

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

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – The members of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents convened at 11:46 a.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Bayou Building, Garden Room, First Floor, 2700 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77058 with the following members participating:

ATTENDANCE –

Member(s) Present

Beth Madison, Chair
Paula M. Mendoza, Vice Chair
Durga D. Agrawal, Member
Peter K. Taaffe, Member
Andrew Teoh, Student Regent, Non-voting
Tilman J. Fertitta, Ex Officio

Non-Member(s) in Attendance

Steve I. Chazen, Regent
Gerald W. McElvy, Regent
Doug H. Brooks, Regent (via Teleconference Call)

Member(s) Absent

Jack B. Moore, Member

In accordance with a notice being timely posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum in attendance, Regent Beth Madison, Chair of the Committee called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m. Regent Madison stated the committee would be presented eight (8) agenda items: five (5) action items for the committee's consideration and approval and three (3) information items.

Regent Madison moved to the first approval item, the approval of the minutes from the November 15, 2018, Academic and Student Success Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

Action Item(s):

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the following minutes from the meeting listed below was approved:

- November 15, 2018, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting

Following the approval of the minutes, Regent Madison moved to the next item listed on the agenda, Item C, the Approval of a Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering – University of Houston and introduced Dr. Paula Myrick Short, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, who presented this item.

Dr. Short explained that this was a request for approval to establish a Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering, a 30-student credit hour program which would be housed in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. This proposed degree formalized an engineering science-based education with a distinctive emphasis on micro- and nano-manufacturing, which would provide students with the knowledge and technical skills that they will need to enter that field.

Dr. Short added that the University of Houston had been named a finalist for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), and this proposed program would strengthen the case for UH to be awarded as a new NNMI Institute. Although there were a few existing programs in Texas, this proposed program was unique in that it was the only program that focused on micro- and nano-manufacturing. Dr. Short explained that there were no additional costs to the implementation of this program and it was expected to generate revenue starting in its first year.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the Approval of a Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering – University of Houston was approved.

Next on the agenda was Item D, Approval of a Master of Science in Engineering Data Science – University of Houston. Regent Madison asked Provost Short to present this item to the committee for their consideration.

Dr. Short stated the University of Houston requested approval to establish a Master of Science in Engineering Data Science, a 30-student credit hour degree which consisted of mathematics, data science and engineering courses with the option of students taking a capstone thesis supervised by a faculty member.

Dr. Short explained that the proposed degree was designed to provide students with a foundation in data science, complemented and completed through the understanding of its application in the various fields of engineering.

Dr. Short added that there were twelve (12) universities in Texas offering a Master's of Data Science and/or related programs; however, the proposed degree would be the only one that connected data science specifically to its application in engineering fields. There were no additional expenses and the proposed program can be launched with existing full-time faculty resources from colleges across UH; and this program is expected to generate revenue starting in its third year.

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the Approval of a Master of Science in Engineering Data Science – University of Houston was approved.

The next action item on the agenda was Item E, Board of Regents Policy Statement on the Use of Race and Ethnicity in Student Admission – University of Houston. Regent Madison asked Dr. Short to present this item to the Board for their consideration and approval.

Dr. Short stated that the University of Houston System Board of Regents requested to reaffirm its policy statement regarding the use of race and ethnicity in student admission in 2014. The policy must be reviewed by the Board at least every five (5) years.

Dr. Short explained that in 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court provided guidelines for considering race and ethnicity among other factors in admission to institutions of higher education. These guidelines focused on admission procedures which use individualized, holistic candidate reviews and which ensured that race and ethnicity, if considered, were evaluated flexibly as a “plus” factor for each applicant. Then in 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed that any consideration of race in admissions must be “narrowly tailored” to obtain the educational benefits of diversity

University of Houston System Board of Regents 2019 Position Statement

The University of Houston System Board of Regents recognizes and endorses the benefits of diversity in the university setting, for the purpose of breaking down stereotypes and promoting cross-racial understanding. Therefore, to the extent necessary to achieve a diverse student body, and after race neutral alternatives have proven unsuccessful, we believe each component institution should have the discretion to adopt admission policies which consider the totality of each individual applicant’s background and strengths, including but not limited to cultural history, ethnic origin, race, hardships overcome, service to others, extra-curricular activities, grades, test scores and work experience. Further, an applicant’s background, including race and ethnicity, should be an allowable but not determinative consideration in awarding some discretionary scholarships.

