Consent Agenda Items

Meeting

of the

Board of Regents

August 1, 2024

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
August 1, 2024
College Station, Texas

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

1.1 Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System Revenue Financing System Bonds, A&M System

1.2 Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System Permanent University Fund Bonds, A&M System

1.3 Approval of Proposed Fee Consolidation Effective with the Fall 2024 Semester for Texas A&M International University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and Texas A&M University-Commerce, A&M System

2. COMMITTEE ON AUDIT

2.1 Approval of System Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025, A&M System

3. COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS AND PHYSICAL PLANT

3.1 Approval of the Project Scope and Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the Public Safety Facility Project, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas (Project No. 18-3369), A&M System

3.2 Approval of the Project Scope and Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the School of Dentistry Main Building Renovations Project, Texas A&M University Health Science Center, Dallas, Texas (Project No. 23-3400), A&M System

3.3 Approval of the Project Scope and Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the Avenue D South Extension & Utility Upgrades Project, Texas A&M-RELLIS, Bryan, Texas (Project No. 26-3351), A&M System

3.4 Approval of the Project Scope and Increased Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the Alkek Building Roof & Exhaust Fan Replacement Project, Texas A&M University Health Science Center, Houston, Texas (SSC Project No. 22-0209), Texas A&M

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

3.5 Approval to Amend the FY 2025 – FY 2029 Texas A&M University System Capital Plan to Change the Fiscal Year Designation for Project Initiation and Appropriate Funding for Pre-Construction Services for the Heldenfels 4th Floor Instructional Lab Renovation Project for Texas A&M University (Project No. 02-3432), Texas A&M

3.6 Approval to Amend the FY 2025-FY 2029 A&M System Capital Plan to Add the Corpus Christi Workforce Development Project for Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Corpus Christi, Texas (Project No. 09-3436), with an FY 2024 Start Date and Appropriate Funding for Preconstruction Services, TEEX

3.7 Approval to Amend the FY 2025-FY 2029 A&M System Capital Plan to Add the CEA Research Greenhouse Project for Texas A&M AgriLife Research with an FY 2025 Start Date and Appropriate Funding for Preconstruction Services (Project No. 24-007), AgriLife Research

3.8 Approval to Amend the FY 2025 - FY 2029 A&M System Capital Plan to Add Safe Room Projects for System Members with an FY 2025 Start Date (Upon approval of a FEMA Project), A&M System

Informational Report

Report of System Construction Projects Authorized by the Board

4. COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

4.1 Approval of Revisions to Policy 12.03, Faculty Academic Workload and Reporting Requirements and Policy 12.07, Fixed Term Academic Professional Track Faculty, A&M System

4.2 Approval of Revisions to System Policy 15.04, Sponsored Research Services, A&M System

5. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS *(not assigned to Committee)*

Regular Items

5.1 Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to Submit a Report to the State Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Certifying the Board of Regents' Compliance with Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.3525, for Fiscal Year 2024, A&M System

Executive Session Items

5.2 *Authorization to Purchase Approximately 35.45 Acres of Land Located on University Avenue in Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas, TAMUT

5.3 *Authorization to Purchase Mid-Cities Logistics, Building A, Located at 3153 Sandy Lane in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, and Approval to Amend the FY 2025-FY 2029 Texas A&M University System Capital Plan to add the TDEM Fort Worth Warehouse Modifications Project with an Immediate Start Date, TDEM

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

5.4 (Withdrawn)

5.5 *Authorization to Execute an Interlocal Agreement with the Research and Innovation Local Government Corporation in Fort Worth, Texas, A&M System

5.6 *Authorization for the President to Execute New Employment Contracts for the Head Baseball Coach and an Assistant Baseball Coach, Texas A&M

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Texas A&M University System/Board of Regents

6.1 Approval of Minutes, BOR

6.2 Granting of the Title of Emeritus, August 2024, A&M System

6.3 Confirmation of Appointment and Commissioning of Peace Officers, A&M System

6.4 Approval of Revisions to System Policy 34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers, A&M System

6.5 Approval of List of Authorized Signers for Revolving Fund Bank Accounts for System Members, A&M System

Prairie View A&M University

6.6 Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024, PVAMU

6.7 Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2024, PVAMU

Tarleton State University

6.8 Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024, Tarleton

6.9 Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Tarleton

6.10 Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Tarleton

6.11 Approval of a New Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program with a Major in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Tarleton

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

Texas A&M International University

6.12 Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024, TAMIU

Texas A&M University

6.13 Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024, Texas A&M

6.14 Establishment of the Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center, Texas A&M

6.15 Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker, Texas A&M

6.16 *Naming of the Construction Field Lab – Phase I at the RELLIS Campus, Texas A&M

6.17 *Naming of Athletics Facilities and Related Structures, Texas A&M

6.18 *Naming of Spaces in the Wayne Roberts ’85 Building, Texas A&M

6.19 *Authorization for the President to Negotiate and Execute Revenue Agreement(s) for the Mays Business School Center for Executive Development for FY 2025, Texas A&M

6.20 *Authorization for the President to Negotiate and Execute Certain Specified Contracts Involving Consideration of $500,000 or More, Texas A&M

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

6.21 Approval of a New Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership Degree Program and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, A&M-Central Texas

6.22 Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Lieutenant General Horace “Pete” Taylor, A&M-Central Texas

Texas A&M University-Commerce

6.23 Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024, A&M-Commerce

6.24 Approval of Amended Mission Statement and Authorization to Provide Notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, A&M-Commerce

6.25 *Naming of the Band Hall in the Music Building, A&M-Commerce

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

6.26 Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024, A&M-Corpus Christi

6.27 *Naming of the Concession Stand in the Performing Arts Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, A&M-Corpus Christi

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

6.28 *Naming of Exhibit Space within the Special Collections and Archives Space in the Chapparal Downtown Building, A&M-Corpus Christi

6.29 *Naming of the Multipurpose Room within the Special Collections and Archives Space in the Chapparal Downtown Building, A&M-Corpus Christi

6.30 *Naming of an Office within the Special Collections and Archives Space in the Chapparal Downtown Building, A&M-Corpus Christi

6.31 *Naming of the Office within the Special Collections and Archives Space in the Chapparal Downtown Building, A&M-Corpus Christi

6.32 *Naming of the Reading Room within the Special Collections and Archives Space in the Chapparal Downtown Building, A&M-Corpus Christi

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
(No consent agenda items)

Texas A&M University-San Antonio
(No consent agenda items)

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

6.33 Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program, with a Major in Computer Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

6.34 Approval of a New Master of Business Administration Degree Program with a Major in Quantitative Finance, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

6.35 Approval of a New Master of Healthcare Administration Degree Program, with a Major in Healthcare Administration, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

6.36 Approval of a New Master of Science in Engineering Degree Program, with a Major in Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

6.37 Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program, with a Major in Engineering Management, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

6.38 Approval of a New Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree Program, with a Major in Nursing Practice, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

6.39 Approval of a New Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Program, with a Major in Physical Therapy, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

A&M System .....The Texas A&M University System
A&M-Central Texas .....Texas A&M University-Central Texas
A&M-Commerce .....Texas A&M University-Commerce
A&M-Corpus Christi .....Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
A&M-San Antonio .....Texas A&M University-San Antonio
A/E.....Architect/Engineer
AgriLife Extension.....Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
AgriLife Research .....Texas A&M AgriLife Research
BOR .....Board of Regents
FP&C.....Facilities Planning and Construction
POR.....Program of Requirements
PUF .....Permanent University Fund
PVAMU.....Prairie View A&M University
RELLIS .....Respect, Excellence, Leadership, Loyalty, Integrity and Selfless Service
RFS.....Revenue Financing System
TAMHSC .....Texas A&M Health Science Center
TAMIU .....Texas A&M International University
TAMUG.....Texas A&M University at Galveston
TAMUT .....Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Tarleton.....Tarleton State University
TEES.....Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station
TEEX.....Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service
Texas A&M at Qatar.....Texas A&M University at Qatar
Texas A&M .....Texas A&M University
Texas A&M-Kingsville.....Texas A&M University-Kingsville
TDEM.....Texas Division of Emergency Management
TFS.....Texas A&M Forest Service
THECB.....Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
TTI.....Texas A&M Transportation Institute
TVMDL.....Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
UTIMCO.....The University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company
WTAMU.....West Texas A&M University

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

Agenda Item No. 6.1

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Board of Regents
April 24, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Minutes

I recommend adoption of the following minute order :

"The following minutes are approved:

May 6-7, 2024, Regular Meeting,
May 6-7, 2024, Special Workshop Meeting,
June 6, 2024, Special Telephonic Meeting, and
July 3, 2024, Special Telephonic Meeting."

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Burt Spillers
Executive Director

Agenda Item No. 6.2

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
May 30, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Granting of the Title of Emeritus, August 2024, The Texas A&M University System

In accordance with System Policy *31.08, Emeritus*, the designation of "Emeritus," to be added to the rank or position upon retirement of a person, may be granted by the board upon the recommendation of the chancellor.

The chief executive officers of The Texas A&M University System recognize individuals from their respective institutions and agencies, as shown on the attached Emeritus list, who have made outstanding contributions through their dedicated and loyal service.

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"In recognition of long and distinguished service to The Texas A&M University System, the Board of Regents hereby confirms the recommendation of the chancellor and confers the title of "Emeritus" upon the individuals as shown in the attached exhibit, Emeritus Title List No. 24-04, and grants all rights and privileges of this title."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.2
EXHIBIT

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
CONFIRMATION OF EMERITUS TITLES
EMERITUS TITLE LIST NO. 24-04

System Member Honoree	Years of Service	Current Rank	Title Conferred	Effective Date
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY				
Dr. Nathan Bracher	38	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Global Languages & Cultures	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Lawrence S. Brown	35	Instructional Professor	Instructional Professor Emeritus of Chemistry	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Terry S. Creasy	22	Associate Professor	Associate Professor Emeritus of Materials Science & Engineering	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Stephen H. Daniel	40	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Philosophy	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Timothy R. Elliott	18	Professor	University Distinguished Professor*** Emeritus of Educational Psychology	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
*Dr. Nancy Fahrenwald	4	Dean	Dean Emerita of the College of Nursing	Upon Approval by the Board
Dr. Edward S. Fry	55	Distinguished Professor	Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics & Astronomy	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Carl A. Gagliardi	41	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Physics & Astronomy	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement

System Member Honoree	Years of Service	Current Rank	Title Conferred	Effective Date
Dr. Patricia Goodson	25	Professor	Professor Emerita of Health Behavior	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Michael Hand	33	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Philosophy	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Joyce E. Juntune	27	Instructional Professor	Instructional Professor Emerita of Educational Psychology	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
**Dr. Ann L. Kenimer	31	Senior Professor	Professor Emerita of Biological & Agricultural Engineering	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Douglas J. Klein	44	Regents Professor	Regents Professor Emeritus of Foundational Sciences	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. William Merrell	43	Regents Professor	Regents Professor Emeritus of Marine & Coastal Environmental Science	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Henry L. "Sonny" Presnal	24	Director of the Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center	Director Emeritus of the Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. David W. Reed	44	Senior Professor	Professor Emeritus of Horticultural Sciences	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement

System Member Honoree	Years of Service	Current Rank	Title Conferred	Effective Date
Dr. Peter H. Santschi	36	Regents Professor	Regents Professor Emeritus and University Distinguished Professor*** Emeritus of Marine & Coastal Environmental Science	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Nicholas B. Suntzeff	18	Regents Professor	Regents Professor Emeritus and University Distinguished Professor*** Emeritus of Physics & Astronomy	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Vernon L. Tesh	32	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Microbial Pathogenesis & Immunology	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement

* Dr. Nancy Fahrenwald served as Dean of the College of Nursing for a period of four years from June 2018 through August 2022. Dr. Fahrenwald returned to the faculty and started her campus-wide new role as Associate Vice President for University Health Services in August 2022.

