University of Houston

Program Expansion and Campus Initiative in Sugar Land

Growth in Fort Bend County

The University of Houston's planned expansion at the UH System at Sugar Land is predicated on robust growth in Fort Bend County. In terms of both population and the number of county residents enrolling in Texas public universities, Fort Bend is the fastest growing part of the Houston metropolitan area. Over the past ten years, the population of Fort Bend County has increased by 65%, while over the past five years the number of county residents attending a Texas public university has increased by 35%. Of the 18,000+ students from Fort Bend County attending Texas public universities, 26% are enrolled at the University of Houston (the state's largest provider to the county). Given the tremendous growth in the county and the pattern of its students to attend UH, program expansion on site at the Sugar Land center is the logical next step in the university's off-campus development activities.

Sugar Land Goals and Expansion Strategy

Currently, the University of Houston is working internally with academic leadership and externally with leaders from the Fort Bend/Sugar Land community to develop the UH System at Sugar Land in a way that accomplishes the following goals:

1. Expand University of Houston academic programs in order to meet the growing demand for higher education in Fort Bend County.

2. Develop campus facilities in ways that better integrate the university's academic programs with the needs of the community.

3. Build a distinct identity for the Sugar Land center that could serve as a state and national model for higher education.

In pursuit of these goals, the University of Houston will launch a minimum of nine new programs in Sugar Land over the next three years. Doing so will double the number of UH programs currently available and will lead to UH becoming the main provider at the center. Four new programs, all of which fulfill a strong workforce need in the region, are being launched this year:

- M.S., Human Resource Development
- M.S., Project Management
- Ed.D., Professional Leadership
- Speech Language Pathology Assistant (Post-Baccalaureate Certificate)

In addition to program expansion, the University of Houston and leaders from the Fort Bend/Sugar Land community believe that accomplishment of the Sugar Land goals would best be served by converting the center into a campus administered by the University of Houston (from its current configuration as a university system center). In fact, a national higher education consultant commissioned to examine the effectiveness of UH's off-campus operations has recommended that the next step in the life of Sugar Land should be conversion to a UH campus.

Rationale for a UH Campus

While the system center operating model was a cost-effective way to launch the UH System at Sugar Land, the university's own experience and discussions with community leaders indicate that Sugar Land's potential as an educational institution is not being fulfilled. Transforming the UH System at Sugar Land into a UH campus will accomplish the following:

Ownership → Will invest the University of Houston with proper ownership and create the incentives necessary to fully develop the center in terms of academic programs and facilities.

Identity → Identification with the University of Houston will provide clarity to students planning their education, donors considering private gifts, and businesses and community organizations interested in developing partnerships.

Community Support → Having expressed a strong desire for Tier One programs, Fort Bend/Sugar Land community leaders are committed to working with the university to provide the financial and other support needed to make a UH campus successful – support the state, given its financial challenges, is not likely to provide in the foreseeable future.

Tier One Excellence → Through university/community partnerships that yield innovative, high quality academic programs, facilities and outreach activities, UH will enhance its reputation as a Tier One university through an off-campus delivery model that is recognized for excellence statewide and nationally.

University/Community Partnerships

Perhaps the UH System at Sugar Land's greatest asset is the commitment and enthusiasm of the Fort Bend/Sugar Land leadership to develop the campus into a world-class operation – the equivalent to, and an integral part of, the exceptionally well-planned community they have already created. To date, the community has contributed approximately $20 million to the UH System at Sugar Land, the results of which are two academic buildings, student scholarships, and a recently completed library in partnership with Fort Bend County. The library project is indicative of how the university and the community are forming partnerships to develop the Sugar Land center – aligning academic programs to meet community/industry needs with the expectation that community support will play a significant role in funding these ventures – particularly for facilities and equipment. Other major projects include the development of: (1) a nursing program in partnership with regional hospitals; (2) a festival/ entertainment site with the City of Sugar Land; and (3) a master's program in gaming and a related motion capture studio with TimeGate, Inc., one of the premier game developers in the nation.

Role of the Other UH System Universities

Currently, other UHS universities are delivering programs at Sugar Land in high demand areas such as business, education, nursing and psychology. Under the proposed administrative change, other UHS universities will continue to deliver their programs. Maintaining programs from other UHS universities, which possess different price points and admissions requirements than UH, will diversify program offerings and enable UH to serve a broader cross-section of the Fort Bend/Sugar Land community.

Approvals

Approval of the UH System Board of Regents is sought to transfer management of the UH System at Sugar Land to the University of Houston under the new name: University of Houston Sugar Land Campus. Upon approval by the Board of Regents, the University of Houston will submit an "Administrative Change Request" (attached) from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, requesting approval to launch the University of Houston Sugar Land Campus in January 2012.

Administrative Change Request Form

Directions: An institution shall use this form to propose the creation of or a change to an academic unit such as a department, school, or college that administers certificate and/or degree program(s). All sections should be completed unless noted otherwise.

This form should be used only for administrative changes with new costs to the institution totaling $2 million or more during the first five years. For all other requests, please use the *Administrative Change Certification Form.*

Information: Contact the Division of Academic Affairs and Research at 512/427-6200 for more information.

Administrative Information

1. Institution – University of Houston System at Sugar Land (to UH-Sugar Land Campus)

2. Description – Describe the change.

   The University of Houston System at Sugar Land (UHSSL) will be transferred from the University of Houston System to the University of Houston.

