

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

Thursday, November 15, 2018 – The members of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents convened at 11:42 a.m. on Thursday, November 15, 2018, at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel, Conrad Hilton Ballroom, Second Floor, 4450 University Drive, Houston, Texas 77204, with the following members participating:

ATTENDANCE –

Member(s) Present

Beth Madison, Chair  
Paula M. Mendoza, Vice Chair  
Durga D. Agrawal, Member  
Jack B. Moore, 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

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 11:43 p.m. Regent Madison 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.

Regent Madison moved to the first approval item, the approval of the minutes from the August 23, 2018, Academic and Student Success Committee meeting.

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AGENDA ITEMS

**Action Item(s):**

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

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

- August 23, 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 an Online Master of Science in Management and Leadership – University of Houston and introduced Dr. Paula Myrick Short, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, to present this item.

Dr. Short explained that the Online Master of Science in Management and Leadership, submitted by the Bauer College at the University of Houston, was a 36-credit hour master's degree and was designed to be a "bridge" program between non-business undergraduate degrees and advanced degrees such as the MBA. Dr. Short stated that it had been found that certain entry-level positions in organizations across a wide variety of disciplines and industry-types require a graduate level preparation, especially in the fields of economics, healthcare and energy. Dr. Short added that this program would fulfill a real need and help our students become very competitive.

Dr. Short stated that there was no Online M.S. in Management and Leadership degree program currently offered in the greater Houston vicinity that explicitly targeted liberal arts and social science majors. No additional instructional resources were needed as most of the courses offered in this program were shared with existing Bauer graduate programs. Lastly, Dr. Short noted that the program was expected to generate revenue starting in its first year.

On motion of Regent Moore, seconded by Regent Taaffe, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the Approval of an Online Master of Science in Management and Leadership – University of Houston was approved.

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

Dr. Short stated that this 36-credit hour master's degree program was also submitted by the Bauer College at the University of Houston. She added that students in this program would be able to specialize in a particular industry or discipline such as accounting, healthcare, finance, supply chain, energy and others, through the flexibility this degree offered. The program focused on data management and analytic methods. Students were also able to take business electives and have a capstone experience involving solving a business-related problem.

Dr. Short explained that most existing programs in analytics were method-focused and emphasized solving problems that were more theoretical than practical in nature; however, our program would provide students with the skills they needed to address real-world problems. Forbes noted that Houston, Sugar Land and Baytown, were among the top 20 employment markets in the U.S. for large data and analytics-related expertise.

Dr. Short also added that there would be no need to hire additional faculty or provide new facilities since this program would be pulling together existing coursework in other areas. Lastly, the program was expected to generate revenue starting in its first year.

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

The last action item on the agenda was Item E, Approval of University of Houston Honorary Degrees – 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 had two (2) candidates to nominate for an honorary degree, Ms. Cyvia G. Wolff and Mr. H. Doug Barnes, in recognition of their significant contributions to the community and the University.

**1. Cyvia G. Wolff**

Cyvia G. Wolff is a local business woman, philanthropist, and committed UH supporter. She is recognized for giving generously of her time, talent, and resources to many worthy causes in Houston and across the nation.

Currently, she serves as the Director of the Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Charitable Foundation which she and her late husband (Melvyn Wolff, Starr Furniture Group) founded in 1999. Mrs. Wolff's generosity and support have cut across the health, the arts, and education areas ensuring that her legacy (alongside that of her late husband), will be felt by the City of Houston for generations to come.

Of special significance has been her financial support of the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship (WCE) in the College of Business, originally founded in 2008 by a \$3 million gift, along with continued additional support of over \$1.5 million for student scholarships over the last 10 years.

Even more impressive than her significant financial commitment was the personal time she invests with UH students enrolled in the WCE program, including her active involvement in arranging an annually occurring field trip that provides selected WCE students the opportunity for a week-long trip to Omaha to meet with Warren Buffet; her annual attendance at WCE program induction and graduation ceremonies; as well as co-teaching a course in entrepreneurship.

