

**MINUTES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, February 23, 2017 – The members of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents convened at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel, Conrad Hilton Ballroom, Second Floor, 4450 University Drive, Houston, Texas 77204 with the following members participating:

ATTENDANCE –

Member(s) Present

Paula M. Mendoza, Chair  
Beth Madison, Vice Chair  
Durga D. Agrawal, Member  
Gerald W. McElvy, Member  
Peter K. Taaffe, Member  
Joshua Freed, Student Regent, Non-voting  
Tilman J. Fertitta, Ex Officio

Member(s) Absent

Roger F. Welder, Member

Non-Member(s) in Attendance

Spencer D. Armour, III, Regent  
Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., Regent

In accordance with a notice being timely posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum in attendance, Chair of the Committee, Paula M. Mendoza called the meeting to order. Regent Mendoza stated the committee would be presented seven (7) agenda items: five (5) action items for the committee’s consideration and approval and two (2) information items.

Regent Mendoza moved to the first approval item, the approval of the minutes from the December 1, 2016, Academic and Student Success Committee meeting.

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AGENDA ITEMS

**Action Item(s):**

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Taaffe, and by a unanimous vote of the members present, the following minutes from the meeting listed below was approved:

- December 1, 2016, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting

Following the approval of the minutes, Regent Mendoza stated she was taking the agenda out of order and moved to Item H, the Presentation of Student Success Story – University of Houston-Downtown (“UHD”) and introduced Ms. Jeanette Trevino, who is a current graduate student in the College of Business at the UH-Downtown’s M.B.A. program with a concentration in

Leadership. Ms. Trevino joined the program in January 2016 and expects to graduate Fall 2017. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of St. Thomas where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. She currently maintains a 3.77 GPA while working 50+ hours a week as a Microbiology Specialist for a contract pharmaceutical testing facility. Following the loss of two of her loved ones (her father and fiancé) before and during her first semester at UHD, a close friend and fellow classmates, as well as various faculty members, especially Dr. Morgan and Dr. Robbie Robertson, helped her to stay motivated and continue with her studies at UHD. Ms. Trevino stated that she found ways to build her confidence throughout her coursework and to find a deeper gratitude for her situation; she saw it as an opportunity to do better and to learn more. Additionally, the newly developed relationships she had built with her classmates and her time at UHD helped to build her resilience and become a better version of herself.

Regent Mendoza introduced Ms. Caroline Marie Smith, who was also a student in the College of Business at UH-Downtown's M.B.A. program. Ms. Smith stated in 2015 she had received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology as Magna Cum Laude from UHD. She maintains a 3.9 GPA and expects to graduate in August 2017. Ms. Smith works as a Research Fellow for UHD's Minorities & Retirement Security Program (MRS) conducting research funded by the Social Security Administration and the Department of Education, with the purpose of increasing the quantity and quality of research in areas of financial literacy, retirement security, financial decision-making, and financial stress. She displays her desire to promote financial literacy by serving as a consultant to the Women's Resource of Greater Houston, a nonprofit organization that offers financial education courses to at-risk women in the Houston area. Ms. Smith has proudly represented UHD at a national symposium at Washington, DC and presented her research at numerous conferences. In addition, she has a published article on psychologybenefits.org and has two manuscripts in progress which focus on financial stress and financial self-efficacy.

Regent Mendoza thanked both students for their presentations, as well as Dean Fields and Dr. Barksdale for their hard work.

This item was presented for information only and no further committee action was required.

Following the presentation of the Student Success Stories, Regent Mendoza introduced the next information item listed on the committee's agenda.

2. Presentation on Houston Guided Pathways to Success – University of Houston, Item C – A&SS-C

Regent Mendoza stated that Houston GPS had been invited by Complete College America to be the 40<sup>th</sup> member of the Alliance of States. The team consisted of Regent Paula Mendoza, Provost Paula Myrick Short, Jason Smith, Vice Chancellor for Governmental and Community Relations, Teri Longacre, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Student Success, Kimberly Beatty, Chief Academic Officer at Houston Community College, and Mike Krall, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Lone Star College.

In November, the team had participated in Complete College America's Annual Convening in San Francisco. Over 500 people attended including teams of 5-7 people from the 40 alliance

members. The teams included Legislators, Chief Academic Officers, College Presidents, State Commissioners of Education, and Governors' Policy Offices.

Regent Mendoza stated that the UH team had the opportunity to showcase Houston GPS on a national stage. She then introduced Dr. Short, the team leader and liaison to share their presentation from the convening.

