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Chancellor's Report
UH System Board of Regents Meeting
August 18, 2009

With the new academic year starting in less than a week, we can look back at a summer and a year of great achievements for the UH System.

81st Legislature—

Foremost on our list of achievements is a very successful legislative session. Not only did our elected representatives create a pathway that will help the University of Houston attain Tier One status (through TRIP and NRUF), but they also supported higher education with increases in the formula funding, which rose considerably system-wide:

	Total Increase	Percentage Increase
UH	$27,656,287	6.4%
UHCL	$3,548,250	4.4%
UHD	$5,319,049	6.4%
UHV	$4,850,325	12.6%
UHSA	$473,786	9.1%

In a session that began with anticipated cuts due to an initial deficit of over $9 billion, this was an exceedingly better outcome than could have been expected without the federal infusion of stimulus funding.

Our congratulations to Vice Chancellor/Vice President Grover Campbell for a super job in Austin this year!

UH System Fundraising—

In the face of harsh economic times, the UH System has secured $65.3 million in cash, as of mid-August, from individuals, companies, and foundations. By the end of FY 2008, the UH System had secured $66.9 million.

Here are the figures by university:
--UH is at $61.3 million vs. last year's final total of $61.5 million, and we have high hopes of exceeding that figure by the close of the fiscal year in a couple of weeks.

--UHCL is at $486,000 vs. last year's total of $642,000.

--UHD is at $1.6 million vs. last year's total of $2.3 million

--UHV is at $600,000 vs. last year's total of $485,000

We are experiencing, however, what every other university in the country is experiencing – a downturn in new, multi-year pledges.

One fundraising highlight at UH was an anonymous $8 million gift, the bulk of which was used to establish the TierOne Scholarship matching program. We are in active solicitation gear with donors, and have $3.7 million of gift proposals pending that could be matched. Additionally, we have donor commitments that have actually exceeded the full $1 million graduate fellowship matching fund we established as a companion program to our TierOne Scholarships.

We are hopeful that the TRIP matching gift program, our anonymous donor's match and some very attractive building naming opportunities at the UH Energy Research Park and the UH campus will help.

I am thankful that this board helped the Division of University Advancement dramatically expand their planned giving program. This year, to date, we received 10 bequest gifts totaling $3 million from individuals, including alumni, faculty, and other friends. We have secured another $4.6 million in new planned gifts this year.

My congratulations to Vice Chancellor/Vice President Rierson for the good fundraising news for 2009!

UH System Enrollment—

Let me touch briefly on enrollment projections for UH System before I bring you a few items of general interest from our four universities.

At UH:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 34,504
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 33,023
Increase of 1,481 or 4.5 percent

UH Undergraduate:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 26,551
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 25,666
Increase of 885 or 3.4 percent

UH FTIC:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 2,964
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 3,184
Decrease of 220 or -6.9 percent

UH New Transfer:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 2,958
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 2,583
Increase of 375 or 14.5 percent

UH Post Baccalaureate:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 1,139
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 983
Increase of 156 or 15.9 percent

UH Master's:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 3,864
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 3,527
Increase of 337 or 9.6 percent

UH Doctoral:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 1,058
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 913
Increase of 145 or 15.9 percent

UH Special Professional:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 1,892
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 1,934
Decrease of 42or -2.2 percent

At UHCL:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 6,857
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 6,823
Increase of 34 or 0.5 percent

At UHD:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 11,205
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 10,719
Increase of 486 or 4.5 percent

At UHV:
Enrolled at this time Fall 2009... 3,340
Enrolled at this time Fall 2008... 3,093
Increase of 247 or 8.0 percent

Research—

While all four UH System universities engage in research, I would like to focus my comments today on research at the University of Houston, by far the main driver in this area, and in doing so, congratulate Vice Chancellor/Vice President Don Birx on progress so far in what promises to be a landmark year for our research programs.

Our UH Division of Research has been energized on many fronts...

■ The acquisition last week of the University Business Park property, on the former Schlumberger campus, marking the birth of the UH Energy Research Park.

- Increasing numbers of UH proposals... 897 in 2006... 1,143 as of July 2009.