** Dr. Ann Kenimer received Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies Emerita at the May 2024 board meeting.

*** The University Distinguished Professor program began in 2011 and is currently the highest achievement a Texas A&M University faculty member can earn. This honorary title is bestowed in perpetuity, as long as the faculty member remains in good standing. University Distinguished Professors are preeminent authorities in their academic disciplines and their accomplishments are exemplified by outstanding teaching, research, mentoring, and service. From 1984 through 2011, the university promoted select and outstanding faculty members to the rank of Distinguished Professor. The two titles are not interchangeable but represent different programs to honor faculty for their sustained positive impact on campus, their academic specialties and the world.

System Member Honoree	Years of Service	Current Rank	Title Conferred	Effective Date
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI				
Dr. David M. Billeaux	27	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Political Science	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement

System Member Honoree	Years of Service	Current Rank	Title Conferred	Effective Date
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE				
Dr. Leonard Brennan	22	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Manuel Flores	17	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Art, Communication & Theatre	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Jaya Goswami	22	Professor and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs	Professor and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Emerita of Academic Affairs	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Nirmal Goswami	33	Regent Professor	Regent Professor Emeritus of History, Political Science & Philosophy	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Mr. Randy Hughes	41	Assistant Professor and Chief of Staff	Assistant Professor and Chief of Staff Emeritus of the Office of the President	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement

System Member Honoree	Years of Service	Current Rank	Title Conferred	Effective Date
Dr. Kathleen Rees	18	Regent Professor	Regent Professor Emerita of Management, Marketing and Information Systems	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. Susan Roberson	18	Professor	Professor Emerita of Language and Literature	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. David Wester	12	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement

System Member Honoree	Years of Service	Current Rank	Title Conferred	Effective Date
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY				
Dr. Edward P. Kahler, II	25	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Music	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement
Dr. W. David Sissom	32	Professor	Regents Professor Emeritus of Biology	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement

System Member Honoree	Years of Service	Current Rank	Title Conferred	Effective Date
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE				
Ms. Frances Pontasch	14	Extension Program Specialist	Extension Program Specialist Emeritus	Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement

Agenda Item No. 6.3

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Keith Jemison, Associate Vice Chancellor for Law Enforcement and Security & Chief Law Enforcement Officer

Subject: Confirmation of Appointment and Commissioning of Peace Officers

Proposed Board Action:

In accordance with System Policy *34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers*, the Board of Regents may confirm the appointment and commissioning of peace officers by the presidents of their respective members of The Texas A&M University System, as shown in the exhibit.

Background Information:

Presidents of member universities are authorized by system policy to appoint and commission campus police as peace officers, subject to confirmation by the Board of Regents.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

None.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

5. The A&M System will provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas by providing a safe place to learn, work and visit. Peace officers are an imperative part of providing these services to Texans.

Agenda Item No. 6.3

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
System Office of Business Affairs
July 1, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Confirmation of Appointment and Commissioning of Peace Officers

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"In accordance with System Policy *34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers,* the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System confirms the appointment and commissioning of campus peace officers by the presidents of their respective system member universities, in accordance with the requirements of the law, and as shown in the exhibit, attached to the official minutes, subject to their taking the oath required of peace officers."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Keith Jemison, Ed. D.
Associate Vice Chancellor for Law Enforcement and Security & Chief Law Enforcement Officer

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Col. Michael E. Fossum, USAFR (Ret.)
Texas A&M University at Galveston

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark A. Welsh III, President
Texas A&M University

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. Tomikia P. LeGrande, President
Prairie View A&M University

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. Robert Vela, President
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

ITEM 6.3
EXHIBIT

The Texas A&M University System
Appointed and Commissioned Peace Officers

University Officer's Name	Title	Hire Date
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY		
Nguyen, Nhi	Peace Officer	03/12/2024
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY		
Porter, Terry	Peace Officer	06/04/2024
Viehmann, Michael	Peace Officer	03/19/2024
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY		
Herrera, Peyton	Peace Officer	05/31/2024
Potter, Preston	Peace Officer	05/31/2024
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON		
Revilla, Noed	Chief of Police	06/01/2024
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE		
Salazar, Ramiro	Peace Officer	05/29/2024
Vela, David	Peace Officer	05/29/2024

Agenda Item No. 6.4

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Keith Jemison, Associate Vice Chancellor for Law Enforcement and Security
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Revisions to System Policy *34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers*

Proposed Board Action:

Approve revisions to System Policy and *34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers*.

Background Information:

The revision recognizes the authority by policy that the System Offices of The Texas A&M University System (System Offices) has in commissioning police officers. The System Offices is recognized as an "Institution of higher education" under Sec. 61.003(8) of the Education Code. This subsection specifically identifies that "institutions of higher education" means any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, public state college, or other agency of higher education as defined in this section.

Sec. 61.003(6) of the Education Code specifically names the System Offices (referenced as "The Texas A&M University System, Administrative and General Offices") as an "Other agency of higher education".

Other revisions include clarifying and updating language to conform to system style guidelines, as well as updating references.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

None.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The board's adoption, maintenance and revision of system policies advances all eight Strategic Plan Imperatives by providing policy direction to the member institutions and agencies.

Agenda Item No. 6.4

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Law Enforcement and Security
May 30, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Revisions to System Policy and *34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers*

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The revisions to System Policy *34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers,* as shown in the attached exhibit, are approved, effective immediately."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. Keith Jemison
Associate Vice Chancellor for Law Enforcement and Security

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

34.06 Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers

Revised August 1, 2024 (MO – 2024)
~~Revised April 11, 2019 (MO 064-2019)~~
Next Scheduled Review: ~~April 11, 2024~~August 1, 2029
Click to view Revision History.

Policy Summary

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for t~~T~~he ~~Texas A&M University System (TAMUSsystem),~~ chief executive officers of each member university of The Texas A&M University System (system), the System Offices, and the Texas A&M Forest Service in the hiring and commissioning of peace officers to ensure compliance with the applicable sections of the Texas Education Code and Texas Government Code.

Policy

1. CAMPUS POLICE OFFICERS

   1.1 The Texas Education Code provides that the system Board of Regents (board) may employ and commission campus peace officers for the purpose of protecting the safety and welfare of students, employees, and property of the institution in accordance with state law. Any officer so commissioned is vested with all powers, privileges, and immunities of peace officers while the officer is in the officer's primary jurisdiction or outside the officer's primary jurisdiction as provided by the Education Code.

   1.2 Any officer assigned to duty and commissioned must take and file the oath required of peace officers.

   1.3 Commissioned campus peace officers employed by ~~TAMUS~~the ~~system~~System Offices or any member university ~~of the system~~ will normally confine their duties as peace officers to activities within the boundaries of the property owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the respective system university, or in the case of the S~~s~~ystem Offices, all S~~s~~ystem properties, but~~, nonetheless,~~ will also have primary jurisdiction in any county in which the property is located.

2. PEACE OFFICER OF TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

   2.1 The director of the Texas A&M Forest Service may appoint up to 25 duly-certified employees to serve as peace officers under the director's direction in executing the agency's enforcement duties as provided by Section 88.103, Education Code.

2.2 The appointments must be approved by the board which will commission the appointees as peace officers for the system. Any officer so commissioned is vested with all the powers, privileges, and immunities of peace officers in the performance of that officer's duties.

2.3 Each officer must take the oath required of peace officers.

3. COMMISSIONING AND CERTIFICATION

3.1 The ~~Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) C~~chancellor, ~~for the S~~system Offices~~,~~ and the presidents of member universities for their campuses, are authorized to appoint and commission campus police as peace officers in accordance with the requirements of the law, subject to confirmation by the board.

3.2 The director of the Texas A&M Forest Service is authorized to appoint and commission employees as peace officers in accordance with the requirements of the law, subject to confirmation by the board.

3.3 The executive director to the board is authorized to sign any and all certifications that may be required to attest to board action to the commissioning of peace officers.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Tex. Educ. Code § 51.203

Tex. Educ. Code § 88.103

Tex. Gov't Code § 752, Subch. C

Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

Contact Office

~~System Office of Risk Management~~~~System Office of~~ Law Enforcement and Security
(979) 458-6161~~330~~

34.06 Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers

Revised August 1, 2024 (MO – 2024)
Next Scheduled Review: August 1, 2029
Click to view Revision History.

Policy Summary

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the chief executive officers of each member university of The Texas A&M University System (system), the System Offices, and the Texas A&M Forest Service in the hiring and commissioning of peace officers to ensure compliance with the applicable sections of the Texas Education Code and Texas Government Code.

Policy

1. CAMPUS POLICE OFFICERS

   1.1 The Texas Education Code provides that the system Board of Regents (board) may employ and commission campus peace officers for the purpose of protecting the safety and welfare of students, employees, and property of the institution in accordance with state law. Any officer so commissioned is vested with all powers, privileges, and immunities of peace officers while the officer is in the officer's primary jurisdiction or outside the officer's primary jurisdiction as provided by the Education Code.

   1.2 Any officer assigned to duty and commissioned must take and file the oath required of peace officers.

   1.3 Commissioned campus peace officers employed by the System Offices or any member university will normally confine their duties as peace officers to activities within the boundaries of the property owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the respective system university, or in the case of the System Offices, all system properties, but will also have primary jurisdiction in any county in which the property is located.

2. PEACE OFFICER OF TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

   2.1 The director of the Texas A&M Forest Service may appoint up to 25 duly certified employees to serve as peace officers under the director's direction in executing the agency's enforcement duties as provided by Section 88.103, Education Code.

   2.2 The appointments must be approved by the board which will commission the appointees as peace officers for the system. Any officer so commissioned is vested with all the powers, privileges, and immunities of peace officers in the performance of that officer's duties.

   2.3 Each officer must take the oath required of peace officers.

3. COMMISSIONING AND CERTIFICATION

3.1 The chancellor, for the System Offices and the presidents of member universities for their campuses, are authorized to appoint and commission campus police as peace officers in accordance with the requirements of the law, subject to confirmation by the board.

3.2 The director of the Texas A&M Forest Service is authorized to appoint and commission employees as peace officers in accordance with the requirements of the law, subject to confirmation by the board.

3.3 The executive director to the board is authorized to sign any and all certifications that may be required to attest to board action to the commissioning of peace officers.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Tex. Educ. Code § 51.203

Tex. Educ. Code § 88.103

Tex. Gov't Code § 752, Subch. C

Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

Contact Office

Law Enforcement and Security
(979) 458-6161

Agenda Item No. 6.5

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Maria L. Robinson, Chief Investment Officer and Treasurer
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of List of Authorized Signers for Revolving Fund Bank Accounts for System Members

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the revised list of authorized signers for revolving fund bank accounts for members of The Texas A&M University System, as required by the General Appropriations Act, Article III, Section 6.3, 88th Legislature, Regular Session.

