

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

**November 4, 2009**

The Chair of the Committee, Carroll Robertson Ray, convened the meeting of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents in the Athletics/Alumni Center, Melcher Board Room 100B, 3100 Cullen Blvd, Houston, Texas, at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2009. The following committee members were present: Carroll Robertson Ray, Chair, Nelda Luce Blair, Vice Chair, Welcome W. Wilson, Sr., Ex Officio, and Kristen Lindley. Regent Mica Mosbacher was unable to attend the meeting. Regent Nandita V. Berry attended as a non-member of the committee.

There were 5 approval items and 3 information items slated for presentation. Regent Ray turned the meeting over to Dr. John Antel, Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost, who introduced these items to the committee.

**Action Items:**

1. New Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Design – UH-Victoria  
Dr. Antel requested committee approval of the UH-Victoria proposal to establish a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Design which would be administered by its School of Arts and Sciences. This program would focus on the history, theory, and practice of Communication Design and would prepare students for careers in the rapidly growing field of web design and graphic design, as well as other related areas including fashion design and interior design. One new faculty member would be required. This new program would attract around 32 students by the fifth year; and the total five year costs would be approximately \$900,000, primarily derived from formula funding, tuition and fees, and reallocated funds.
  
2. New Master of Arts Degree in Applied Economics – University of Houston  
Dr. Antel requested committee approval of the University of Houston proposal to establish a Master of Arts Degree in Applied Economics, to be administered by the Department of Economics within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). This program is designed to be completed within one calendar year, and it features either an internship or thesis option. This degree would feature coursework in areas such as health economics, energy economics, economic forecasting, public finance, environmental economics, and urban economics. This program would attract 20 students by the fifth year; and will be fully supported by the current faculty, thus incurring no new costs.

Regent Blair moved committee approval of these two new degree action items; Regent Wilson seconded the motion; and members of the committee concurred. These two items will be placed on the agenda for the November 11, 2009 Board of Regents meeting for final board approval.

The next action item considered by the committee was introduced by Dr. Antel.

3. Modification of Admission Requirements for Freshmen at the University of Houston – University of Houston

Dr. Antel requested committee approval of the proposed modification of UH's standards for the automatic admission of certain freshman who are first-time-in-college (FTIC) students entering in the fall of 2011. Automatic admission depends on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and high school class rank. Non-automatic admission involves SAT/ACT scores, high school class rank, and individual review of the applicant. The proposed changes recognize that the Legislature will define certain academic criteria for Tier One funding, and further recognize that students' chances for academic success depend in large part on their preparation in addition to their abilities. In comparison to other research and emerging research universities in Texas, the University of Houston's admissions standards were below those of the research universities in Texas and were not at the top of the emerging research universities. The proposed change in automatic admissions standards would better position the UH System to offer its students the opportunity of a Tier One university while the overall admission process will continue to ensure access to the entire Houston metropolitan area and maintain UH and the UH System as one of the most ethnically diverse in the nation.

Regent Blair moved committee approval of this action item as presented; Regent Wilson seconded the motion; and members of the committee concurred. This item will be placed on the agenda for the November 11, 2009 Board of Regents meeting for final board approval.

4. Admission Requirements for Freshmen at the University of Houston-Victoria – UH-Victoria

Dr. Antel requested committee approval of the proposed admission requirements for: U.S. High School graduates, GED Certificates, and Home Schooled students to the University of Houston-Victoria. Applicants must meet 2 of the 3 following requirements to be eligible for regular admission:

- Rank in the top 50% of the graduating senior class\* (not applicable to GED or home schooled students).
- Overall high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale under the "recommended" or "advanced" high school program, or a curriculum that is equivalent in content and rigor as the recommended or advanced program.

Note: Students who pass the GED exam will be recognized as satisfying the 2.0 grade point average (GPA) requirements.

- Minimum score of 18 on the Enhanced American College Test (ACT) OR a minimum score of 860 on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Reasoning Tests [critical reading and math sections].

\*Per House Bill 588 – An applicant will be automatically admitted if they graduated in the top 10% of their class from an accredited Texas public high school within the two years prior to the academic year for which admission is sought, and an application is submitted by the published deadline.

Regent Blair moved committee approval of this action item as presented; Regent Wilson seconded the motion; and members of the committee concurred. This item will be placed on the agenda for the November 11, 2009 Board of Regents meeting for final board approval.

