

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

Thursday, November 19, 2015 – The members of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents convened at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel, Conrad Hilton Ballroom, Second Floor, 4450 University Drive, Houston, Texas, with the following members participating:

ATTENDANCE –

Member(s) Present

Paula M. Mendoza, Chair  
Beth Madison, Vice Chair  
Gerald W. McElvy, Member  
Roger F. Welder, Member  
Garrett H. Hughey, Student Regent

Member(s) Absent

Durga D. Agrawal, Member  
Peter K. Taaffe, Member  
Tilman J. Fertitta, Ex Officio

Non-Member(s) in Attendance

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 six (6) agenda items: three (3) action items for the committee's consideration and approval and three (3) information items.

\*\*\*\*\*

AGENDA ITEMS

**Action Item(s):**

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

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

- May 21, 2015, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting

Following the approval of the minutes, Regent Mendoza asked Dr. Paula Myrick Short, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost to introduce the items on the committee's agenda.

2. Approval of Bachelor of Science degree in Counseling at the University of Houston-Clear Lake – University of Houston-Clear Lake, Item C – A&SS-C

Dr. Paula Myrick Short introduced and presented this action item requesting Board approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Counseling at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Counseling is designed to bring students into the field of counseling at the four-year undergraduate level. Dr. Short mentioned that this program will provide coursework required for graduates who apply for licensure with the Texas State Department of Health Services as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor as well as the preparation needed to enter a graduate degree program that leads to state licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Dr. Short stated that the proposed program would complement and extend the academic preparation of community college transfer students who may have academic aspirations to work in the counseling field. This program would offer two tracks that will give students multiple options to advance their academic preparation and professional career.

Dr. Short also mentioned that at the national level, employment of substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors is expected to grow by 31% from 2012 to 2022, and at the local level, the Education News Career Index reports that there were 9,230 people employed in counseling fields in Houston as of 2010, a 26% growth from 2006-2010. In addition, the proposed Bachelor of Science in Counseling would be the only four-year undergraduate program in the field of counseling in Houston.

Dr. Short expects that about 266 students will enroll in the first five (5) years and generate revenue starting in its fourth year.

On motion of Regent McElvy, seconded by Regent Welder, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Counseling at the University of Houston-Clear Lake was approved.

3. Approval of Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Houston-Victoria, Item D - A&SS-D

Dr. Short presented this item requesting approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Houston-Victoria. The proposed program is designed to prepare students in the Victoria area for key technical, administration, engineering and management positions in the analysis, design, implementation, testing, maintenance and administration of hardware systems.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas is one of the states with the highest employment level in the computer engineering occupation; it is currently 72% higher than that of the national average. In addition computing-related occupations are among the fastest growing occupations in Victoria, the Texas Gulf Coast area, and in Texas; and the need for computer engineers will only continue to increase.

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering degree will maximize available resources by making use of the already established computer science program, as well as by having common courses with other computer science curricula and sharing all labs and library resources. It is expected that about 125 students will enroll in the first five (5) years and generate revenue starting in its third year.

On motion of Regent Welder, seconded by Regent Madison, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Houston-Victoria was approved.

4. Approval of the University of Houston Honorary Degrees – University of Houston, Item E – A&SS-E.

Dr. Short presented the last action item, Item E, the Approval of the University of Houston Honorary Degrees. There were three (3) nominees for Honorary Degrees, Glenn T. Lilie, Gilbert Russell Ybarra, and James Victor Samuels.

Mr. Glenn T. Lilie is the CEO of GT Ventures and CPI Group, an oilfield screen production company in Pearland, Texas. He attended the University of Houston in the late 1960s and has supported UH over the last 50 years through volunteer, leadership, and fundraising positions. Mr. Lilie is also heavily involved in UH athletics, founding the UH Athletics Foundation with a major gift in the 1990s. In addition, he played an instrumental role in the return of Frontier Fiesta to the UH campus in 1992 by funding and engineering its return with resources from the CPI physical plant. Finally, he has served as a Past President of the UH Alumni Association; a volunteer in the UH Foundation; a member of the UH Board of Visitors; and as Vice President for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Mr. Gilbert Russell Ybarra is the President and CEO of Gringo's Mexican Kitchen. Mr. Ybarra has developed several restaurant chains including Bullritos and Jimmy Changas. He began his career at the age of 15 working in his father's restaurant in La Porte, Texas as a dishwasher. Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Ybarra began pursuit of his lifelong passion to learn the restaurant business and industry. Mr. Ybarra is also a community leader; he served as President of the Greater Houston Restaurant Association and Vice President of the Texas Restaurant Association. He also serves as an advisor to both the East Harris County Youth Program and Metro Bank; and as President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Baytown. Since 2010, Mr. Ybarra has been a guest speaker every semester at the UH College of Hotel and Restaurant Management for Hospitality and Marketing classes.