Background Information:

This agenda item has been compiled from information submitted by the system members which reflects the maximum revolving amounts, the depository bank and the personnel authorized to approve disbursements from these accounts. These accounts are used to facilitate the payment of nominal expenses, debt service and payrolls, as well as to pay bills within cash discount periods. Funds disbursed from the revolving fund bank accounts in the United States are reimbursed from respective appropriations by the State Comptroller, and deposits are covered by appropriate and sufficient surety bonds or securities. Accounts with Commercial Bank in Qatar follow the rules set forth in Chapter 51.003(f) of the Texas Education Code.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

Approval of this agenda item will advance The Texas A&M University System strategic imperative 6, which provides that "The A&M System, in adhering to the high standard of excellence and growth required in this strategic plan, will display prudent financial stewardship and sustainability." More specifically, this request is in compliance with the requirements of the General Appropriations Act.

Agenda Item No. 6.5

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Chief Investment Officer and Treasurer
July 1, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of List of Authorized Signers for Revolving Fund Bank Accounts for System Members

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

"Under the authority of the General Appropriations Act, and effective September 1, 2024, the employees of The Texas A&M University System members named below, and their successors in office, are hereby authorized to sign checks and approve electronic payments, such as ACH and wire transfers, for the withdrawal of such funds according to law.

Source of Funds: Institutional Funds (or Qatar Foundation as indicated)
Depository Bank: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (or Commercial Bank-Qatar as indicated)

1. **THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (TAMUS)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $175,000,000 (Operating and Debt Service)
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Maria L. Robinson, Chief Investment Officer and Treasurer
David Verghese, Deputy Chief Investment Officer
Michelle Engelke, Director, Finance
All Texas A&M University Signers listed below

2. **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (TAMU)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $50,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
John Crawford, Vice President for Finance and CFO
John McCall, Associate Vice President for Finance and Controller
Clint Merritt, Executive Director, Financial Management Operations
Bryan Townsend, Executive Director, University Accounting Services
Courtney Cammack, Director, University Accounting Services
Linda Kettler, Director, Financial Management Operations
Cynthia Flemings, Director, Tax Compliance and Reporting

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER (HSC)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $15,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
All TAMU Signers listed above

TEXAS A&M SYSTEM – SHARED SERVICES CENTER (SSC)
No Revolving Funds
Employees authorized to sign checks:
All TAMU Signers listed above

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON (TAMUG)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $2,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
All TAMU Signers listed above
Susan Hernandez Lee, Associate Vice President for Finance and Compliance Officer
Vanessa Garza, Assistant Director, Budget and Analysis

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT QATAR (TAMU at Qatar)
Source of Funds – Qatar Foundation
Depository Bank – Commercial Bank-Qatar
Employees authorized to sign checks:
John Crawford, Vice President for Finance and CFO, TAMU
John McCall, Associate Vice President for Finance and Controller, TAMU
Bryan Townsend, Executive Director, University Accounting Services, TAMU
Joseph P. Pettibon II, Vice President for Planning, Assessment and Strategy, TAMU
Cynthia Flemings, Director of Tax Compliance and Reporting, TAMU
Ceasar O. Malave, Dean and COO
Rosalie Nickles, Assistant Dean for Finance, Compliance and Administrative Procedure
Patrick Linke, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies
Vacant, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Katina Anderson, Director, Business Operations

3. **TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY (TSU)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $5,500,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Brett Powell, Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration and CFO
Vacant, Assistant VP for Finance & Administration and Assistant CFO
Claudia Dominguez, Director, Accounting Services
Melissa Elliott, Director, Student Account Services
Jo Anna Ince, Financial Analyst III
Sheila Hawkins, Financial Analyst III
Christina Dunagan, Business Manager
Maycee Kelley, Financial Accountant III
Chrissy Pack-Dowell, Financial Accountant III
Christi Pfau, Accounts Payable Manager

4. **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY (PVAMU)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $7,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Cynthia Carter-Horn, Senior Vice President for Business Affairs and CFO
Dianne Evans, Assistant Vice President for Financial Management Services
Cozette Turner, Director, Accounting Services
Equilla Jackson, Director, Treasury Services
Stephanie Redd, Assistant Director, Treasury Services
Stephaine Daniels, Financial Accountant II
JosaLynn Pritchard, Financial Accountant I

5. **TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH (ALRSCH)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $4,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
G. Cliff Lamb, Director
Vic S. Seidel, Executive Associate Vice Chancellor and COO
Debra Cummings, Assistant Agency Director and CFO
Donna Alexander, Assistant Agency Director and CFO, ALEXT
Loree Lewis, Executive Director, Contracts and Administration
Vacant, Director, Accounts Payable
Kim Payne, Financial Manager

6. **TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE (ALEXT)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $4,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Rick Avery, Director
Vic S. Seidel, Executive Associate Vice Chancellor and COO
Donna Alexander, Assistant Agency Director and CFO
Debra Cummings, Assistant Agency Director and CFO, ALRSCH
Loree Lewis, Executive Director, Contracts and Administration, ALRSCH
Vacant, Director, Accounts Payable, ALRSCH
Kim Payne, Financial Manager, ALRSCH

7. **TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION (TEES)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $3,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Robert Bishop, Vice Chancellor and Dean
Joseph N. Dunn, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Management and CFO
Jane Zhou, Assistant CFO and Controller
Karen Gregory, Assistant Controller
Griselda Vazquez, Assistant Director
Vacant, Assistant Director
Vacant, Financial Accountant II

TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION AT QATAR
(TEES at Qatar)
Source of Funds – Qatar Foundation
Depository Bank – Commercial Bank-Qatar
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Joseph N. Dunn, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Management and CFO, TEES
Jane Zhou, Assistant CFO and Controller, TEES
Ceasar O. Malave, Dean and COO, TAMU at Qatar

8. TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE (TEEX)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $3,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Tracy Foster, Deputy Director and CFO
Brian Stipe, Assistant CFO and Controller
Deepak Tyagi, Assistant Controller
Patti Buckhaults, Financial Manager
Jasmina Lewallen, Financial Manager
Lynn Krueger, Financial Manager

9. TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE (TFS)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $3,500,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Travis Zamzow, Associate Agency Director for Finance & Administration
Andrew Startz, Budgets and Accounting Department Head
Natasha Wolf, Financial Management Supervisor
John C. Powell, Policy and Review Coordinator III

10. TEXAS A&M TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE (TTI)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $1,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Rodney Horrell, Assistant Agency Director and CFO
Tyler K. Theobald, Assistant CFO
Stephanie Barnett, Director, Accounting
Weining Yang, Controller
Randi McClure, Supervisor, Accounting
Michelle L. Young, Financial Accountant IV

TEXAS A&M TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE AT QATAR (TTI at Qatar)
Source of Funds – Qatar Foundation
Depository Bank – Commercial Bank-Qatar
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Rodney Horrell, Assistant Agency Director and CFO, TTI
Tyler K. Theobald, Assistant CFO, TTI
Weining Yang, Controller, TTI

11. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI (TAMUCC)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $5,500,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Kelly Miller, President
Andrew Rogers, Vice President for Finance & Administration
Yolanda Castorena, Associate Vice President for Finance and Controller
Allison Lewis, Assistant Vice President and Chief Budget Officer
Will Hobart, Director, Procurement & Disbursements and HUB Coordinator
Cassie Eyring, Assistant Controller
Eliza Garcia, Accounting Manager
Christy Robertson, Financial Accountant III
Penni Nolan, Accounting Assistant III
Kalee Olivarez, Financial Accountant III

12. TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (TAMIU)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $3,500,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Pablo Arenaz, President
Juan J. Castillo Jr., Vice President for Finance & Administration
Federico Juarez III, Associate Vice President for Finance & Administration
Elena Martinez, Comptroller
Maria Elena Hernandez, Assistant Comptroller/Receivables
Melisa Rangel, Associate Controller
Patricia Ornelas, Associate Controller

13. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE (TAMUK)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $5,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Robert H. Vela Jr., President
Jacob Flournoy, Vice President for Finance and CFO
Joanne Castro, Associate Vice President for Financial Services
Samantha Padilla, Controller
Vilma Castillo, Director, Accounting Services
Yvonne Vela, Associate Director, Accounts Payable and Travel
Robyn Wallace, Financial Analyst III

14. TEXAS A&M VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY (TVMDL)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $4,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Amy Swinford, Agency Director
Matthew Durham, Assistant Agency Director and CFO
Vic S. Seidel, Executive Associate Vice Chancellor and COO
Debra Cummings, Assistant Agency Director and CFO, ALRSCH
Donna Alexander, Assistant Agency Director and CFO, ALEXT
Loree Lewis, Executive Director, Contracts and Administration, ALRSCH
Vacant, Director, Accounts Payable, ALRSCH
Kim Payne, Financial Manager, ALRSCH

15. WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (WTAMU)
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $4,500,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Randy Rikel, Vice President for Business and Finance
Todd McNeill, Associate Vice President and Controller
Lauren Cazarez, Director, Finance
Mark Hiner, Associate Director, Budgets
Amanda Ryder, Bursar
John Bassett, Assistant Bursar

16. **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE (TAMUC)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $5,500,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Mark Rudin, President and Chief Executive Officer
Tina Livingston, Vice President for Finance & Administration
Sarah Baker, Associate Vice President for Finance &Administration and Controller
Toni Burton, Assistant Controller
Arlana Martin, Budget Director
Belinda Benson, Senior Budget Manager
Rocio (Rose) Moreno, State Accounting Manager
Vacant, Reconciliation Manager
Kim Jefferies, Gifts Processing Manager
Christine Newell, Financial Accountant III
Alice Norwood, Accounting Assistant III
Crystal Butler, Accounting Assistant II
Sierra Harris, Accounting Assistant II
Kelly Ramey, Budget Analyst II

17. **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA (TAMUT)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $2,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Ross Alexander, President
Jeff Hinton, Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration and CFO
Rhonda Jones, Assistant Vice President and Controller
Russell Ryan, Assistant Controller
Geoffrey Kreighoff, Financial Accountant III
K'Leeh Holt, Financial Accountant II
Stephenie Durham, Financial Accountant I

18. **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS (TAMUCT)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $2,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Richard Rhodes, President
Todd Lutz, Vice President for Finance & Administration and CFO
Susan Bowden, Assistant Vice President for Business Affairs and Controller
Danielle Clouden, Assistant Controller
Vanessa Santos, Financial Accountant III

19. **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO (TAMUSA)**
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $3,500,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
Salvador Hector Ochoa, President
Leonard A. Cullo Jr., Vice President for Business Affairs and CFO
Amanda Castro, Controller
Denis Cano, Associate Controller and Director of Accounting Services
Felica Tamez, Bursar
Vacant, Senior Accountant

