COMMITTEE: Facilities, Construction and Master Planning

ITEM: Approval is requested to update the University of Houston – Sugar Land master plan to site a new 63,000 square foot partnership facility.

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:

SUMMARY:
Approval is requested to update the University of Houston – Sugar Land master plan to incorporate a new 63,000-square foot university-industry partnership building. Under a ground lease from UH the facility will be privately developed, financed and constructed by TimeGate, Incorporated, an industry leader in digital gaming. This facility will be home to academic programs in digital gaming at the University of Houston and University of Houston-Victoria, including a Bachelor of Science in Digital Gaming and Simulation (UHV) and a Bachelor of Science in Digital Media (UH). The proposed relocation of existing academic programs to this building will enhance opportunities for student internships and advanced curriculum development.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Updated UH-Sugar Land Master Plan

FISCAL NOTE: Lease documents will be presented to the F&A Committee at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION REQUESTED: Administration recommends approval of this item

COMPONENT: University of Houston

PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR

CHANCELLOR

Renu Khator

Carl Carlucci

Renu Khator

DATE

DATE

DATE

02/15/2012
CONSENT DOCKET – FCMP-G27
UH Sugar Land Campus

Update to the Campus Master Plan

Introduction/Program:

Located in Sugar Land at the intersection of U.S. Highway 59 South and University Boulevard, the 200-acre campus hosts degree certification programs, as well as programs from UH, UH-Clear Lake, UH Victoria and Wharton County Junior College. Classes are delivered in the 57,000-square-foot Albert and Mamie George Building and the 145,000-square-foot Brazos Hall. Among the academic resources available to students is the University Branch Library, which is part of Fort Bend County Libraries.

TimeGate Studios, Incorporated, is seeking to construct an approximately 60,000 square foot building on the UH-Sugar Land Campus. The proposed building would house their motion-capture studio facility and staff associated with developing interactive games. TimeGate would occupy 14,000 square feet in the proposed building for both academic and business purposes with the balance devoted solely to academic use. Wharton County Junior College, University of Houston, and University of Houston-Victoria would move academic programs that align with the needs of the digital gaming industry into the building under a lease agreement.

Proposed Academic Use by UHS: The proposed TimeGate building at the UH-Sugar Land Campus would directly support the educational objectives of UHS. At present, UHV students are working in internship positions at TimeGate's current location on the Southwest Freeway. Opportunities for student internships, from both UHV and UH, would expand and be enhanced with the relocation of the motion-capture studio to the Campus. The additional space would provide opportunities to accommodate the following activities:

University/Community/Industry Partnership: The TimeGate project is indicative of how the UH System, the Sugar Land community and one of its corporations are forming partnerships to develop the UH-Sugar Land Campus – aligning academic programs to meet community/industry needs, with community support playing a significant role in funding these ventures. In this respect it is similar to the recently completed campus library, which was developed in partnership with Fort Bend County. Given that state resources for higher education are extremely limited, partnerships such as these are critical for program and facilities development at Sugar Land.

02/15/2012
CONSENT DOCKET – FCMP-G28