- Increasing number of UH proposals over $1 million... 60 in 2006... 109 as of July 2009.

- Total UH expenditures... $58.9 million in 2006... $70.6 million as of July 2009.

- Total UH awards... $65.4 million in 2006... $93.6 million as of July 2009.

Some of you heard detailed plans for the UH Energy Research Park at the board committee meetings last week. My congratulations go to Executive Vice Chancellor/Executive Vice President Carl Carlucci for spearheading this effort.

We have purchased the 70-acre University Business Park, located on I-45 near the UH campus, at a cost of $27.6 million, to be renamed UH Energy Research Park.

Plans are moving rapidly to re-locate the Cullen College of Engineering's petroleum engineering program to the site, along with several of the college's research components.

The UH Energy Research Park will bring together some of UH's energy-related centers and institutes, research partners from the private sector, testing laboratories, engineering classrooms, energy demonstration projects, and other energy-focused activities. The largest facility in the 22-building complex will be used for testing large blades for wind energy systems.

Coupled with the establishment of the UH Energy Advisory Board, composed of CEOs and top executives from prominent energy companies, such as ExxonMobil Exploration, Shell Oil, CenterPoint Energy, Dynegy, and others, we can safely say that UH Energy is on the move to carry us to Tier One status.

Two Examples of Tier-One Level Research—

First, as you know, CLASS researchers play a big part in UH's drive to increase external research funding.

The Department of Psychology has just learned the National Science Foundation has ranked the department in their "top tier" as No. 5 among the nation's colleges and universities in the amount of total and federally financed R&D expenditures in that discipline. This ranking is based on FY07 expenditures, the latest available to the NSF.

At nearly $15.95 million for FY07, that's more than the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in that category combined. Another building block toward Tier One!

Second, in the year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon, UH will this fall start offering a master's of human space exploration sciences, a one-of-a-kind program in collaboration with NASA for students who aspire to work in the space industry. Available through the Department of Health and Human Performance, it will also serve individuals in the space industry who want professional development.

Teaching the program will be William Paloski, who comes to UH from NASA where he researched biomechanics and the impact of space flight on astronauts.

Courses will include physiology programs and techniques for building and testing hardware used for space flight and how humans may adapt to living in the extreme environments of the Moon or Mars. There also is a management component and courses on the history of the space program.

Gary Kitmacher, on loan from NASA, will develop and facilitate the program, and department chair and professor Charles Layne and associate professor Mark Clarke will offer classes based on their extensive space life science research at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC).

Finally, I want to share with you how one of our UH big rocks – UH Arts – moved all the way across the Atlantic this summer with the help of our donors. Thanks to Margaret Alkek Williams, Continental Airlines, Moores Society donors, and others, we sent the UH Concert Chorale and its conductor, Betsy Cook Weber, to this summer's Llangollen Festival in Wales, one of the most prestigious choir competitions in the world.

This marked the chorale's inaugural appearance at the international festival, and I was privileged to be there to enjoy all the performances. Thousands saw the opening parade down Llangollen's main street, with our students wearing levis, lone star shirts, cowboy hats, and carrying a large UH banner.

The chorale came home with many awards, including First Place in Chamber Choir Competition, and Second and Third Places in Solo Competition. In addition, we are all proud the chorale was the only U.S. choir to perform in the festival's Peace Concert.

Point Persons for Two of the UH "Big Rocks"—
While I am on the topic of the "big rocks," I would like you to know that Provost John Antel as identified two individuals to be point persons for UH Health and UH Arts.

Dr. Kathryn Peek has been named Assistant Vice President in the newly created Office of University Health Initiatives. Before joining UH, she was associate professor in the Department of Imaging Physics at UT's M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Bioengineering at Rice University. She has also held faculty and administrative positions at the UT Medical School in Houston and our won College of Optometry.

She holds a BA in English from Lamar University, an MS in biology from UH, an MA in behavioral sciences from UH-Clear Lake, and a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from the UT Health Science Center.

The second point person is Karen Farber, who has been named to the position of Special Assistant to the Provost and Community Liaison, UH Arts.

Farber will be charged with developing a strategic plan that brings together the arts programs at UH, addressing such issues as outreach, marketing, facilities, programs and curriculum. She has been director of the UH Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts since 2005. Her new arts role will be in addition to her Mitchell Center duties.