**2. H. Doug Barnes**

H. Doug Barnes is an optometrist who graduated from the University of Houston College of Optometry. Dr. Barnes was awarded the UH College of Optometry Alumnus Award in 2012 for his significant achievements in revolutionizing how vision care and eye glasses were provided to patients.

In 1990, Dr. Barnes founded Eyemart Express, the first superstore company with the ability to fill eyeglass prescriptions in a day. Currently, Eyemart Express has over 135 locations in 31 states, employs over 300 optometrists, performs over 1 million eye exams, and sells over 2 million prescription eyeglasses per year.

In 2012, Dr. Barnes and his wife Molly, made a significant \$5 million dollar gift to the College of Optometry to open the Molly and Doug Barnes Vision Institute which houses a *state-of-the-art* ambulatory surgery center, the first of its kind within an optometry school.

The Barnes Vision Center has been instrumental in providing innovative and cutting edge educational experiences to hundreds of optometry students at UH, as well as providing continuing education opportunities for thousands of UH alumni and practicing optometrists in the Greater Houston area.

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the Approval of University of Houston Honorary Degrees – University of Houston was approved.

Following the approval of the last action item, a motion was called to place all three (3) action items, unanimously approved by the committee, on the Board’s Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval as follows:

1. Approval of an Online Master of Science in Management and Leadership – University of Houston;
2. Approval of a Master of Science in Business Analytics – University of Houston; and
3. Approval of University of Houston Honorary Degrees – University of Houston

On motion of Regent Taaffe, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, all three (3) action items were placed on the Board of Regents’ Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval at the Board meeting held later that day, November 15, 2018.

The first information item listed on the agenda was Item F, a Presentation of Low Producing Programs Report – University of Houston System. Regent Madison asked Dr. Short to present this item.

Dr. Short stated that this report had been generated and presented each November in response to a directive from the committee. She explained the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has a program to identify low producing programs such as those that produce fewer than 25 graduates for undergraduate programs, fewer than 15 graduates for master’s programs and fewer than 10 graduates for doctoral programs in a five-year period.

Dr. Short noted that seven (7) programs had been identified as low producing in 2018:

**University of Houston**

- Engineering Management (MS)  
Currently in its second year of monitoring status, in an attempt to increase enrollment, the College appointed a new Director to provide leadership, revised and redesigned their

curriculum, and it was expected that those modifications would have a significant impact on the program resulting in an increase in enrollment.

- **Space Architecture (MS)**  
Placed on monitoring status for three (3) years.  
This program was moved in 2014 from the College of Architecture to the College of Engineering and converted into a STEM degree with the belief that it would continue to grow. In 2017 the college established a dual MS degree in Aerospace Engineering and Space Architecture. Since 2015, there had been a significant increase in enrollment with twenty (20) students in the program, out of which six (6) were scheduled to graduate in the Fall 2018 and three (3) more in the Spring 2019.
- **Aerospace Engineering (MS)**  
Placed on monitoring status for three (3) years.  
As previously mentioned, a dual program was established with Space Architecture. The college also established a dual program with Mechanical Engineering. The college continued to build on the connections with NASA in order to attract more students. Enrollment showed an increase in enrollment and was currently at twelve (12) students with three (3) scheduled to graduate in the Fall 2018. The program was expected to produce an average of five (5) to six (6) graduates per year.
- **Technology Project Management (MS)**  
Not low-producing; CIP code corrected in FY2018.  
A discrepancy was found between UH and Coordinating Board reports, and after a thorough investigation, it was determined that the numbers reported by the University of Houston were correct and the program was no longer considered low-producing.
- **Italian Studies (BA)**  
Discontinued; to be consolidated in FY2020.  
The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences decided that students would be better served if that program was eliminated as a separate degree program, and instead placed as a concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Cultures and Literature.

#### **University of Houston-Clear Lake**

- **Reading (MS)**  
Retained  
The university was working on a number of strategies in order to increase enrollment, including working more closely with public school districts and hosting various activities to inform the community and attract students to this program.