Dr. Paula Myrick Short began her presentation with a short video showcasing real UH students, all first generation, hardworking, and goal-oriented, all of whom have dreams of completing a four-year degree. Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States and one of the most ethnically diverse, with more than 144 languages spoken in this area. Dr. Short also stated that the city of Houston has experienced enormous growth; the total population has grown a total of 26% from 2000-2010; the greater metropolitan area now has a population of over 5.3 million; and has the highest growth of any metro area from 2014-2015. However, we are 34<sup>th</sup> among the 50 largest metropolitan areas for college degrees.

Dr. Short quoted Henry Ford stating “coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” She stated that there were seven institutions in Houston that comprise the Houston GPS that had come together to change the success of students in the Houston area.

For reference, listed below were the seven (7) Houston GPS Partner Institutions:

- Houston Community College
- Lone Star College System
- San Jacinto College
- Wharton County Junior College
- University of Houston
- University of Houston-Clear Lake
- University of Houston-Downtown

Dr. Short mentioned that these institutions were working through Houston GPS to fully implement the components needed for students to successfully complete their degree. These components were default pathways, informed choices, meta-majors, academic maps, milestone courses, intrusive advising, and corequisite remediation.

Dr. Short stated that Houston GPS has an ambitious set of goals, which include increasing on-time graduation rates, decreasing time to degree, reducing excess credits, and closing achievement gaps. To accomplish these goals, Chancellors and Presidents of all seven (7) institutions have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) committing the various campuses to collaborate together and fully implement the components of Houston GPS.

Dr. Short concluded her presentation by stating that as of today Houston GPS has enhanced the lives of over 226,131 students who reside in the Houston area; and all seven (7) institutions were committed to making a difference.

Regent Mendoza thanked Dr. Short for her presentation, her hard work and for leading this group.

This item was presented for information only and no further committee action was required.

Item D was the next action item listed on the agenda and Regent Mendoza requested Dr. Short introduce this item for the committee's consideration and approval.

3. Approval of the University of Houston-Victoria Mission Statement – University of Houston-Victoria, Item D, A&SS-D

Dr. Short stated that the University of Houston-Victoria (“UHV”) had revised their mission statement as they develop their 5-year strategic plan. The Strategic Planning Committee was seeking approval for this new mission statement. UHV’s Faculty Senate, Staff Council, Academic Council, President’s Cabinet, and the President have all reviewed and approved this new mission statement. Dr. Short invited the President of the University of Houston-Victoria, Dr. Vic Morgan, to address the rationale behind their mission statement and the type of students they are recruiting at UHV for the committee’s consideration.

Dr. Morgan mentioned that the Strategic Planning Committee was the group that had initially addressed the mission statement. As they looked at the students being served at UHV, they realized that many of the students come from a very rural and economically disadvantaged region; and that these students would go from UHV and then into a global society/a global community. Therefore, UHV needed to emphasize and to help make certain that these students were prepared to live and work in a global society. UHV is interested in being a destination university for international students, who will in turn, expose current UHV students to other cultures. Dr. Morgan stated that an International Fair is held on the UHV campus where students can dress in their native costumes; prepare their native dishes; talk about native dances; etc. UHV is very interested in recruiting international students and making them part of the UHV campus community. There are currently approximately 3% of international students at UHV and their goal is to reach roughly 10%.

In addition, on the Katy campus, UHV has been recruiting students from Houston Community College (“HCC”) and Lone Star College, with HCC being the #1 community college and Lone Star College being #3 in the country for international students. Dr. Morgan also stated that UHV was third in the entire United States among Masters’ institutions with 15.4% being international faculty and staff. Dr. Morgan concluded his remarks by stating that UHV was working hard to give their students the experience that would prepare them to go out into the world and be ready to deal with an international community.

On motion of Regent Taaffe, seconded by Regent Madison, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the Approval of the University of Houston-Victoria Mission Statement – University of Houston-Victoria was approved.

4. Approval of University of Houston-Downtown Honorary Degree – University of Houston-Downtown, Item E, A&SS-E

Dr. Short presented this item to the Board for their approval. The University of Houston-

Downtown would like to nominate Mr. Bill Richardson to receive an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

**Bill Richardson**

For more than 30 years, Bill Richardson has led a distinguished public-service career as a U.S. Congressman (1982-1996), U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (1997-1998), and Secretary of Energy under President Bill Clinton (1998-2000)

As a diplomat and Special Envoy, Richardson has received four Nobel Peace Prize nominations, and has successfully won the release of hostages and American servicemen in North Korea, Cuba, Iraq and the Sudan.

Since entering life as a private citizen in 2011, he has authored three books including "How to Sweet-Talk a Shark: Strategies and Stories from a Master Negotiator," which was published in Fall 2013.

As Governor of New Mexico, Richardson's bold governing style moved New Mexico forward in several important areas, including clean energy, education, transportation, healthcare, immigration, environmental protection and \$1 billion in tax cuts to New Mexicans.

Richardson received a BA from Tufts in 1970 and a MA from Tuft's Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy in 1971.