20. <u>TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (TDEM)</u>
Revolving Fund portion not to exceed $30,000,000
Employees authorized to sign checks:
John Crawford, Vice President for Finance and CFO, TAMU
John McCall, Associate Vice President for Finance and Controller, TAMU
Clint Merritt, Executive Director, Financial Management Operations, TAMU
Bryan Townsend, Executive Director, University Accounting Services, TAMU
Courtney Cammack, Director, University Accounting Services, TAMU
Linda Kettler, Director, Financial Management Operations, TAMU
Cynthia Flemings, Director of Tax Compliance and Reporting, TAMU"

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Maria L. Robinson
Chief Investment Officer and Treasurer

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Agenda Item No. 6.6

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 23, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024,
Prairie View A&M University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at Prairie View A&M University as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 24-04."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Tomikia P. LeGrande
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.6
EXHIBIT

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
BACKGROUND OF FACULTY
RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE
TENURE LIST NO. 24-04

MARVIN D. AND JUNE SAMUEL BRAILSFORD COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Torina Lewis	Professor and Endowed Professor of STEM Community Engagement Mathematics	0	11	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2010)	The University of Mississippi			
Fa 2013 – Sp 2019 Fa 2019 – Sp 2021 Fa 2020 – Fa 2023 Sp 2024	Clark Atlanta University Clark Atlanta University American Mathematical Society Prairie View A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor Associate Executive Director for Meetings and Professional Services Endowed Professor		

Dr. Torina Lewis's research interests are in the mathematical sciences. Over the last 25 years, Dr. Lewis has been a dedicated leader in the military, a teacher, scholar, and administrator in higher education, and an executive at the American Mathematical Society (AMS) – the largest professional society for mathematicians. She has received over $10 million in external funding. Her research accomplishments present a two-fold body of work: 1. collaborating with mathematicians and students on fundamental problems in the mathematical sciences, and 2. engaging multiple constituents across disciplines through cultivated relationships to find solutions to mission-driven, complex and national problems. Both folds aim to provide opportunities for populations traditionally excluded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Dr. Lewis' scholarship has led to a decrease in unsatisfactory grades and withdrawal rates in Calculus I (gateway course for STEM majors), opportunities for research enhancement and the potential creation of a model to redesign the graduate school admission process for mathematics. Her research raised Clark Atlanta University's visibility and helped to increase opportunities for participation in AMS activities for traditionally excluded populations. The findings have been published in journals, books and through doctoral dissertations and widely disseminated at conferences through lectures, talks and workshops. She and a student were selected as visiting research scholars at a Department of Homeland Security Education Site (Arizona State University). Dr. Lewis has taught courses across the mathematics curriculum. She uses differentiated approaches to deliver mathematical content and instill confidence in her students. The reward for her passion and dedication to teaching was three separate teaching awards: 1. National Association of Mathematicians "Clarence F. Stephens/Abdulalim A. Shabazz" Teaching Award, 2. Vulcan Teaching Excellence Award, and 3. Delores Aldridge-McMillan Award for Excellence in Teaching. Her service has been stellar throughout the academy and broader STEM community. She has served on essential committees that undergird the functioning of the university i.e., Academic Council, Curriculum Committee, Joseph J. Dennis Endowed Scholarship Committee, Data Science Initiative Faculty Council, and Course Redesign with Technology Provost Committee. She currently serves as the Vice President for the National Association of Mathematicians. Dr. Lewis was a tenured professor at Clark Atlanta University, Department of Mathematical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, before her move to Prairie View A&M University in Spring 2024.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Lewis's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy 12.01, Section 4.3.

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Aashir Nasim	Professor Psychology	0	22	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2001)	Howard University			
Fa 2001 – Su 2007 Fa 2007 – Su 2008 Fa 2008 – Su 2017 Su 2017 – Sp 2024 Su 2024	James Madison University James Madison University Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Commonwealth University Prairie View A&M University		Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2007) Associate Professor (Tenured 2008) Professor Professor	

Dr. Aashir Nasim's research accomplishments include securing approximately $20 million in extramural research awards and authoring over 75 peer-reviewed publications. His research has had practical implications, informing the development of youth tobacco use prevention programs in Virginia and contributing to national policy discussions on flavored tobacco products. Dr. Nasim is a highly experienced administrator renowned for his significant contributions to faculty development, research, curricular innovation, and student success, enrollment, and retention efforts. He began his academic career as an assistant professor of Psychology at James Madison University. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Nasim has held progressively senior leadership roles at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). As a full professor of Psychology and African American Studies, he served as department chair of African American Studies and led efforts to transform the curriculum, resulting in significant increases in student enrollment, retention, and success among majors. He also held executive administrative positions such as senior vice provost for Faculty Affairs and vice president for Institutional Equity, Effectiveness, and Success. In his most recent role as vice president and senior advisor to the president of VCU, he played a key role in collaborating with other vice presidents to design initiatives and programs aimed at enhancing faculty and undergraduate student retention and success. Dr. Nasim founded VCU's Institute for Inclusion, Inquiry & Innovation, a faculty cluster hire program focused on advancing research in thematic areas. He has also been involved as a lead program evaluator on several National Science Foundation awards related to minority participation in STEM. Dr. Nasim is moving to Prairie View A&M University in Summer 2024 as the provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Nasim's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy 12.01, Section 4.3.

Agenda Item No. 6.7

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Tomikia P. LeGrande, President
Prairie View A&M University

Subject: Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2024,
Prairie View A&M University

Proposed Board Action:

Authorize faculty development leave for FY 2024 at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU).

Background Information:

System Policy *31.03, Leaves of Absence*, and System Regulation *12.99.01, Faculty Development Leave*, require that a recommendation for faculty development leave be submitted by the university president to the chancellor for recommendation to the Board of Regents for approval. At PVAMU the application is submitted with support of the academic department, college dean, university development leave committee, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and president.

As shown in the exhibit, PVAMU requests approval for faculty development leave for two faculty members for FY 2024.

PVAMU is in compliance with the statutory requirement that no more than six percent of eligible faculty be on development leave at any time.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

No additional funding is required. Departmental faculty members are assuming the recommended faculty members' teaching loads by adjusting course offerings the next academic year.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

Strategic Plan Imperative 4: The A&M System will increase its prominence by building a robust and targeted research portfolio. Providing faculty development leave opportunities further supports PVAMU Goal Theme 4 (Research and Innovation) by increasing innovative research and scholarly productivity as well as Goal Theme 8 (Institutional Image) which seeks to advance the university's image through innovative, relevant, and meaningful research.

Agenda Item No. 6.7

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 22, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2024,
Prairie View A&M University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *31.03*, System Regulation *12.99.01* and Sections 51.101-108 of the Texas Education Code, authorizes faculty development leave to the faculty members as shown in the attached exhibit, Faculty Development Leave List FY 2024, Prairie View A&M University."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Tomikia P. LeGrande
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE LIST
FY 2024
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

Name/ Title/ Department	Years of PVAMU Tenured, Tenure-Track Service	Semester of Leave	Location, Brief Description of Leave and Benefit to University
MARVIN D. AND JUNE SAMUEL BRAILSFORD COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES			
Tamika C. Baldwin-Clark Assistant Professor Social Work	5	Fall 2024	Dr. Tamika Baldwin-Clark's leave will take place during the fall 2024 semester. As one of only two Historicaly Black Colleges and Universities scholars for the Semester at Sea program through the Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE) and Colorado State University, she will visit eleven cities in ten countries across three continents. During the 105-day voyage, Dr. Baldwin-Clark will be teaching the following courses: SOWK (Social Work) 330: Intersectionality and Identity, HDFS (Human Development and Family Studies) 201: Perspectives in Gerontology, and HDFS 412: Mental and Physical Health in Adulthood. She will also collaborate with other faculty onboard on various field programs and activities. This opportunity will bring greater visibility and recognition to the university.
Dorie Gilbert Professor Social Work	5	Fall 2024 and Spring 2025	Dr. Gilbert will use her sabbatical leave to pursue two book projects. The first book, *Bridging the STEM-Humanities Divide,* will catalog innovative interdisciplinary initiatives. Case studies be collected over the fall semester and through a workshop presented at the national Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences Conference in Nov 2024. The second book, *Best Practices in HBCU Collaborations*, will be the focus of her spring leave. These projects will enhance the university's reputation for fostering interdisciplinary research and promoting best practices in higher education.

Agenda Item No. 6.8

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 28, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024,
Tarleton State University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty member at Tarleton State University as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 24-04."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.8
EXHIBIT

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
BACKGROUND OF FACULTY
RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE
TENURE LIST NO. 24-04

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND FINE ARTS

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Emran El-Badawi	Professor History, Geography, and GIS	0	7	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D.	University of Chicago			
Fa 2003 – Fa 2005 Fa 2006 –Sp 2010 Fa 2011 – Fa 2016 Su 2020 Fa 2016 - Present	Temple University University of Chicago University of Houston Rice University University of Houston	Lecturer Lecturer Assistant Professor Visiting Faculty Associate Professor		

Dr. Emran El-Badawi is recommended for tenure as a professor in the Department of History, Geography, and GIS. Upon his arrival, Dr. El-Badawi will be the Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts. He was tenured and promoted to associate professor at the University of Houston in 2016 and is anticipated to earn a promotion to professor by June 2024. He comes to Tarleton State University as an accomplished teacher, having taught and/or designed 22 courses. Further, he was named a 50-In-5 Scholar for National Recognition in 2024 and was named an Honors College Fellow in 2015. He has mentored two graduate students' theses and 10 undergraduate theses. His research considers Middle East and North African civilizations, including modernity and religion, energy and sustainability, the Qur'an and Bible, gender, and classical Islam. Since starting at the University of Houston, he published three books, 11 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 12 book chapters, among other scholarly works. Several of his publications are published in both English and Arabic. His service is exemplary, serving as conference organizer for 17 separate conferences, serving on several editorial boards, and numerous universities, college, and department committees.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. El-Badawi has behaved in a professional manner throughout his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

Agenda Item No. 6.9

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

Subject: Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University (Tarleton) leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) with a major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

The proposed B.S. in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning program is a 120-semester credit hour program that will provide students with an integrated course of study that will provide a strong comprehension and application of artificial intelligence and programming. The program includes substantial coursework necessary for the understanding of artificial intelligence, database theories, computer networks, and mathematics.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Estimated new costs over the first five years are $843,371, with an estimated five-year revenue of $1,739,799.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed B.S. aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.9

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 6, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Tarleton State University's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Tarleton State University

Bachelor of Science
with a major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
(CIP 11.0102.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Engineering, Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering

The proposed Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML) program is a 120-semester credit hour program that will provide students with an integrated course of study that will provide a strong comprehension and application of artificial intelligence and programming. The program includes substantial coursework necessary for the understanding of artificial intelligence, database theories, computer networks, and mathematics.

Educational objectives:

1. Students will list, discuss, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of algorithms in all the main areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).
2. Students will select and implement the most efficient AI or ML algorithm for a given problem.
3. Students will quantify and evaluate the performance of an AIML computer system working with real-world data.

The proposed implementation date is spring 2025.