#### **University of Houston-Victoria**

- **Humanities (BA)**  
Discontinued  
The university decided to discontinue this program; therefore, it would be removed from the low-producing list.

A brief discussion followed.

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

The next information item listed on the agenda was Item G, a Presentation on Undergraduate Research – University of Houston. Regent Madison asked Dr. Short to present this item.

Dr. Short stated that providing undergraduate students with an incredible research experience was such an important part of the Tier One mission of the university. She explained the University of Houston holds an annual Undergraduate Research Day event that showcases the diverse range of research projects completed by UH undergraduate students throughout the year.

Dr. Short mentioned that 2018 marked the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Undergraduate Research Day and had over 300 undergraduate students showcase a diverse range of research projects. She noted that students worked collaboratively with faculty mentors from the various colleges to complete their presentations. She stated that students participated in faculty-mentored research programs such as Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (SURF); Houston Early Research Experience Program (HERE); The Honors Scholars Program; and the Provost Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program.

The SURF Program allowed student participants to develop key skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, oral/written communication skills, work effectively as a team and think independently. Dr. Short stated that a total of 109 students worked with faculty mentors from 11 colleges and 33 departments on campus. This program was comprised of several cohorts of students coming from the following areas: 81 SURF students, 18 Mellon Research Scholars, 5 Pharis Fellows, and 5 University of Houston/MD Anderson Cancer Center Scholars.

Dr. Short also mentioned that the Mellon Research Scholars presented for the first time at the Undergraduate Research Day. This program was funded through a grant received by The Honors College from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation which provides faculty-mentored research opportunities and academic development programming to undergraduate students interested in pursuing a research career in humanities.

Dr. Short took a moment to congratulate the leadership team responsible for the success of this program and for their dedication and hard work. Dr. Short introduced Dr. Stuart Long, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research and The Honors College, to provide more information on this program. Below is a brief summary of Dr. Long's remarks.

Dr. Long explained that the mission of the Office of Undergraduate Research was to serve UH undergraduate students in all colleges and provide faculty-mentored research opportunities to as many undergraduate students as possible. He stated that this was possible through various programs previously mentioned by Dr. Short:

- Houston Early Research Experience (HERE)
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)
- Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS)

- Senior Honors Thesis Program
- Mellon Research Scholars

Dr. Long expressed his gratitude for the support of this initiative received from the Office of the Provost and the Division of Research as well as The Honors College and Dean Monroe. He noted a significant growth of total mentored research projects from 187 in 2015-2016 to 275 in 2017-2018, and it was found that 94% of the students involved in undergraduate research graduate within six (6) years.

Dr. Long highlighted the signature event of the Office of Undergraduate Research, Undergraduate Research Day, which had also made significant progress growing from 185 student presenters in 2016 to 308 presentations in 2018.

Dr. Long added that his office was also responsible for assisting students with their applications to national competitive scholarships, such as Rhodes, Fullbright, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater, and Udall scholarships among many others. The number of scholarship recipients, finalists and honorable mentions also increased considerably from 11 in 2015-2016 to 31 in 2017-2018.

Lastly, Dr. Long introduced Mr. Robert Laroche, a senior in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, a Biology major, from Pearland, Texas, who had been actively participating in research during his time at UH. Robert was also a member of Houston Scholars and Bonner Leaders Program, and was a recipient of the Albert Schweitzer Junior Fellowship.

Mr. Laroche provided a brief summary of his experience at UH, including being a member of The Honors College, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Recipient, Study Abroad in the Galapagos, member of the Houston Scholars, research experience for undergraduates at the American Museum of Natural History, and for the past two (2) semesters he worked on a separate honors senior thesis at the University of Houston under the advisement of Dr. Ricardo Azevedo, Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Graduate Affairs, Department of Biology and Biochemistry.

Robert delivered a brief overview of the research project he participated in at the American Museum of Natural History during the past summer regarding the relationship between the clown fish and other marine organisms.