Mr. James Victor Samuels is an entrepreneur who has owned more than 25 businesses. He is the controlling shareholder of Leedo Manufacturing Co., LP; President of Timmons Consulting, Inc.; and President of Syracuse Union Place, LLC, and Phoenix Union Place, LLC. Mr. Samuels and his wife are Houston philanthropists who are engaged in the advancement of education and children's literacy and in the protection of vulnerable populations; and both have been engaged with the University of Houston since the 1980s. Mr. Samuels' commitment to social justice and the protection of vulnerable populations has led his philanthropy to increasingly focus on the Graduate College of Social Work. He has served on the College's Dean's Advisory Council since 2002, and he and his wife have endowed a scholarship through a gift of \$100,000. In addition to his commitment to UH, Mr. Samuels has served as a Board Member for the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and Harris County Children's Protective Services Foundation.

On motion of Regent Welder, seconded by Regent Madison, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the Approval of the University of Houston Honorary Degrees was approved.

At the conclusion of the approval of the last action item presented, Regent Mendoza called for a motion to place all three (3) action items presented to the committee on the Board of Regents' Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval at the Board of Regents meeting.

On motion of Regent Welder, seconded by Regent Madison, and by a unanimous vote of the committee members present, the following three (3) action items were placed on the Board of Regents' Consent Docket Agenda for final approval at the Board of Regents meeting held later that day, November 19, 2015, as listed below.

1. Approval of Bachelor of Science degree in Counseling at the University of Houston-Clear Lake – University of Houston-Clear Lake;
2. Approval of Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Houston-Victoria – University of Houston-Victoria; and
3. Approval of the University of Houston Honorary Degrees – University of Houston;

The next item presented to the Committee was Item F, Presentation of Low Producing Programs Report – University of Houston System, Item F – A&SS-F.

Dr. Short presented this item and stated that based on a recommendation from the Board, a presentation of the process of reviewing Low Producing Programs was submitted and approved by the committee at the May 21, 2015 meeting and has been implemented. From late spring through this fall, all programs that were on the Coordinating Board's low producing list have been reviewed and a report of this process was being brought to the committee with the results. Dr. Short mentioned that moving forward, programs would be reviewed on an on-going basis as their goal was to never have a program listed on the Coordinating Board's Low Producing Program list. A report with the names of any programs identified as low producing will be presented to the committee at every November meeting along with a recommendation of what the plans were for such programs. This will be an on-going monitoring of productivity of all the programs at all four (4) System campuses.

At the University of Houston, the Masters in Aerospace Engineering program was one of five (5) programs listed on the Coordinating Board's list of Low Producing Programs. The decision was to retain the program as it is important, particularly in the relationship with NASA. The program did meet the Coordinating Board's target of 15 graduates in 2015; however, this program will continue to be monitored.

The Materials Science and Engineering PhD program was also listed as low producing and the decision was to keep it on a monitoring status for three (3) years as the program is currently struggling with graduates. Monitoring status means that the program and the Dean will

provide a plan for increasing enrollment in order to meet the graduation requirement over a three (3) year period.

In three (3) years, all programs that were placed on a monitoring status that did not meet the requirements will be brought to the committee with a recommendation to discontinue the program.

The next program addressed was the Masters in Applied English Linguistics. This program was also placed on a monitoring status. The college is currently working on revamping this program and hire new faculty to help revitalize and increase enrollment.

The PhD in Developmental Psychology was another program that will be placed on a monitoring status. The decrease of enrollment in this program was due to a loss in faculty; and the recent hire of additional faculty is expected to help revitalize the program.

Dr. Short mentioned that there were two (2) programs at the University of Houston that have been recommended by the department and department faculty to be discontinued. The Academic Unit recommended the dissolution of the US Hispanic Literature and Language PhD which has not had a graduate since FY2010. The department currently offers a PhD in Spanish which is more popular with the students. The other program recommended by the college to be discontinued was the Masters in Speech Communication due to a shift in student interests, faculty research areas, and changes in the discipline, making the program no longer relevant.