Tarleton State University (Tarleton) certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years are estimated at less than $1 million.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

In the US, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) does not have a job category dedicated to AIML, however, the following existing categories have a significant overlap with AIML. BLS is predicting much-faster-than-average growth for these categories in the decade 2022-2032:

- Data Scientists – 35%
- Computer and Information Research Scientists – 23%
- Computer Systems Analysts – 10%
- Mathematicians and Statisticians – 30%
- Operations Research Analysts – 23%

Research from Bloomberg Intelligence estimates that, as more companies recognize the benefits of generative AI, its market will grow to $1.3 trillion by 2032, compared to only $40 million in 2022. According to data from the Upwork Research Institute, the average number of weekly search queries related to generative AI increased 10 times from the fourth quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of 2023. The data also shows that in the same period, weekly job posts looking for generative AI skills increased by more than 600%.

B. Projected Enrollment

It is anticipated that the program will begin with a cohort of five students in year one of the program. The program will have a projected cumulative headcount of five students in year one, 14 students in year two, 28 students in year three, 44 students in year four, and 63 students in year five.

C. Existing State Programs

Four public Texas universities offer a current program in AI at the master's level –the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of Houston, and the University of North Texas. These universities are not within 100 miles of Tarleton's Stephenville campus. Currently, there is one undergraduate program being offered with the same CIP code at a public community college. Houston Community College offers a bachelor's program under the CIP code 11.0102.00. The community college is more than 100 miles from Tarleton's campus.

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

Six current faculty members, one newly hired assistant professor and one newly hired instructor will provide core and support roles in the proposed degree. The instructor faculty line will be hired in year one of the program and will cost $23,760 for 30% time in year one, $47,520 for 60% time in year two, and $71,280 for 90% time in years three, four, and five of the program. The assistant professor faculty line will be hired in year three at $48,840 for 50% time and will cost $87,912 at 90% time for years four and five of the program. The six current faculty lines will be reallocated to the new program.

B. Program Administration

Current administration is sufficient for this program.

C. Other Personnel

There will be no other personnel hired for this program.

D. Supplies, Materials

Supplies and materials are requested in the amount of $5,000 per year for the first five years of the program for a total cost of $25,000 by the end of year five.

E. Library

Existing library resources will be sufficient. No additional library resources are anticipated.

F. Equipment, Facilities

Existing equipment and facilities will be sufficient. No additional equipment or facilities will be needed.

G. Accreditation

There will be no new accreditation costs for this program.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$818,371		Formula Income	$149,966
Program Administration	$0		Statutory Tuition	$202,000
Research Assistants	$0		Reallocation	$308,587
Supplies & Materials	$25,000		Designated Tuition	$877,246
Library & IT Resources	$0		Other Funding:	
Equipment, Facilities	$0		Board Authorized Tuition	$202,000
Accreditation	$0		Student Fees	$0
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$843,371		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	$1,739,799

Agenda Item No. 6.10

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University (Tarleton) leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) with a major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

The proposed M.S. in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML) program is a 33 to 36-semester credit hour (SCH) program that will provide students with an integrated course of study that will provide a strong comprehension and application of artificial intelligence and programming. Students will have the choice of a thesis concentration of 33 SCH or a non-thesis option of 36 SCH. The program includes substantial coursework necessary for the understanding of artificial intelligence, advanced algorithms, machine learning, and research.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Estimated new costs over the first five years are $1,089,821.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed M.S. aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.10

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 7, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University leading to a Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Tarleton State University's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Tarleton State University

Master of Science
with a major in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
(CIP 11.0102.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Engineering, Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering

The proposed Master of Science (M.S.) in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML) program is a 33 to 36-semester credit hour (SCH) program that will provide students with an integrated course of study with a strong comprehension and application of artificial intelligence and programming. Students will have the choice of a thesis concentration of 33 SCH or a non-thesis option of 36 SCH. The program includes substantial coursework necessary for the understanding of artificial intelligence, advanced algorithms, machine learning, and research.

Educational objectives:

1. Students will list, discuss and assess the strengths and weaknesses of algorithms in all the main areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).
2. Students will explain and discuss deep reinforcement learning (DRL) and assess the suitability of DRL for a given autonomous system application.
3. Students will select and implement the most efficient AI or ML algorithm for a given problem.
4. Students will quantify and evaluate the performance of an AIML computer system working with real-world data.

The proposed implementation date is spring 2025.

Tarleton State University (Tarleton) certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

In the US, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) does not have a job category dedicated to AIML, however, the following existing categories have a significant overlap with AIML. BLS is predicting much-faster-than-average growth for these categories in the decade 2022-2032:

- Data Scientists – 35%
- Computer and Information Research Scientists – 23%
- Computer Systems Analysts – 10%
- Mathematicians and Statisticians – 30%
- Operations Research Analysts – 23%

Research from Bloomberg Intelligence estimates that as more companies recognize the benefits of generative AI, its market will grow to $1.3 trillion by 2032, compared to only $40 million in 2022. According to data from the Upwork Research Institute, the average number of weekly search queries related to generative AI increased 10 times from the fourth quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of 2023. The data also shows that in the same period, weekly job posts looking for generative AI skills increased by more than 600%.

According to the website salary.com, a full 50% of AIML engineers have post-graduate degrees: master's (44%) and doctorate (6%). This is consistent with information from job websites like Indeed.com and Glassdoor.com, where job searches for "masters artificial intelligence" and "masters machine learning" generate 32 to 43% of the results of the same searches conducted without the "masters" keyword.

B. Projected Enrollment

It is anticipated that this program will begin with a cohort of four students in year one of the program. The program will have a projected cumulative headcount of four students in year one, seven students in year two, eight students in year three, 10 students in year four, and 13 students in year five.

C. Existing State Programs

Four public Texas universities offer a current program in AI at the master's level with the 11.0102.00 CIP code. The universities are the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of Houston, and the University of North Texas. These universities are more than 100 miles from Tarleton's Stephenville campus.

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

Five current faculty members and one newly hired assistant professor will provide core and support roles in the proposed degree. The new faculty line will be hired by year one of the program at $97,680 per year for the first five years of the program. The five current faculty lines will be reallocated to the new program. There will be a teaching assistant hired in year one which will cost $14,000 for each year of the program. The total cost for the first five years will be $70,000.

B. Program Administration

Current administration is sufficient for this program.

C. Other Personnel

There will be no other personnel hired for this program.

D. Supplies, Materials

Supplies and materials are requested in the amount of $5,000 per year for the first five years of the program for a total cost of $25,000 by the end of year five.

E. Library

Existing library resources will be sufficient. No additional library resources are anticipated.

F. Equipment, Facilities

Existing equipment and facilities will be sufficient. No additional equipment or facilities will be needed.

G. Accreditation

There will be no new accreditation costs for this program.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$994,821		Formula Income	$254,172
Program Administration	$0		Statutory Tuition	$58,350
Teaching Assistants	$70,000		Reallocation	$604,101
Supplies & Materials	$25,000		Designated Tuition	$225,511
Library & IT Resources	$0		Other Funding:	
Equipment, Facilities	$0		Board Authorized Tuition	$58,350
Accreditation	$0		Student Fees	$0
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,089,821		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	$1,200,484

Agenda Item No. 6.11

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

Subject: Approval of a New Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program with a Major in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University (Tarleton) leading to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a major in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

Tarleton proposes to offer the Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering as a five-year 72-semester credit hour program that will equip students with advanced knowledge and skills in the fields of agriculture, biology and engineering. Throughout the program, students will engage in cutting-edge research, explore innovative solutions to complex challenges in agriculture and biology and develop expertise in engineering principles applied to agricultural and biological systems.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Estimated new costs over the first five years are $3,741,869, with an estimated five-year revenue of $4,092,418.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed Ph.D. aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.11

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 10, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program with a Major in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University leading to a Doctor of Philosophy with a major in Agricultural and Biological Engineering.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Tarleton State University's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Tarleton State University

Doctor of Philosophy
with a major in Agricultural and Biological Engineering
(CIP 14.0301.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: Mayfield College of Engineering

Tarleton State University (Tarleton) proposes to offer the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural and Biological Engineering as a five-year 72-semester credit hour program that will equip students with advanced knowledge and skills in the fields of agriculture, biology and engineering. Throughout the program, students will engage in cutting-edge research, explore innovative solutions to complex challenges in agriculture and biology and develop expertise in engineering principles applied to agricultural and biological systems.

Educational objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in conducting independent research, including experimental design, data analysis and interpretation of results.
2. Students will identify intersections between agriculture, biology and engineering, allowing them to approach complex problems from multiple perspectives.
3. Students will contribute to the scholarly community by publishing their research in peer-reviewed journals and presenting their findings at conferences, enhancing their visibility and impact in their respective fields.
4. Students will be equipped to take on leadership roles in academia, industry, government, or non-profit sectors, driving innovation and addressing critical challenges in agricultural and biological engineering.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2026.

Tarleton certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.146 in regard to need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

According to Hanover Research's market analysis and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the demand for individuals with a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, particularly in Texas, is expected to grow in the coming years. The agricultural and biological engineering sector is experiencing growth due to advancements in technology, increasing emphasis on sustainable practices, and the need for innovative solutions to agricultural and environmental challenges. For example, myFUTURE.com predicts that employment of agricultural engineers is projected to grow 6% from 2022 to 2032, faster

than the average for all occupations. About 100 openings for agricultural engineers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. Although a graduate degree is not required for entry into biological and agricultural engineering occupations, it helps facilitate career advancement. According to the BLS, biological and biomedical engineers may earn graduate degrees in engineering to update skills regarding new technology and to enhance project management skills. Over the past year, one-quarter of the 309 job postings requesting a background in biological or agricultural engineering in Texas required a doctorate.

B. Projected Enrollment

The proposed Ph.D. program is projected to enroll five students in the first year. With the anticipated attrition, headcount and the number of graduates, Tarleton projects a cumulative headcount of five students in year one, 11 in year two, 18 in year three, 24 in year four, and 25 in year five.

C. Existing State Programs

According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) program inventory, there is only one Texas university that offers a similar program with the CIP code 14.0301.00: Texas A&M University. This university offers a degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. Texas A&M University is more than 100 miles from Tarleton.

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

Eleven current faculty members will teach in the new Ph.D. program. The department also plans to hire one new instructor. The new faculty line will be hired in year one of the program at $105,600 per year for the first five years.

B. Program Administration

The department plans to hire research assistants for this program which will cost $14,000 in year one, $28,000 in year two, $70,000 in year three, and $84,000 in both years four and five of the program. The Ph.D. program will also hire teaching assistants. The total cost of teaching assistants will be $28,000 in year one, $45,000 in year two, $60,000 in year three, and $90,000 in both years four and five.

C. Other Personnel

There will be no other personnel hired for this program.

D. Supplies, Materials

Supplies and materials are requested in the amount of $5,000 each year for the first five years of the program for a total of $25,000 for the first five years.

E. Library

There will be no additional costs for library materials and instructional technology.

F. Equipment, Facilities

Existing equipment and facilities will be sufficient. No additional equipment or facilities will be needed.