Regent Madison congratulated Mr. Laroche, Dr. Short, Dr. Long and all the parties involved in making this such a successful program.

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

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

Regent Mendoza introduced Taylor Roberts, a student at the UH College of Nursing, to share his story with the Board. Taylor was enrolled in the accelerated second-degree Bachelor of Science

in Nursing (BSN) program. As student representative, he served as liaison for student and faculty members while attending the College of Nursing committee meetings every month. He was also responsible for coordinating multiple social and volunteer events that included his peers and the community. Taylor expected to graduate in December 2018 with Magna Cum Laude status, and hopes to begin working as a critical care Registered Nurse to provide compassionate and patient-focused care to patients.

Taylor thanked Chancellor Khator and the Board of Regents for the opportunity to present his story. Below is a brief summary of Mr. Roberts' remarks.

Taylor was born with a congenital disease called Hirschsprung's disease, which at an early age gave him a strong sense of empathy for patients in a hospital setting. He always knew that whatever career he chose he would be able to help those in need. For a long time, Taylor struggled with the decision of choosing between a career in the medical field or nursing; and finally in 2017, he decided to commit to a life in nursing.

In the summer of 2017, Taylor's parents were involved in a skiing accident leaving his mother a quadriplegic; and while being a part of the recovery process, he was able to witness firsthand the passionate care that a great nurse provides to both patient and patient's loved ones. At that time, Taylor made the decision to pursue a career in nursing.

The University of Houston College of Nursing provided Taylor with many wonderful experiences that have taught him about himself and nursing excellence.

Upon graduation, Taylor hopes to achieve three (3) goals that he has set up for himself within short-, medium- and long-term timeframe. His short-term goal was to move to the Dallas-Fort Worth area right after graduation to be closer to his family; his medium-term goal was to go back to school to pursue a master's degree; and lastly, his long-term goal was to make an impact in the community through nursing.

Taylor expressed his commitment to pursuing excellence in nursing and continue to perform to the best of his ability on a consistent basis; nursing, he said, provided him with joy and a purpose in his life. He thanked everyone once again for the opportunity to present and also thanked the University of Houston for providing nursing education through the College of Nursing.

Regent Mendoza and Regent Madison thanked Taylor for his presentation and recognized Dean Tart for her work at the College of Nursing.

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 12:26 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.

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Others Present:

Renu Khator  
Jim McShan  
Paula Myrick Short  
Dona Cornell  
Stephen Spann  
Don Guyton  
Eloise Dunn Brice  
Jason Smith  
Richard Walker  
Ira K. Blake  
Juan Sánchez Muñoz  
Robert Glenn  
Mike Johnson  
Lisa Holdeman  
Lisa Gossett  
Stuart Long  
Karin Livingston  
Valerie Coleman Ferguson  
Robert Laroche  
Wendell Braniff  
Asia Woods  
Cassandra Butcher  
Ethan Smith  
Gerry Mathisen

Kathryn Tart  
David Oliver  
Macie Kelly  
Taylor Roberts  
Ed Hugetz  
Jeff Palmer  
Sabrina Hassumani  
Mark Denney  
Deidra Garcia  
Raymond Bartlett  
Dan Maxwell  
Rick Greer  
Elwyn Lee  
Wayne Beran  
Mark Clarke  
Nadar Ibrahim  
Mike Atteberry  
Ben Garza  
Isai Ramirez-Sanchez  
Stephen Berberich  
Mercy Olusanya  
Jamerson Hamlin  
Marquette Hobbs

Don Price  
Devonte Hill  
Joe Brueggeman  
David Bradley  
Shannon Harrison  
Ryan Harrison  
Eric Herrera  
Matthew Castillo  
Phil Booth  
Jon Aldrich  
Yonelly Gutierrez  
Adalia Espinosa  
Brian Thomas  
Cindy Mejia  
Bill Monroe  
Mike Emery  
Susan Koch  
Mike Rosen  
Jim Drew  
Fallon Jones  
Gil Lizalde  
Liza Naomi Abrams  
Brenda Robles