Dr. Short stated that at the University of Houston-Clear Lake there were two (2) programs identified as low producing. The first one was the Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies. This program will be placed on a monitoring status for three (3) years. This is one of the oldest programs at UH-Clear Lake. It is an interdisciplinary program and it is very important to the university and college as it has a long history there. The second program at UH-Clear Lake was the Bachelor of Science in Physical Science. This program was recommended to be discontinued approximately three (3) years ago by the Academic Unit and no students have been allowed to enroll in this program since that time.

Finally, the University of Houston-Downtown has a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities on the low producing list. Dr. Short explained that this program was being recommended to be retained as this was a core program and an increase in enrollment and graduation numbers was expected. The program has also been updated in order to make it more attractive and responsive to student needs.

Dr. Short mentioned that the University of Houston-Victoria did not have any programs listed on the Coordinating Board's low producing list concluding her presentation of this item.

Regent Armour asked Dr. Short that in the case of incoming freshman students to a bachelors program that has been placed on a monitoring status for three (3) years, how was this situation handled? Dr. Short replied that there may be times when a decision is made to close a program, but there is always a teach-out plan prepared for students so they would be able to complete their degree.

Regent Mendoza raised the question, how far back does the university go with documentation or records before a program was retained, discontinued or placed on monitoring status? Dr. Short stated that since this review of Low Producing Programs had just been initiated, they were looking at programs starting in 2010 and moving forward as a determination of what was low producing; and this also coincides with the Coordinating Board's dates. She also mentioned that usually with the flowing of students' interest and the current context in which students are entering certain degrees, a five (5) year look back provides a good review.

In addition, Dr. Short thanked the committee for urging them to perform this review as it was important to demonstrate that we are active and proactive, offering the programs we should, and keeping graduation numbers up.

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

The next information item on the agenda was Item G, a Presentation of University of Houston-Downtown's Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Quality Enhancement Plan – University of Houston-Downtown, A&SS-G. Regent Mendoza introduced Dr. William Flores, who presented this item to the committee.

Dr. Flores began his presentation by explaining that UH-Downtown was currently under a review process by SACS, the accrediting body for the southern region. UH-Downtown has gone through a self-study; submitted the accountability report; and in addition, SACS has over 93 compliance requirements and other standards that must be met. Part of the requirements includes keeping the Board of Regents and Chancellor informed as the university goes through the process. Dr. Flores prepared a powerpoint presentation of UH-Downtown's QEP Plan. This plan had been distributed to the members of the Board and included some of the standards that the university had to provide in working with the Board and Chancellor, such as Core Standard 2.5 which requires every institution's mission be reviewed and adopted by the Board of Regents. UH-Downtown's vision and mission were presented and approved by the Board on February 16, 2010 and this information had been submitted as part of the Compliance Report.

Dr. Flores talked about the governance structure and planning model which was the next item that must be presented to SACS. In the case of UH-Downtown, they began with the central goals of the UH System and the Texas Higher Education goals to make sure that they fit with their strategic plan. UH-Downtown then developed a strategic plan that contributed to the goals of the State and the System; then an annual budget was developed which became a bottom-up and top-down process that must focus on contributing to the strategic plan. The final thing in UH-Downtown's planning model was accountability. Reports were generated on the State- and System-levels and were presented accordingly.

Dr. Flores introduced Dr. Faiza Khoja, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at UH-Downtown, who is in charge of assessment, research and planning for UHD. Dr. Khoja gave a brief presentation which focused on an overview of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which addressed two (2) of their standards in the SACSCOC Report; and would be submitted with their Focus Report on February 23, 2016. Dr. Khoja explained that the QEP

referred to one of the components of the reaffirmation process; it should be well-defined and focused on student learning; help accomplish the mission of the institution; and enhance institutional quality and effectiveness. The Impact Report, including the process of implementation and the results of the implementation of the QEP, must be submitted at the end of five (5) years; however, that only means that SACS wants to see it as a sustainable model.

Dr. Khoja stated that national research has shown that student experiences, deep learning and cultural understanding and sensitivity through high impact practices, especially minority, low income, first generation students - these high impact practices are very critical for their learning and understanding of the subject matter. Community engagement is a strength of UHD and they wanted to harness that strength to allow the students to critically analyze and develop those ethical, reasoning skills in that context. She also mentioned ACE (Academic Achievement through Community Engagement) which is a program currently implemented at UHD for students.