G. Accreditation

There will be no new accreditation costs for this program.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$3,123,869		Formula Funding Tuition	$378,418
Program Administration	$0		Statutory Tuition	$73,000
Graduate Assistants	$593,000		Reallocation	$2,285,869
Supplies & Materials	$25,000		Designated Tuition	$282,132
Library & IT Resources	$0		Federal Grants	$549,999
Equipment, Facilities	$0		Board Authorized Tuition	$73,000
Accreditation	$0		Anticipated Grants	$450,000
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$3,741,869		**Estimated 5-year Revenues**	$4,092,418

Agenda Item No. 6.12

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 22, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024,
Texas A&M International University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at Texas A&M International University as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 24-04."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Pablo Arenaz
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BACKGROUND OF FACULTY
RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE
TENURE LIST NO. 24-04

A.R. SANCHEZ, JR., SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Luis A. Perez-Batres	Professor Management	0	12	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2006)	Mays Business School, Texas A&M University			
Fa 2012 – Sp 2017 Fa 2017 – Sp 2021 Fa 2021 – Sp 2024 Su 2024	Central Michigan University Central Michigan University Missouri State University Texas A&M International University	Associate Professor (Tenured 2012) Professor Professor (Tenured 2021) Professor		

Dr. Perez-Batres' research explores global supply chains, labor reallocation and sustainability. He has published over 15 lead-authored publications and 40+ lead-authored collaborations. His work has over 1,200 citations on Google Scholar and his research (seven articles) has been rated Five A by the ABDC Journal Quality List in addition to having two articles in the *Financial Times* Top 50. Dr. Perez-Batres has a robust research agenda. His teaching indicates the same level of success as his scholarship. The primary courses he teaches are: Strategic Management, Principles of Management, International Business, and Supply and Chain Management. While he has a great deal of service experience, Dr. Perez-Batres has focused more on administrative roles in the last decade. He has served as department chair at Missouri State University and Central Michigan University. In all the departments he has overseen, significant progress has been made in research and curriculum.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Batres has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

Dr. Yong Chen	Assistant Professor International Business and Technology Studies	6	0	09/01/2024
Ph.D. (2018)	Old Dominion University			
Fa 2018 – Present	Texas A&M International University	Assistant Professor		

Dr. Chen's primary research interests are in Management Information Systems. Over the past five years (2018-2023), Dr. Chen has published 40 articles in 13 different refereed journals. Five articles are in top tier journals (as rated by the college), 21 articles are published in tier one journals and 14 articles are published in tier two journals. This activity indicates a strong commitment to building a research record. Dr. Chen's teaching record is also strong. Courses he has taught at the graduate and undergraduate levels (in-person and online) include: Business Information Security, Management of Information Systems, Information Systems Analysis, Networking and Distributed Systems, Social Business Analytics, Business Data Visualization, Database Design Implementation, and Management of Information Systems. His service is also exceptional. Dr. Chen has served on both the University Graduate Council and the University Research Council. Within the college, he has served as the faculty advisor to the Management Information Systems (MIS) Student Organization and his assessment work for the MIS degree program.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Chen has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

Dr. Qing (Kathy) Ma	Assistant Professor International Business and Technology Studies	7	0	09/01/2024
Ph.D. (2018)	University of Memphis			
Fa 2017 – Present	Texas A&M International University		Assistant Professor	

Dr. Ma's primary research area is Management, with a specific focus on Human Resources Management. Over the past six years (2017-2023), Dr. Ma has published several articles in many different refereed journals—elite management, three in tier one journals, and one in a tier two journal. In addition to her published research in high quality refereed articles, Dr. Ma has made four conference presentations of her research, two manuscripts under review and eight working papers. Dr. Ma's teaching record is also strong. Her graduate and undergraduate student evaluation scores are high for the following courses: Research Issues in International Business Administration, Organizational Theory & Change, Strategic Management, Seminar in International Management, International Management, Leadership & Cooperative Management, Leadership & Decision Making, and Human Resource Development. This is a strong teaching record for a junior faculty, especially one who teaches a wide range of courses both at the master's and doctoral levels. Service to her students, the university, and field are strong as well. Dr. Ma served on eight different dissertation committees over the past six years and has taken lead roles in faculty searches.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Ma has behaved in a professional manner across her career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Mustafa H. Al Lail	Assistant Professor School of Engineering	6	0	09/01/2024
Ph.D. (2018)	Colorado State University			
Fa 2018 – Present	Texas A&M International University		Assistant Professor	

Dr. Al Lail's research interests include model-driven engineering, machine learning and cybersecurity. Dr. Al Lail's research productivity has increased greatly over his probationary period. He has published three peer-reviewed journal papers and 10 conference papers. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, for which Dr. Al Lail has published, is the premier professional organization overseeing the wide computer-related fields. Dr. Al Lail's teaching record is good, with teaching evaluations ranging between 3.6 and 5.0. He has taught: Software Design, Software Engineering (and lab), Fundamentals of Programming Lab, Computer Engineering Senior Design Project, Object-Oriented Programming, Electronic Devices and Apps, Programming Languages, and Software Engineering and Project Development (I & II). To refine his teaching, Dr. Al Lail has attended professional development workshops and was part of the first cohort of faculty to take a yearlong Association of College and University Education course. Service to his students, the university and his field is strong. He has mentored numerous undergraduate students. In terms of service to the university and his field, Dr. Al Lail was a key contributor to the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology self-report for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering program.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Al Lail has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

Dr. Huseyin Cinoglu	Associate Professor Social Sciences	2	13	09/01/2024
Ph.D. (2008)	University of North Texas			
Fa 2010 – Sp 2011 Fa 2011 – Sp 2015 Fa 2015 – Sp 2016 Fa 2022 - Present	Faculty of Security Sciences Faculty of Security Sciences Karabuk University Texas A&M International University		Assistant Professor Associate Professor Associate Professor Associate Professor	

Dr. Cinoglu has an active publication record having published two peer-reviewed articles in his single year at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU). Before his time at TAMIU, he had produced five books (three as lead or sole author), 12 articles in peer-reviewed journals (seven as lead or sole author),

and 16 chapters in edited books (10 as lead or sole author). Dr. Cinoglu's work has been widely cited, having received more than 200 citations, and has influenced anti-terrorism policy in Turkey and elsewhere. Moreover, with several additional manuscripts either in preparation or under review, Dr. Cinoglu has a very active ongoing research agenda. Dr. Cinoglu's teaching record is also strong. He has taught both graduate (PhD and masters) and undergraduate courses: Advanced Research Methods in Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, Special Topics in Criminal Justice, Seminar on Police Practices, Criminal Profiling, Media and Crime, Research Methods in Social Sciences, and Introduction to Criminal Justice. He has demonstrated a high level of teaching to obtain tenure at TAMIU and his previous positions. Both students and peer evaluators have indicated that Dr. Cinoglu is an engaging instructor who does a good job connecting material to real-world events. Dr. Cinoglu's service to the university has been strong. He is a member of the University Curriculum Committee and the assessment coordinator for the Criminal Justice program; he has also played an active role in the governance of the PhD program.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Cinoglu has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

Dr. Alison Hadley-Hilburn	Assistant Professor Social Sciences	6	0	09/01/2024
Ph.D. (2015)	University of Kansas			
Fa 2018 - Present	Texas A&M International University		Assistant Professor	

Dr. Hadley-Hilburn's primary research interest is anthropology, particularly anthropological archaeology which focuses on studying the ritual stone artifacts and understanding the role these objects played in Native North American cultures. Since joining Texas A&M International University, Dr. Hadley-Hilburn has published four peer-reviewed articles (three of which are sole authored) and two book chapters. She consistently presents at professional conferences and has been awarded several external grants (e.g., Summerlee Foundation). Dr. Hadley-Hilburn's teaching record is also remarkable, often receiving very high student evaluations. She is a highly engaging instructor who uses innovative methods to spur participation and creates a fun classroom environment. She has taught: Introduction to Archaeology, Introduction to Anthropology, Indians of North America, Biological Anthropology, North American Archaeology, Archaeological Laboratory Methods, Myth, Magic, and Religion, Archaeological Reality and Fantasies, Food and Culture, and Cultural Anthropology. Her service is also exceptional. Dr. Hadley-Hilburn is the sole anthropologist for the university, and she is responsible for coordination of the anthropology minor. She is a member of the Honor Council, the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee, the Library Committee, and the Risk Management Committee. She has also performed a variety of professional services as a board member of the Plains Anthropological Society and as a peer reviewer for several Anthropology journals.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Hadley-Hilburn has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

Dr. Saqib Hussain	Assistant Professor Math & Physics	6	0	09/01/2024
Ph.D. (2018)	University of Arkansas at Little Rock			
Fa 2018 - Present	Texas A&M International University		Assistant Professor	

Dr. Hussain's primary research interest is computational mathematics, particularly in relation to the novel weak Galerkin (WG) finite element methods. Since joining Texas A&M International University (TAMIU), Dr. Hussain has published nine journal articles. Dr. Hussain actively presents his research at conferences and has received one Minority Science and Engineering Program and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Grant from the US Department of Education as a Co-Principal Investigator (2023-2026, $892,782). Dr. Hussain's teaching record is also strong, receiving progressively high student evaluations in even the most difficult courses in mathematics. He has taught nine different graduate courses in mathematics and statistics and 14 different upper and lower-level mathematics courses during his time at TAMIU; these include: Abstract Algebra I, Generalized Lienear Models, Probability, Applied Multivariate Analysis, Quality Control and Improvements, Functional Analysis I, Regression and Time Series Analysis, Theory of Sampling and Survey Analysis, Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations, Abstract Algebra I, Advanced Linear Algebra, Business Mathematics (I & II), Numerical Analysis II, Calculus (I & III), and Introductory Statistics. Dr. Hussain's service is also strong. He has served on the Assessment Committee, Colloquium Committee, Comprehensive Exam Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Precalculus Committee, and two ad-hoc committees at the departmental level. At the college level, he has served on the Curriculum Committee and served on four search committees for the Department of Biology and Chemistry and the Department of Mathematics and Physics. Dr. Hussain has also participated in numerous community outreach activities.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Hussain has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

Mr. Jesse L. Shaw	Assistant Professor Fine & Performing Arts	6	0	09/01/2024
M.F.A. (2009)	Rhode Island School of Design			
Fa 2018 – Present	Texas A&M International University		Assistant Professor	

Mr. Shaw has displayed a great deal of research/creative productivity at Texas A&M International University. His printmaking/silkscreening work has been presented at galleries in many parts of the country. For instance, he has been a guest artist and speaker at Penn College of Technology in 2018, Lamar University in 2019, and the Small Press Fair in 2022. He has also had his creative projects added to the Artist Printmaker/Photographer Research Collection at the Museum of Texas Tech and the Kruizenga Museum at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Mr. Shaw founded the Tarantula Press in which students work with professional artists to publish fine art prints. The Laredo Mobile Letterpress project, funded by a National Endowment for the Arts Grant, brought letterpress equipment and programming to the university and the community. Mr. Shaw's teaching record is also very strong. He is known for mentoring students and has taught: Printmaking (Introduction, Intermediate, and Advanced),

Drawing I, II, and III, Practicum Seminar in the Arts, Works on Paper, Lithograph, Art Appreciation, Two-Dimensional Design, and Senior Thesis. Mr. Shaw's service is also exceptional. Not only does he sit on numerous department and university committees, but he also builds relationships with artists/galleries in Laredo and beyond. The solid growth of art exhibits at the university is largely credited to Mr. Shaw and his relationships with other artists across the country.

To the best of our knowledge, Mr. Shaw has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

* Each university determines, through a review process, the number of years each faculty member will be awarded tenure based on his/her dossier.