3. Reason for Change – Explain the reason for the change.

   UHSSL currently exists as a System Center with multiple components of the UH System offering courses/programs at the site. Over the next few years, the University of Houston will assume a greater responsibility for delivering courses/programs as the other component universities (primarily UH-Victoria and UH-Clear Lake) focus on efforts to expand downward and/or support other regional center operations (i.e. UHCL Pearland Center). The transition to UH will not compromise access to educational opportunities currently provided by the component universities but will provide for a net addition of programs from UH consistent with its Tier One goals.

4. Program Inventory – Show how the change would appear on the Coordinating Board's Program Inventory. Include all degree programs and corresponding Texas CIP codes affected by the change but do not include proposed administrative unit codes for the new academic unit(s). Board staff will assign the new administrative unit codes.

   The proposed administrative change will not result in any changes to programs currently offered at the Centers nor will it result in changes in CIP codes for programs.

5. Proposed Implementation Date – Report the date that the change would go into effect.

   January 2012

6. Contact Person – Provide contact information for the person who can answer specific questions about the administrative change.

Name: Marshall Schott, Ph.D.

Title: Associate Vice President, University Outreach Programs
Associate Vice Chancellor, UHS Planning and Administration

Email: mschott@uh.edu

Telephone: 832-842-4664

I. Impact

A. Role and Mission – Describe how the change would affect the role and mission of the institution.

The proposed administrative change is consistent with the role and mission of the University of Houston. The mission of UH is to discover and disseminate knowledge through the education of a diverse population of traditional and nontraditional students. In addition, UH strives to apply its expertise to solve problems faced locally and regionally through building partnerships with community stakeholders. These goals will be enhanced by assuming a greater ownership role of our off-campus teaching center in Sugar Land.

B. Program Support and Development

1. Describe how the change would affect existing degree programs and plans for new degree programs.

The University of Houston will add approximately three to four new degrees per year at the teaching site, primarily at the graduate level. Degree programs currently offered by the component universities of UHS would remain in place after the administrative change takes place. Our efforts are designed to provide greater access to educational opportunities at the center and to develop partnerships with key stakeholders to address challenges faced by local and regional organizations in a rapidly growing part of the greater Houston service region.

2. Indicate how many students and faculty there would be in the proposed administrative unit, by level and by degree program.

The proposed administrative unit would support approximately 2,500 student enrollments at the upper-division and graduate level at the teaching site. It is anticipated that student numbers will grow 10% per annum over the next three years.

The academic programs are supported by faculty from the home institutions of the respective degree programs.

3. Describe how the proposed administrative unit would compare to existing administrative units at the same level (e.g., department, college, school, etc.) in terms of cost and number of students and faculty supported.

   The cost of operation for the proposed unit would be comparable to those of other colleges in UHS. Cost savings and efficiencies will accrue as the result of shared services in the unit (i.e. shared facilities, information technology support, infrastructure, etc.)

B. Accreditation – Explain how the change would affect accreditation or re-accreditation.

   The proposed administrative change will be reported to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. There will be no adverse impact on any accreditation provided to individual program areas.

C. Resources – Describe how the change would affect resources (e.g., number of employees, salaries of key administrators and faculty, the course inventory, facilities, and equipment) for the next five years.

   It is anticipated that there would be no new resources required to support the administrative change.

II. Costs and Funding

Five-year Costs and Funding Sources – Use this table to show five-year costs and sources of funding for the change. (New five-year costs that equal or exceed $2 million must be approved by the Coordinating Board at one of its quarterly meetings.)

Five-Year Costs		Five-Year Funding	
Personnel [1]	$0	Reallocated Funds[3]	$0
Facilities and Equipment	$0	Anticipated New Formula Funding[4]	$0
Library, Supplies, and Materials	$0	Special Item Funding	$0
Other [2]	$0	Other [5]	$0
Total Costs	**$0**	**Total Funding**	**$0**

1. Report costs for new administrative positions and new support staff. For new faculty, prorate individual salaries as a percentage of the time assigned to administer the new academic unit and any new programs under that unit. If existing faculty and support staff will be reassigned to administer the academic unit, include personnel costs necessary to maintain existing administrative efforts and existing programs. (e.g., costs of adjuncts to cover courses previously taught by faculty who would now administer a new academic unit.)
6. Report other administrative costs here (e.g., new accreditation costs, travel directly related to administrative unit.)
7. If existing funding would be used to support the new administrative unit, indicate the funding sources and how the reallocation of funds would affect existing administrative units and programs.
4. Not generally applicable to administrative change requests. Show formula funding for students new to the institution in tables of costs and funding for new degree programs.
5. Report other sources of funding such as debt service, gifts, in-hand grants, and likely future grants that would directly support the new administrative unit.

Signature Page

1. Adequacy of Funding – The chief executive officer shall sign the following statement:

   I certify that the institution has adequate funds to complete the administrative change and to support any new or reorganized academic unit(s). Furthermore, the change will not reduce the effectiveness or quality of existing programs, departments, schools, or colleges.

   _____

   Chief Executive Officer Date

2. Board of Regents Approval – A member of the Board of Regents or designee shall sign the following statement:

   On behalf of the Board of Regents, I certify that the Board of Regents has approved the administrative unit.

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   Board of Regents (or Designee) Date