Dr. Khoja also addressed some of the key features of the QEP which focused on entering freshman in Fall 2016 and the succeeding years. Because UHD wanted to keep the scope of the QEP manageable and for successful implementation, they kept the scope to two years; it is curricular focused and closely aligned with the Texas Core Objectives and AAC&U VALUE Rubrics. UHD has also been funded by Lumina Foundation to start a project as to develop a co-curricular transcript which would reflect not only student grades but academic competencies starting in Fall 2016.

Dr. Khoja mentioned that UHD would also like to achieve institutional benchmarks such as increase persistence and retention from year one to year two and from year two to year three; decrease FTIC students going on probation; increase level of engagement in the community and increase the graduation rate.

Lastly, Dr. Khoja mentioned that the on-site visit will take place April 5-7, 2016 and the representatives from SACSCOC would like to meet with members of the Board of Regents. As soon as details and the agenda are finalized, Dr. Khoja stated she will send this information to the members of the Board for their reference.

Dr. Khator reinforced the importance of having the Board involved in this process and mentioned that there will be another presentation from UHD about their QEP at another Board meeting once they get closer to the date.

A copy of University of Houston-Downtown's presentation was filed in the Board office.

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

The next information item on the agenda was item H, a Presentation of University of Houston Student Success Story - University of Houston, A&SS-H. Regent Mendoza introduced Vanessa Alejandro, a student at the University of Houston.

Ms. Alejandro is a geology major in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and an Honors College student. Vanessa is co-founded of Warriors of the Wild, a non-profit that educates inner-city children in the Houston area about nature and the outdoors. She and 14 volunteers have educated more than 4,000 students in the Houston area through field trips and educational skits. Vanessa is also working with a team of students from The Honors College to develop a nature Exploratorium playground that is like an outdoor learning laboratory. Vanessa was selected to Glamour magazine's "Top 10 College Women of 2015." She is the second University of Houston student to receive this honor. Last year, she received the Udall Scholarship, a national scholarship given to students who are committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy or Native American health care.

During Ms. Alejandro's presentation she talked about her goals which were to help make a difference in the lives of everybody around her by focusing on human condition and environmental sustainability. As an aspiring scientist, she looks at energy solutions and water access in underdeveloped and developing countries and also at ways to help implement policies and solutions together to minimize environmental degradation at the same time.

Ms. Alejandro had the opportunity to work for two years in a climate science research laboratory marine geology that focuses on Antarctica. She mentioned that UH has really allowed her to look at science and become a scientist; aside from the different awards she talked about what she feels is her biggest achievement, Warriors of the Wild, a science education group that focuses on low-income students. Ms. Alejandro talked about her experience at UH and how happy she was to hear that she could get a liberal arts degree from The Honors College and at the same time get Tier One research and science experience with the College of Natural Sciences and Math; and how this combination has helped her build a platform to do research and things like the Warriors of the Wild.

In addition, Ms. Alejandro was diagnosed with cancer during her second year at UH. After a year of treatment, she returned to school and found that here at UH both professors and staff helped her get through a rough return to college by encouraging and motivating her to keep going. A year after being diagnosed, she was awarded the Udall Scholarship; two years after her diagnosis she won the "Top 10 College Women of 2015;" and finally, three years after her diagnosis, MD Anderson declared her a cancer survivor!

Ms. Alejandro concluded that all of her achievements have also been the combined efforts of the faculty and staff at UH, and mentioned a quote that has inspired her all throughout her career - "find what sparks the light in you, and use that light to illuminate the world!" She thanked the University of Houston for helping her find her light and her passion and transfer that to change the world.

Regent Mendoza thanked Ms. Alejandro for sharing her story with the Board.

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

It should be noted that no Executive Session was held.



There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Others Present:

Renu Khator  
Dona Cornell  
Paula Myrick Short  
Eloise Stuhr  
Elwyn Lee  
Richard Walker  
Don Guyton  
Jason Smith  
Nadia Ibrahim  
Ed Hugetz  
Faiza Khoja  
Mike Emery  
Jon Aldrich  
Gerry Mathisen

Mike Johnson  
Don Price  
Jeffrey Cass  
Mike Glisson  
Dan Maxwell  
Dennis Fouty  
Shannon Harrison  
Katie Brown  
Kenya Ayers  
Brandon Alexander  
Dan Wells  
Mike Johnson  
Marquette Hobbs

Phil Booth  
Brian Thomas  
Wayne Beran  
Sabrina Hassumani  
Pam Muscarello  
Anita Couch  
Iggy Harrison  
Jesse Pisors  
Mathew Castillo  
Mark Clarke  
Dick Phillips  
Vanessa Alejandro  
Brenda Robles