5. Review of Position Statement on the Use of Race and Ethnicity in Student Admissions – UH System

Dr. Antel requested committee approval of the position statement regarding the use of race and ethnicity in student admissions. In 2003, the Board of Regents had approved a position statement re a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on this issue and included in this provision the Board stated it would review it again after five years; therefore, re-approval of this statement was requested.

Dr. Antel provided the Board with an overview of the experience the UH Law Center, which was the only unit that had modified their admission policies as a result of the Supreme Court ruling and the Board of Regents position statement.

This position statement will be brought before the Board every five years for approval.

Regent Blair moved committee approval of this action item as presented; Regent Wilson seconded the motion; and members of the committee concurred. This item will be placed on the agenda for the November 11, 2009 Board of Regents meeting for final board approval.

The remaining 3 items presented were for information only and required no action by the committee.

Dr. Antel introduced the first information item, Report on Operations of KUHT-TV, and turned the meeting over to Mr. Ed Hugetz, who gave the report on its operations.

Mr. Hugetz remarked KUHT was the oldest Public Broadcasting Station in the nation. An overview of KUHT over the last nine months had been completed and the UH System administration had conducted a thorough peer review assessment of station operations. “KUHT’s top management (General Manager and Station Manager) are competent, well experienced in every facet of public television, and working hard to address the current fiscal crisis. We find that the station, while under great financial distress for this decade, is generally performing at a reasonable level compared to its peers” said Mr. Hugetz.

KUHT and the UH System are working to respond to the recommendations of the peer review, one of which was to strengthen the relationship between the station and UH. One way in which KUHT and the UH System are enhancing their partnership was to create the UH Moment which is a weekly series of brief audio stories, broadcast on KUHF, that highlight innovative research, programs and successes at the University of Houston. A video component to the series is currently being planned and will be broadcast on KUHT. Several examples of the UH Moment were cited: UH Moment: “Construction Management”; UH Moment: “Concept Visualization Lab”; UH Moment: “Wind”; to name a few.

The next information item on the agenda was the Student Success Initiative Status Report – University of Houston. Dr. Antel presented the committee with an overview of the various initiatives related to student success at the University of Houston, which included the goals, actions, and metrics that would be used to measure progress in this area.

The last item presented to the committee for information only was the UH System Enrollment and Degree Production Report – UH System. Dr. Antel provided the committee with an update on Fall 2009 enrollment and FY 2009 degree production for all components of the UH System.

Below is a breakdown for each component and the UH System Fall 2009 enrollment:

Univ. of Houston –	Fall 2008 (All) – 36,104 Fall 2009 (All) – 37,000 % Change – 2.5%	UH-Clear Lake –	Fall 2008 (All) – 7,658 Fall 2009 (All) – 7,644 % Change – -0.2%
UH-Downtown –	Fall 2008 (All) – 12,283 Fall 2009 (All) – 12,742 % Change – 3.7%	UH-Victoria –	Fall 2008 (All) – 3,174 Fall 2009 (All) – 3,654 % Change – 15.1%
UH System –	Fall 2008 (All) – 59,219 Fall 2009 (All) – 61,040 % Change – 3.1%		

Below is a breakdown for each component and the UH System FY 2009 degrees awarded:

Univ. of Houston –	FY 2008 – 7,016 FY 2009 – 7,181 % Change – 2.4%	UH-Clear Lake –	FY 2008 – 2,119 FY 2009 – 2,335 % Change – 10.2%
UH-Downtown –	FY 2008 – 2,095 FY 2009 – 2,207 % Change – 5.3%	UH-Victoria –	FY 2008 – 704 FY 2009 – 801 % Change – 13.8%
UH System –	FY 2008 – 11,934 FY 2009 – 12,524 % Change – 4.9%		

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

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  
John Antel  
Carl Carlucci  
Dona Cornell  
Don Birx  
Elwyn Lee  
Grover Campbell  
Bill Flores  
Bill Staples  
Jeannie Kever (Houston Chronicle)  
Gerry Mathisen

Elaine Charlson  
Diane Murphy  
Liz Fletcher  
Suzanne LaBrecque  
Don Guyton  
Oscar Gutierrez  
Barbara Stanley  
Jim Blair  
Leah Wolfthal  
Jon Aldrich

Molly Woods  
Michelle Moosally  
David Bell  
Ed Apodaca  
Mike Emery  
Ed Hugetz  
Dan Wells  
Ed Jones  
Oscar Gutierrez  
Marquette Hobbs