Any UHS university or academic unit that proposes such an admission plan (or scholarship program) shall do so based on the guidelines set forth by the Supreme Court. The Chancellor has delegated approval of these plans to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in conjunction with the Office of General Counsel. In compliance with state law, any changes in admission policies shall be published for at least one year in advance of consideration of the application. Based on this requirement, any changes in the inclusion of race and ethnicity factors in admission cannot become effective until one year after the publication of the approved admission policy. The position statement expressed herein shall be reviewed by the Board of Regents within five years from adoption.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the Board of Regents Policy Statement on the Use of Race and Ethnicity in Student Admission – University of Houston was approved.

Item F, UH Law Center Admission Standards Modification – University of Houston, was next on the agenda, and Regent Madison asked Dr. Short to present this item.

Dr. Short explained the University of Houston Law Center was requesting a proposed modification to its admission standards as provided by the American Bar Association, the primary accrediting authority for law schools.

Dr. Short stated that the American Bar Association Standard 503 allows law schools to admit up to 10% of its J.D. class of the same institution without an applicant LSAT score provided that (1) those students scored above the 85th percentile on the ACT or SAT; and (2) the students have ranked in the top 10% of their undergraduate class or achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above.

Dr. Short added that the purpose of this modification was to increase the pool of highly qualified and talented applicants for the UH Law Center. She noted that this would only apply to the UH main campus and would not include students from the UH-Downtown, UH-Clear Lake or UH-Victoria campuses based on the American Bar Association's requirements.

Dr. Short introduced Mr. Leonard Baynes, Dean of the University of Houston Law Center, who provided more information regarding this proposal.

Dean Baynes explained that the faculty at the UH Law Center had conducted a comprehensive analysis of current UH students who met all of the requirements already mentioned, along with LSAT scores of 85% or higher, and it was found that a small number of the students surveyed were on par with the students that were already being admitted to the Law Center. It was also found that some of those students had even scored slightly higher on both the LSAT and BAR. These results, said Dean Baynes, demonstrated that not having a LSAT score was not determinant to the success rate of a student since there were other indicators that identified them as highly qualified candidates.

Dean Baynes added that this proposal would expand the pool of candidates, especially since the number of applications to law schools has decreased. This proposal would give the Law Center the opportunity to draw students from other markets and make sure the LSAT did not continue to be a barrier for those interested in pursuing a career in the field of law.

Dean Baynes stated the faculty had voted in favor of this proposal 30-5; and it was decided that a review would be conducted within five (5) years of the program to evaluate its success rate. He added that the ultimate goal was to attract qualified candidates and for the Law Center to be as integrated to the university as possible by implementing various programs such as the Pre-Law Pipeline and the 3+3 Undergraduate/Law Dual Degree programs. Lastly, Dean Baynes expressed he strongly believed that this initiative would help achieve this purpose.

A brief discussion followed.

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Taaffe, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the UH Law Center Admission Standards Modification – University of Houston was approved.

The last action item on the agenda was Item G, Approval is requested to delegate authority to the

Chancellor to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts for upcoming faculty non-tenured faculty hires in the College of Medicine – University of Houston, and Regent Madison asked Dr. Short to present this item.

Dr. Short stated that the university was requesting approval to delegate authority to the Chancellor to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts exceeding \$1 million in total value for upcoming faculty hires in the College of Medicine. Dr. Short stated that one of the hires was currently the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Faculty Affairs.