Agenda Item No. 6.13

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 29, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024,
Texas A&M University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at Texas A&M University as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 24-04."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark A. Welsh III
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.13
EXHIBIT

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
BACKGROUND OF FACULTY
RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE
TENURE LIST NO. 24-04

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Michael D. Buser	Professor Biological & Agricultural Engineering	1	9	Upon Approval by the Board
Ph.D. (2004)	Texas A&M University			
Fa 2009 – Su 2014 Su 2014 – Su 2017 Su 2017 – Su 2018 Fa 2023 – Present	Oklahoma State University Oklahoma State University Oklahoma State University Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2014) Professor Professor		

Dr. Michael D. Buser earned a Ph.D. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M University in 2004. He is a nationally and internationally recognized expert on a broad range of agricultural air quality issues including cotton harvesting, ginning, cattle feed yards, feed mills, poultry broiler operations, nut harvesting, manure to energy systems, textile mills, coal mining, and general regional air quality monitoring. The major portion of his career (16 years) has been spent providing leadership within the United States Department of Agriculture developing research programs focused on agricultural air quality, cotton gin by-product utilization and cotton ginning enhancements. From 2009-2018, Dr. Buser was on the faculty of the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department at Oklahoma State University during which time he achieved the rank of professor with tenure. Dr. Buser has garnered over $22 million in federal, state, industry, and university competitive grant funding. He has published 130 refereed journal articles and five book chapters. He was presented the American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers Mayfield Cotton Engineering Award in recognition of outstanding engineering contributions to the cotton industry.

Dr. Buser's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy 12.01, Section 4.3.

Dr. Juan Dong	Professor Biochemistry & Biophysics	0	13	Upon Approval by the Board
Ph.D. (2005)	University of California, Riverside			
Fa 2011 – Su 2017 Su 2017 – Su 2022 Su 2022 – Sp 2024 Sp 2024 – Present	Rutgers The State University of New Jersey Rutgers The State University of New Jersey Rutgers The State University of New Jersey Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2017) Professor Professor		

Dr. Juan Dong earned a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from the University of California, Riverside in 2005. She is a plant developmental biologist who studies cell polarity and asymmetric cell division in multicellular organisms. She has more than 40 peer-reviewed journal publications and is known for her research in providing mechanistic insights into the signaling events and subcellular processes in establishing polarized stomatal lineage cells and their divisional asymmetries in Arabidopsis. Dr. Dong has been awarded over $4 million in research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. Dong's recognition by her peers has been amply demonstrated both nationally and internationally through winning the 2016 Women's Young Investigator Award from the American Society of Plant Biology and several travel awards to attend conferences. She serves as associate editor for the Journal of Plant Physiology and editor for the Journal of Integrative Plant Biology, both of which are the field's high-impact journals. Dr. Dong's service to the broader professional community is notable and of high quality. She has served as a member of NIH, NSF, and United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant review panels, reviewing numerous grants for those panels.

Dr. Dong's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Name	**Present Rank** **Department**	**Yrs. Towards Tenure*** **Univ.**	 **Other Inst.**	**Effective Date** **Tenure**
Dr. Jorge Luis García	Associate Professor Economics	0	6	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2018)	University of Chicago			
Fa 2018 – Present Su 2024	Clemson University Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor* Associate Professor		

Dr. Jorge Luis García earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago in 2018. He is an applied micro-economist with expertise in labor, public and development economics. He is the author of 16 published articles, accumulating more than 1,700 citations. His work aims to generate scientific knowledge that contributes to creating socially efficient public policy that tackles domestic and international poverty. Some of this work has already influenced proposals for policy design (e.g., White House 2020 and 2021). He has often presented his work at conferences and seminars at universities such as Cornell, Duke and Harvard. At Clemson University, Dr. García's work was recognized twice with an emergent scholar fellowship. He was also nominated for the university-wide Researcher of the Year award. His expertise in applied economics has been recognized broadly within the economics profession. He currently serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Human Capital. Dr. García has served on 10 Ph.D. committees and five master's committees. His teaching at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels has consistently received excellent evaluation.

*Dr. Jorge Luis García was approved for promotion to associate professor with tenure at Clemson University to be effective August 15, 2024. He will resign from Clemson prior to the promotion and tenure taking effect.

Dr. García's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

Dr. Joseph T. Lariscy	Associate Professor Sociology	0	9	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2013)	The University of Texas at Austin			
Fa 2015 – Su 2021 Fa 2021 – Present Su 2024	University of Memphis University of Memphis Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2021) Associate Professor		

Dr. Joseph T. Lariscy earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from The University of Texas at Austin in 2013. He is a demographer and health sociologist with broad interests in racial/ethnic health disparities and the data and methods used in the population health sciences. His primary research contributions examine racial/ethnic disparities in U.S. adult mortality risk and the early-life processes, particularly educational attainment, and health behaviors, that shape later-life health disparities. He is the author or coauthor of 14 peer-reviewed journal articles and three book chapters, including four articles in the journal Demography, the flagship journal of the Population Association of America. Dr. Lariscy's research has been supported by the National Institute on Aging and the Delta Regional Authority. He is an active member of the Population Association of America, American Sociological Association and Southern Demographic Association. In 2023, he was elected president-elect of the Southern Demographic Association. Dr. Lariscy is particularly committed to advising and collaborating with students. From 2020 to 2024, he served as director of graduate studies in the Department of Sociology at the University of Memphis. He has chaired 10 master's thesis committees and served as a committee member on 10 additional master's thesis committees.

Dr. Lariscy's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Name	**Present Rank** **Department**	**Yrs. Towards Tenure*** **Univ.**	**Other Inst.**	**Effective Date** **Tenure**
Dr. Robert H. Bishop	Professor Aerospace Engineering	0	>15	Upon Approval by the Board
Ph.D. (1990)	Rice University			
Su 1990 – Su 1995 Su 1995 – Su 2000 Su 2000 – Su 2010 Su 2010 – Sp 2014 Su 2014 – Sp 2024 Sp 2024 – Present	The University of Texas at Austin The University of Texas at Austin The University of Texas at Austin Marquette University The University of South Florida Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 1995) Professor Professor (Tenured 2010) Professor (Tenured 2014) Professor		

Dr. Robert H. Bishop earned a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Rice University in 1990. He joined Texas A&M University as the vice chancellor and dean of engineering in April 2024. Before this role, he served as a chaired professor and dean at The University of South Florida, where he founded a non-profit start-up awarded more than $100 million in Department of Defense contracts. Dr. Bishop's work in space navigation has produced numerous high-quality journal publications and conference proceedings. He has also published one textbook. Dr. Bishop is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science,

American Astronautical Society (AAS) and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He has received several prestigious awards including the Dirk Brouwer Award from AAS for seminal contributions to the theory and practice of navigation and control of autonomous aerospace systems and for exceptional achievements in engineering education.

Dr. Bishop's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

MAYS BUSINESS SCHOOL

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. James R. Brown	Professor Finance	0	>15	Upon Approval by the Board
Ph.D. (2004)	Washington University in St. Louis			
Fa 2004 – Sp 2009 Fa 2009 – Sp 2012 Fa 2012 – Sp 2019 Fa 2019 – Sp 2024 Su 2024 – Present	Montana State University Iowa State University Iowa State University Iowa State University Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2012) Professor Professor		

Dr. James R. Brown earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis in 2004. His research program focuses on the financing of innovation and the institutional determinants of economic performance. His recent work explores how country-level policy reforms impact corporate research and development (R&D) spending, how firms manage unanticipated cash flow shocks and how financial market development affects household credit management and long-run economic growth. His research has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Finance, the Journal of Financial Economics, the Review of Financial Studies, the Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, and Management Science. Dr. Brown's research has been cited over 6700 times (Google Scholar). His study on financing R&D was a finalist for the Brattle Group Prize and one of the 25 most cited papers published in the Journal of Finance between 2008 and 2017. His study on the consequences of growing up in areas with underdeveloped financial markets was a finalist for the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America-College Retirement Equities Fund Paul A. Samuelson Award for scholarly writing on lifelong financial security. Dr. Brown teaches introductory and advanced courses in financial management and has won multiple awards for teaching excellence at the Master of Business Administration level. Dr. Brown has extensive service and administrative experience, including service as department head and engagement with numerous university and college committees.

Dr. Brown's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

Dr. Bradford F. Hepfer	Associate Professor Accounting	7	1	Upon Approval by the Board
Ph.D. (2016)	The University of Iowa			

Su 2016 – Sp 2023	Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor
Fa 2023 – Sp 2024	The University of Iowa	Associate Professor (Tenured 2023)
Su 2024 – Present	Texas A&M University	Associate Professor

Dr. Bradford F. Hepfer earned a Ph.D. in Accounting from The University of Iowa in 2016. He is an expert on tax accounting. Through his research, he looks to advance scholarly practice in accounting research, offer new insights about the role of taxes in corporate and individual decisions, and provide useful evidence to business leaders, policymakers and investors. Dr. Hepfer's research has been published in top scholarly journals, including The Accounting Review and Review of Accounting Studies. He recently completed a three-year term on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Taxation Association, the leading tax accounting-specific journal. Dr. Hepfer possesses a wide array of teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His teaching has been recognized with the Montague-Center for Teaching for Excellence Award and the Ernst & Young Faculty Excellence Award. Since fall 2023, Dr. Hepfer has been an associate professor at The University of Iowa's Tippie College of Business. Prior to that, he served for seven years as an assistant professor in the James Benjamin Department of Accounting at Texas A&M University's Mays Business School. Dr. Hepfer also gained valuable public accounting experience in the tax practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Dr. Hepfer's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING MEDICINE

Name	**Present Rank** **Department**	**Yrs. Towards Tenure*** **Univ.**	 **Other Inst.**	**Effective Date** **Tenure**
Dr. Lucas H. Timmins	Associate Professor Engineering Medicine	1	7	Upon Approval by the Board
Ph.D. (2010)	Texas A&M University			
Fa 2016 – Su 2023 Su 2023 – Su 2023 Su 2023 – Present	University of Utah University of Utah Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2023) Associate Professor		

Dr. Lucas Timmins earned a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Texas A&M University in 2010. He holds the position of associate professor in the School of Engineering Medicine with courtesy joint appointments in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Multidisciplinary Engineering in the College of Engineering. He is an affiliate faculty member in the Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute at the University of Utah. Dr. Timmins has been active as a scientist in the mechanics of cardiovascular soft tissues for nearly 20 years. His research program focuses on coupling computational mechanics and medical imaging to address prevalent challenges in cardiovascular medicine. He is nationally recognized for translating his efforts to establish disruptive technologies that advance patient care. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, and Burroughs Welcome Fund (received ~$2.2 million in research funding). Dr. Timmins is an active member of several professional societies, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Biomedical Engineering Society.

