	\$470	\$470
Tuition Total per SCH	\$1,167	\$1,379	\$1,397	\$1,416	\$1,435	\$1,155
TOTAL Annual Tuition @ 23 SCH	\$26,841	\$31,717	\$32,130	\$32,560	\$33,006	\$33,471

3. **U. T. Southwestern Medical Center, U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston, and U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center: Approval of four pharmacy distribution agreements for wholesale drug services**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel, and the respective institution presidents that the U. T. System Board of Regents authorize the contracts for wholesale drug distribution services, including financial enhancements as listed below:

- a. contract between U. T. Southwestern Medical Center and Cardinal Health, Inc. with an initial contract term of five years with two optional one-year renewals and an estimated contract value of \$1,417,895,543;
- b. contract between U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston and Cardinal Health, Inc. with an initial contract term of five years with two optional one-year renewals and an estimated contract value of \$772,208,299;
- c. contract with Morris & Dickson for U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston's Correctional Managed Care Program with an initial contract term of five years with two optional one-year renewals and an estimated contract value of \$475,669,397; and
- d. contract between U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and Cencora, Inc. (formerly AmerisourceBergen) with an initial contract term of five years with two optional one-year renewals and an estimated contract value of \$10,446,936,585.

It is further recommended that the Board delegate authority to the respective institutional presidents to execute all documents, instruments, and other agreements, and to take all further actions deemed necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of the foregoing actions, following review and approval by the Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, and the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In February 2023, U. T. System arranged for Vizient, Inc. (Vizient), U. T. System's primary healthcare group purchasing organization, to lead negotiations, on behalf of the above institutions, to enhance existing competitively procured Vizient contracts with pharmacy distributors.

Throughout calendar year 2023, Vizient worked closely with pharmacy and procurement officers from the U. T. System Supply Chain Alliance, U. T. Southwestern Medical Center, U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston, and U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. This competitive solicitation included two requests for enhancement, supplier presentations, tours of the U. T. System institutions and of the pharmacy distribution centers, several best and final offers, and conceptual agreement on all key business and legal issues. Fully executed contracts, subject to approval by the U. T. System Board of Regents, are expected in February 2024 with an effective date of February 1, 2024. The collective seven-year contract values are estimated to be \$13,112,709,824.

Three-year estimated cost savings, ongoing rebates, and incentives are \$92,398,638, partly due to changing pharmacy distributors, and are estimated to be:

- a. \$14,436,641 for U. T. Southwestern Medical Center;
- b. \$11,121,894 for U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston;
- c. \$799,245 for U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston's Correctional Managed Care Program; and
- d. \$66,040,858 for U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

While the U. T. institutions explored making a joint contract award to a single distributor for all needs in the aggregate, each institution determined an individual agreement with each distributor would best meet its unique business needs. However, the pending contracts have been made coterminous to facilitate a collaborative, future competitive solicitation.

4. U. T. System: Report on medical Spanish elective learning opportunities for health professions students at U. T. institutions

The Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Eric Solberg will report on medical Spanish elective learning opportunities for health professions students at U. T. institutions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Growing Hispanic Population

According to the most recent data (2023) from the United States Census Bureau, the current Hispanic population in the United States is an estimated 19.1% and is expected to grow to between 29 to 30% of the U.S. population by 2050. As of 2022, the Texas Demographic Center estimates Hispanic Texans make up 40.2% of the Texas population. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, the 2019 census data showed that 28% of Hispanics state that they are not fluent in English.

Medical Spanish Courses in Schools of Medicine Used to Improve Patient Care

Individuals with limited English proficiency are not always able to speak, read, write, or understand the English language at a level that permits them to effectively interact with healthcare providers, increasing the risk of medical errors and adverse health outcomes. The growing Hispanic population with limited English proficiency has resulted in the implementation of medical Spanish elective courses offered at many medical schools in the United States. In 2015, the National Survey of Medical Spanish Curriculum in U.S. Medical Schools was conducted in partnership with the Latino Medical Student Association showing that 66% of the medical schools surveyed reported offering medical Spanish in their curricula.

The deans, academic leadership, and students at several U. T. institutions have recognized the importance of providing elective courses in basic clinical conversational Spanish for students as one of many tools to improve patient care and overall health care outcomes. Over the past decade, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's John Sealy School of Medicine, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's McGovern Medical School, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's Medical School have developed and implemented elective courses and other learning experiences focused on providing medical Spanish for students who are interested in obtaining these language skills. Other U. T. institutions that do not currently offer medical Spanish elective courses, have expressed the need for such courses or similar learning experiences to provide the best health care to all patients.

In an effort to provide a quality, basic medical Spanish learning experience for health professions students enrolled in U. T. institutions, the U. T. System Office of Health Affairs will support an initiative to utilize existing elective courses already developed at several U. T. medical schools to be made available at no cost to medical students through the online platform supported by the Finish@U. T. Cross-Campus Registration Portal. Based on the successful implementation of this initiative, the U. T. System Office of Health Affairs will explore the development of a similar elective course offering for students enrolled in other health profession degrees, including nursing and allied health programs.