Chancellor Khator noted that none of these faculty for the College of Medicine were being hired on tenure due to the current LCME accreditation process. Dr. Khator stated it was difficult to attract faculty to leave a position for one-year to come here to the university. The university was now offering a three-year contract to faculty; therefore, a contract could potentially surpass the \$1 million threshold for some faculty which would then require Board approval.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Taaffe, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the Approval is requested to delegate authority to the Chancellor to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts for upcoming faculty non-tenured faculty hires in the College of Medicine was approved.

Following the approval of the last action item, a motion was called to place all five (5) action items, unanimously approved by the committee, on the Board's Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval as follows:

1. Approval of a Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering – University of Houston;
2. Approval of a Master of Science in Engineering Data Science – University of Houston;
3. Board of Regents Policy Statement on the Use of Race and Ethnicity in Student Admission – University of Houston;
4. UH Law Center Admission Standards Modification – University of Houston; and
5. Approval is requested to delegate authority to the Chancellor to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts for upcoming faculty non-tenured faculty hires in the College of Medicine – University of Houston.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, all five (5) action items were placed on the Board of Regents' Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval at the Board meeting held later that day, February 28, 2019.

The next two agenda items would be presented together for the committee's reference. The first information item addressed was Item H, the Introduction of the Marilyn Davies College of Business Dean – University of Houston-Downtown; and the second information item addressed was Item I, the Introduction of University College Dean – University of Houston-Downtown.

Regent Madison asked Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz, President of the University of Houston-Downtown, to present these items to the committee for their reference.

Before Dr. Muñoz presented the above two (2) items to the committee, he stated that he was pleased to first introduce Dr. Eric Carl Link, the new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Houston-Downtown, who had officially started in his new role on January 14, 2019.

Dr. Link's appointment was presented to the Board at their meeting held on November 15, 2018, but was unable to attend that meeting. President Muñoz asked Dr. Link to please stand and be recognized. He stated that Dr. Link had served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Purdue University Fort Wayne. In addition, Dr. Muñoz said Dr. Link was an accomplished researcher and writer, who had recently co-edited the Cambridge History of Science Fiction. He was also an award-winning scholar and served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Switzerland and Ukraine. Dr. Link graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Evangel University, Missouri; a Master's Degree in English Language and Literature from Southwest Missouri State University; and a Ph.D. in 19th and 20th Century American Literature from Purdue University. Dr. Muñoz stated he was very excited that Dr. Link had joined UHD.

Dr. Muñoz then moved to Item H and introduced Dr. Charles Gengler, Dean of the Marilyn Davies College of Business, who officially joined the University of Houston-Downtown on July 24, 2018. Dr. Gengler arrived to UHD from City University of New York (CUNY) – York College where he served as Dean of the School of Business and Information Systems, and he previously served as the Chair for the Department of Marketing and International Business for CUNY – Baruch College. He also held teaching positions for esteemed institutions such as Rutgers University and Clarkson University. Dr. Gengler graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Illinois-Urbana, and a Master of Science in Marketing and Ph.D. in Management Science (Marketing) from The University of Texas at Dallas.

Following the introduction of Dr. Gengler, Dr. Muñoz moved to Item I on the agenda and introduced Dr. Scott Marzilli, Dean of University College, who joined the University of Houston-Downtown on June 1, 2018. Dr. Marzilli served as the Assistant Vice President for Academic Innovation and Student Success and Dean of the University College at the University of Texas at Tyler. Dr. Marzilli earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education/Kinesiology and Master of Science in Human Movement and Sports, both from California Polytechnic State University (CPSU), and a Ph.D. in Motor Behavior from Florida State University.

These items were presented for information only and no committee action was required.

The last information item listed on the agenda was Item J, a Presentation of University of Houston-Clear Lake Student Success Story – University of Houston-Clear Lake, and Regent Madison asked Regent Mendoza to introduce this item.