Dr. Short stated that Mr. Richardson was chosen through a process at UHD, a secret ballot vote, and it was a unanimous decision.

On motion of Regent Taaffe, seconded by Regent McElvy, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the Approval of University of Houston-Downtown Honorary Degree to Bill Richardson – University of Houston-Downtown was approved.

5. Approval of a Master of Arts in Teaching at the University of Houston-Clear Lake – University of Houston-Clear Lake, Item F, A&SS-F

Dr. Short stated that UH-Clear Lake was requesting Board approval for their Master of Arts in Teaching. Dr. Short mentioned that this program was intended for people who already have their baccalaureate degree and wanted to become teachers allowing them to add-on the coursework to be certified as a teacher and also receive a master's degree. This MA program would be focused on students who would like to become teachers in mathematics and science.

Dr. Short also mentioned that the Department of Education offers teachers a Loan Forgiveness Program should they go into the areas of math and science, providing assistance with their student debt; and the schools in the Houston area have been approved to provide this incentive. Dr. Short concluded by stating that students/teachers were more marketable if they have these two degrees.

On motion of Regent McElvy, seconded by Regent Taaffe, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the Approval of a Master of Arts in Teaching at the University of Houston-Clear Lake – University of Houston-Clear Lake was approved.

6. Approval of a Master of Science in Statistics and Data Analytics at the University of Houston – University of Houston, Item G, A&SS-G

Dr. Short stated that the University of Houston currently does not offer a degree in this area, making this a step forward for the institution. The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (“NSM”) was proposing this degree, recognizing that there was a growing need for data analytics in various areas, particularly in the biomedical and oil and gas industries. There has been a 27% increase in employment for statisticians in the last 5-6 years. Dr. Short stated that this would be a 30-credit hour, 12-month program, hybrid, including part online and part face-to-face classes to meet the needs of employed or part-time students. In addition, Dr. Short mentioned that no other UH campus offered this degree; however Rice and UT offer related degrees at a higher cost.

Regent Taaffe observed that this was a great move for the university, creating programs that serve the current needs of the community, and hopes to see that the other System campuses move in the same direction.

In addition, Regent Madison thanked Dr. Short for her presentation on Houston GPS; and she commended the team for their hard work and for helping students obtain an education beginning at a community college and ending at the University of Houston.

On motion of Regent McElvy, seconded by Regent Madison, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the Approval of a Master of Science in Statistics and Data Analytics at the University of Houston – University of Houston was approved.

Following the approval of this item, a vote was called to place these four (4) action items, unanimously approved by the committee, on the Board’s Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval.

1. Approval of the University of Houston-Victoria Mission Statement;
2. Approval of University of Houston-Downtown Honorary Degree;
3. Approval of a Master of Arts in Teaching at the University of Houston-Clear Lake; and
4. Approval of a Master of Science in Statistics and Data Analytics at the University of Houston

On motion of Regent Taaffe, seconded by Regent McElvy, and by a unanimous vote of the committee members present, all four (4) action items were placed on the Board of Regents’ Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval at the Board meeting held later that day, February 23, 2017.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

University of Houston System

All documentation submitted to the Committee in support of the foregoing action items, including but not limited to “Passed” agenda items and supporting documentation presented to the Committee, is incorporated herein and made a part of these minutes for all purposes; however, this does not constitute a waiver of any privileges contained herein.

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Others Present:

Renu Khator  
Dona Cornell  
Paula Myrick Short  
Elwyn Lee  
Lisa Holdeman  
Jim McShan  
Eloise Stuhr  
Jason Smith  
Richard Walker  
Don Guyton  
Raymond Vic Morgan  
Michael Olivas  
Bill Staples  
Ed Hugetz  
Ramanan Krishnamoorti  
Hunter Yurachek  
Devonte Hilo  
Patricia Oliver  
Michael Britt  
Jane Ottinger

Mike Johnson  
Tomikia LeGrand  
Ben Aldrich  
Esmeralda Valdez  
Chris Stanich  
Sabrina Hassumani  
Clarie Anderson  
Jasmine Davis  
Glen Houston  
Mark Boone  
Marialuisa Rincon  
Neelesh Mutyala  
Macy Kelley  
Pam Muscarello  
Joe Brueggman  
Catherine Tinkler  
Laurie Ruiz  
Mike Rosen  
Mike Glisson  
Gerry Mathisen

David Oliver  
Brian Thomas  
David Bradley  
Raymond Bartlett  
Phil Booth  
Wayne Beran  
Shannon Harrison  
Whitney Warlick  
Jon Aldrich  
Ryan Harrison  
Cindy Mejia  
Matthew Castillo  
Khris House  
David Gratuol  
Marquette Hobbs  
Brenda Robles  
David Ellis  
Mark Yzaguirre  
Ashley Ross