Prior to coming to UH, she served as major gifts officer for the Houston Grand Opera, management fellow at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and other administration and development posts in Washington D.C. and New York City.

At UH, returning students next week will see a changed campus. Calhoun Lofts, the university's premier housing development for mostly graduate and professional students, has been completed and is ready for occupancy. Cemo Hall, directly west of Melcher Hall, is already taking shape. And the foundation is being poured for phase one of freshman housing on Wheeler.

Inspired by our legislative successes, the good news from the fundraising and research fronts, the creation of the UH Research Energy Park, and so many other positive developments, the campus climate as we start the new academic year is one of optimism as we look ahead with pride.

In closing, a very brief report on important developments at UH-Clear Lake, UH-Downtown, and UH-Victoria:

At UH-Clear Lake—
The big news at UH-Clear Lake this summer was the groundbreaking for the university's Pearland Campus, at the northwest corner of Pearland Parkway and McHard Road. The facility will consist of 30,000 sq. ft, of which 20,000 sq. ft. to be used by UHCL and 10,000 sq. ft. to be used as the headquarters for the by the Pearland Economic Development Council.

The new facility will be open for classes in fall 2010. Students at UH-Clear Lake Pearland Campus will be able to choose from a variety of bachelor's or master's degree programs, including Business Administration, Behavioral Sciences, Criminology; Psychology, Counseling; and Educational Management.

Earlier this year, NASA's Johnson Space Center and UHCL put their strong partnership in writing through the signing of a Space Act Agreement with UHCL. With a focus on cooperative academic activities and community and education outreach, the agreement promotes enhanced coordination between the two organizations to build awareness about

space exploration and the range of opportunities for students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

The agreement was announced at a reception for "50 Years of NASA Imagery," a photography exhibit held at UHCL. The exhibit featured images from the JSC History Collection, which is housed in the university's archives.

In related news, UHCL hosted "Fly Me to the Moon: A Community Celebration of the First Lunar Landing" to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 voyage to the Moon. The event took place July 18 in Alumni Plaza on the UHCL campus. Given that UHCL was created at the request of NASA in 1974 to serve the JSC's employees and their families, UHCL felt it fitting to commemorate this historic event with a special celebration for the Houston-Bay Area community they serve.

At UHD—
The appointment of their new President topped the news at UHD this summer. Last May, I recommended the selection of William V. Flores for the position. The Board of Regents voted to approve the recommendation at your meeting on June 5.

President Flores comes to us from new Mexico, where he served as deputy secretary of the New Mexico higher education department and interim president and former provost of New Mexico State University

He has a Ph.D. from Stanford University in social theory and public policy and a master's degree in political science from Stanford. He graduated cum laude from the University of California at Los Angeles with a bachelor's degree in political science.

In other UHD news, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has approved the Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Insurance and Risk Management to begin this fall semester.

And alumnus Ed Gonzalez ('00) was elected to the City of Houston City Council in a special election held in June. He represents District H, which includes the Washington Avenue corridor, the Heights, and areas east and north of downtown, including the UHD campus.

At UHV—
I was honored to be present at UHV on August 6 for the ceremonial signing by Governor Rick Perry of the bill making the university a four-year institution. UHV will begin admitting freshmen and sophomores in the fall of 2010.

The ceremonial signing is a fitting tribute to the hard work and collaboration among UHV and the community. The bill was officially signed into law by the Governor in June.

In a related development, beginning with the first freshmen class for UHV, students will be able to obtain their bachelor's degree in three years through a "Degree in Three" program, at a projected savings of $12,000 for the first 150 freshmen to enroll. It is the first such program to be offered in a Texas public university.

Not only will students receive a locked-in tuition rate, but they will also be able to take eight-week and 15-week sessions to complete their degree. The program will include degrees in communication, criminal justice, English, history, psychology and education. Students will complete their core classes their first year and work on their major their second and third years. Students who are in the program also have the opportunity to study abroad in their second year.

We look forward to a spectacular academic year for the four UH System universities on all fronts – enrollment, research, faculty achievements, and student success