Regent Mendoza introduced Mr. Alfred Mimms, a biotechnology student at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Mr. Mimms' experience as a combat medic in the U.S. Army was the

catalyst to help him decide his life's purpose: to become a medical researcher. After searching for the right university to pursue his passion, he chose the University of Houston-Clear Lake and worked toward his Bachelor of Science in Biology with specialization in Cellular Biology. Having lost several members of his family to various forms of cancer, his purpose in life was to help families like his survive a devastating medical diagnosis. In collaboration with dedicated professors in biology and biotechnology, Alfred was using state-of-the-art equipment to study how human cells react under cancerous conditions with the goal of fortifying the cells against cancer. His goal was to be on the front lines to help develop the breakthrough cures that would save peoples' lives.

Mr. Mimms thanked the members of the Board and UH System leadership for the opportunity to present his story. As previously mentioned, he joined the U.S. Army in 2010 as a combat medic to provide medical services for units training in a simulated battlefield before deployment. Once he completed his four-year enlistment he decided to take on a new challenge - to become a scientist. Mr. Mimms and his family moved to Maryland in pursuit of this goal; however, circumstances did not allow for his success.

During a conversation with Officer Webster, a family member and also a graduate from UH-Clear Lake, he heard about everything the City of Houston and UHCL had to offer and he became immediately interested.

Cancer had taken several members of his family and he was very close to losing his mother to this disease as well. This was Mr. Mimm's motivation to join forces in hopes to find a cure for this destructive disease, and because Houston had numerous world-renowned institutions dedicated to cancer research, it was a perfect fit for him. Mr. Mimms felt UH-Clear Lake had all of the criteria to meet everyone's needs.

Mr. Mimms also mentioned that the Veteran's Center had been instrumental in his transition and academic pursuits as well as many other services available at UH-Clear Lake. He noted that the best opportunities came from his professors like Dr. Rohde, who offered him the opportunity to work with him and NASA collaborators to culture human skin; and Dr. Garcia, who offered him a position at Baylor College of Medicine to research creating male contraceptives. Mr. Mimms expressed his gratitude towards his professors, and stated their support and guidance made him feel confident in both his academic and professional success.

Mr. Mimms thanked the Board and leadership once again for the opportunity to speak before the board and he reiterated his appreciation for the opportunities UH-Clear Lake has provided for him. He also commended Dr. Blake for the hard work and for investing in student success!

Regent Madison and Regent Mendoza congratulated Mr. Mimms on his success and thanked him for bringing his story to the Board.

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

It was noted that an Executive Session would not be held.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 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
Jim McShan
Paula Myrick Short
Dona Cornell
Don Guyton
Richard Walker
Eloise Dunn Brice
Amr Elnashai
Ira K. Blake
Juan Sánchez Muñoz
Mike Johnson
Lisa Holdeman
David Oliver
Raymond Bartlett
Mike Rosen
Joe Tedesco
Sgt. Gene Krueger
Thomas Marzilli
Denise Navarro
Patrick Cardenas
George Mahingly
Larry Rohde
Marquette Hobbs

Mark Denney
Johanna Wolff
Macie Kelly
Wayne Beran
Jeff Palmer
Alfred Mimms
David Bradley
Karen Barbier
Matthew Castillo
Jon Aldrich
Lt. Walter Lucas
Charles Gengler
Mark Clarke
Nadar Ibrahim
Mike Atteberry
Suresh Khator
Officer Calvin Webster
Stephen Berberich
Chuck Fellman
Heather Kanenberg
Chelsea Crouse
Thomas Garcia
Brenda Robles

Don Price
Devonte Hill
Joe Brueggeman
Brian Thomas
Shannon Harrison
Ryan Harrison
Eric Herrera
Greg Austin
Phil Booth
Dan Maxwell
Theresa Rehm
Berenice Webster
Sabrina Hassumani
Mike Emery
Susan Koch
Eric Carl Link
James Bonaly
Tim Richardson
Sue Fellman
Erin Willey
Lory Santiago
Michael LaMontagne
Gerry Mathisen