Dr. Timmins' file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

SCHOOL OF LAW

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Ms. Katherine Mims Crocker	Professor Law	0	5	Upon Approval by the Board
J.D. (2012)	University of Virginia			
Fa 2019 – Su 2022 Fa 2022 – Su 2024 Su 2024 – Present	William & Mary University William & Mary University Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenure-Track) Professor		

Ms. Katherine Mims Crocker earned her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2012, graduating first in her class. She earned her undergraduate degree cum laude from Harvard University in 2009. Ms. Crocker served as a law clerk to Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court of the United States. She then practiced law with an emphasis on appellate litigation at McGuireWoods LLP in Richmond, Virginia. Ms. Crocker completed a fellowship at Duke Law School before joining the faculty of William & Mary Law School. She has taught courses on federal courts, state and local-government law, civil procedure, and property, and she co-taught a course on judicial decision-making. Ms. Crocker's research focuses on federal courts, structural constitutional law, civil-rights litigation, and state and local-government law. She has published or has articles forthcoming in multiple top law reviews, including the Duke Law Journal, the Michigan Law Review, the Minnesota Law Review, the Notre Dame Law Review, and the Virginia Law Review. She is also an affiliate of the Stanford Constitutional Law Center and was a Campbell Visiting Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution.

Ms. Crocker's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

SCHOOL OF PERFORMANCE, VISUALIZATION & FINE ARTS

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Rebecca Hays	Associate Professor Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts	0	14	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
DMA (2008)	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign			
Fa 2008 – Sp 2012 Fa 2014 – Present Su 2024	Mississippi State University Texas Tech University Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2020) Associate Professor		

Dr. Rebecca Hays earned a Doctor of Music Arts in Vocal Performance and Literature with Music Education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2008. Soprano and native Texan, Dr. Hays brings over 20 years of collegiate teaching experience to Texas A&M University. As a performing artist, she is known for

singing music in the traditional classical repertoire and championing music by underrepresented composers. Dr. Hays is a recording artist for the Albany and Centaur record labels, where her grant-funded recordings reflect this passion. She is a sought-after master-class artist and adjudicator. While at Texas Tech University, Dr. Hays' research interests were closely related to her work as a community outreach activist. Her partnerships have resulted in the introduction of opera to tens of thousands of K-12 students. As a teacher of applied voice, Dr. Hays has chaired or served on many graduate student committees and is consistently ranked as excellent in course evaluations. Her former students are teaching in both the public school and university settings and performing with major opera and musical theatre companies and orchestras. Dr. Hays is passionate about creating global citizens, which is reflected through her work as the Artistic Director of Music in the Marche, an Italian opera training program. She is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the College Music Society and Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity.

Dr. Hays' file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

Dr. Lynn Vartan	Associate Professor Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts	0	>15	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
DMA (2004)	University of Southern California			
Fa 2008 – Sp 2013 Fa 2013 – Sp 2016 Fa 2016 – Su 2024 Su 2024	Southern Utah University Southern Utah University Southern Utah University Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2013) Professor Associate Professor		

Dr. Lynn Vartan earned a Doctor of Music Arts in Music, Percussion Performance, Emphasis in Music Education, Music History, and Theatre Design from the University of Southern California in 2004. She is an internationally renowned music performer and educator, known for her collaborative performances and artistry. She has been Grammy nominated multiple times and was a performer on an album that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in music. She has been invited internationally to perform and teach in Europe, Vietnam, Cambodia, Romania, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Mexico, and Hong Kong among others, and is currently a U.S. Fulbright Specialist. Dr. Vartan is endorsed by the Paiste Corporation, Remo Inc. and Marimba One, and has a signature series of marimba mallets developed for her. Dr. Vartan has been awarded $200,000 in grant money for musical projects and has commissioned and/or premiered nearly 50 new musical works. Dr. Vartan teaches courses in music performance, history, theory, ensembles, and entrepreneurship. She has led upwards of 50 students to win numerous scholarships/graduate assistantships and bring home top prizes in university, national and global music competitions. She has served by creating the Southern Utah University Percussion Festival and the Satellite Salon Music series, as well as serving and engaging in multiple college and university committees. Dr. Vartan also held the leadership position of curating and directing the university premiere lecture series, *Ask, Ponder, Educate, and [X] Events*.

Dr. Vartan's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

* Each university determines, through a review process, the number of years each faculty member will be awarded tenure based on his/her dossier.

Agenda Item No. 6.14

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Mark A. Welsh III, President
Texas A&M University

Subject: Establishment of the Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center

Proposed Board Action:

Establish the Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center (BP2) within the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs (Scowcroft Institute) at the Bush School of Government & Public Service (Bush School) at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M).

Background Information:

Biological threats, whether natural, accidental or deliberate in origin, pose increasing challenges to national and international security. This is highlighted in the U.S. Government's 2022 National Biodefense Strategy and Implementation Plan which calls for a whole-of-society response guided by prudent and assertive government policy.

Despite impressive advances in modern medicine, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the world's continued vulnerability to the devastating impacts of uncontrolled infectious disease outbreaks. COVID-19 caused over seven million deaths worldwide and cost the U.S. economy upward of $16 trillion. This experience additionally affirmed the fact that emerging and reemerging infectious disease threats do not respect borders and can quickly become regional or global security crises. Today, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1) has spread from poultry to cause an ongoing outbreak in dairy cattle. Trends such as a proliferation of high-containment biological laboratories without international consensus on biosafety standards or the ability to monitor compliance, rapid advances in biotechnology that are outpacing governance frameworks, increased interest in biological weapons by U.S. adversaries, and increased frequency of emerging infectious disease outbreaks point to the persistent—if not growing—need for policy solutions to address biological threats.

In recognition of this need, and in consultation with Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, USAF (Ret.), the Scowcroft Institute at the Bush School initially launched its Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program in 2014. This program raised external funding to host educational events and conduct impactful research that positioned Texas A&M as a leader in the field and informed key policymakers. As an example, the program's director, Dr. Gerald Parker, is a national and international thought leader whose experience and expertise are in high demand; he was called to testify before the U.S. Congress three times in 2023 and was asked to meet with high-level U.S. national security staff on multiple occasions. Post COVID-19, the Texas A&M Vice President for Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Research have additionally identified biosecurity research as an area of increasing priority. However, the current Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program has a limited capacity for fundraising and developing long-term collaborations with Texas A&M and external partners. In response, Texas A&M proposes elevating and expanding the program by establishing the BP2 within the Scowcroft Institute to better support The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) research enterprise. Establishing the proposed center will strengthen the

policy component of the expanding A&M System biosecurity research enterprise and ensure adequate resources will be available to continue leading the inevitable evolution of national and international biosecurity policies in pursuit of our vision: a world safe, secure, and resilient against existential biological threats.

To achieve this vision, the proposed center will leverage Texas A&M's expertise and close ties across academia, industry, and government to accomplish five mission objectives:

1. Conduct and disseminate impactful, high-quality, and nonpartisan research to develop policy options and inform policy stakeholders on crucial issues.
2. Create training and educational programs to develop the experts and leaders needed across academia, industry, and government to mitigate biological threats.
3. Develop partnerships between the A&M System and public and private organizations with complementary missions in biosecurity and related fields.
4. Convene decision-makers and subject matter experts to exchange knowledge across fields and advance pragmatic solutions to difficult technical and policy problems.
5. Serve as a technical resource to inform biological threat mitigation and pandemic preparedness policy, inform the public and support the A&M System, state, and national responses to future biological crises, which are inevitable.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Current projects from the proposed center are funded through existing grants and fellowships. In addition to funds independently raised, the Scowcroft Institute received a grant from the A&M System in 2021 that has supported the Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program. The program has approximately $3 million in its operating accounts. With the elevation of the program to a center, this funding will be used to support the BP2. As a result, the proposed center's operations are fully funded through 2030. It is expected that by the end of 2030, the center will be self-sustaining through extramural funding from philanthropic and government sources.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The BP2 will advance A&M System strategic imperatives 3, 4 and 7. Specifically, BP2's educational and mentorship activities will support strategic imperative 3; BP2's focus on impactful, high-quality and non-partisan policy research will complement existing A&M System laboratory and field research capabilities and support strategic imperative 4; and BP2's focus on biosecurity and the national security implications of emerging biotechnology will advance strategic imperative 7.

Agenda Item No. 6.14

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Establishment of the Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center is hereby established as an organizational unit of Texas A&M University within the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government & Public Service."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark A. Welsh III
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center (BP2)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Rationale for the Creation of the Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center (BP2)

Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) proposes the establishment of the Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center (BP2) within the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs (Scowcroft Institute) at the Bush School of Government & Public Service (Bush School). BP2 will support policymakers in confronting vital national and international biosecurity challenges, whether involving biological threats that emerge deliberately, accidentally, or naturally. To address these challenges, BP2 will educate students to be future leaders; conduct high-impact policy research across multiple disciplines and sectors; convene stakeholders to improve understanding of the issues and build coalitions to solve them; foster collaborations between industry, academia, and government; and develop policy options for decision-makers across the public and private sectors. BP2 will expand on the excellent work in this area already occurring at the Bush School and enable the widespread collaboration required to address these multifaceted national and international challenges, both within The Texas A&M University System (the A&M System) and with external partners. This will additionally help cement the national leadership of the A&M System in biosecurity.

The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated how difficult it is to contain and mitigate a highly transmissible respiratory pathogen, especially a pathogen with atypical asymptomatic transmission. After emerging in Wuhan, China, SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, rapidly spread around the globe despite efforts to contain the pathogen, exacting a heavy medical, economic, social, and political toll worldwide. Based on member state reporting, the World Health Organization attributes over seven million deaths to COVID-19, and some economists estimate that the pandemic cost $16 trillion in lives lost and economic damage in the U.S. alone. That these losses occurred despite modern medical technology, which enabled the development of a vaccine in record time, highlights the scope of the challenge of preventing, preparing for and responding to infectious disease outbreaks with epidemic and pandemic potential.

The challenge becomes even more pressing when considering the significant and growing risk posed by the accidental or deliberate release of laboratory-engineered pathogens. History demonstrates that high-containment laboratory accidents and breaches do occur. Most are quickly contained, but they can be serious. The last death from smallpox resulted from a breach at a laboratory in the United Kingdom in 1978. The last three outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), the disease caused by SARS-CoV-1, in 2003-2004 were traced to laboratories. High-containment laboratories (BSL-3 and BSL-4 facilities) are proliferating around the world, raising the risk of accidents, especially as some facilities struggle with operations and maintenance funding shortfalls, weak biosafety practices, and a lack of adequate oversight.

New gene editing technologies and falling costs for the synthesis of genetic material have made synthetic biology more accessible and improved the ability of scientists to engineer organisms. While this has enabled many positive applications, it may raise the risk of biological weapons proliferation or make accidents with modified organisms more consequential. New artificial intelligence, automation and data collection technologies may exacerbate these trends.

The U.S. Department of State reports that several countries are or may be developing biological weapons in defiance of the Biological Weapons Convention that bans their production, stockpiling and use. Several terrorist and extremist organizations, including Al Qaeda, the Aum Shinrikyo cult in Japan and the Rajneesh cult in Oregon, attempted to acquire pathogens for use in bioterrorism attacks; although Al Qaeda and Aum Shinrikyo were unsuccessful, the Rajneesh cult infected 751 members of a small Oregon town in a bid to influence local elections. The 2001 anthrax attacks, which investigators believe were the work of a single scientist suffering from mental health issues, illustrate another danger: insider threats from within the biodefense enterprise.

Agricultural systems in the U.S. and around the world also face serious biosecurity threats. African swine fever threatens pork production, foot and mouth disease endangers cattle herds and avian influenza perennially menaces the poultry industry. Today, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1) has spread from poultry to cause an ongoing outbreak in dairy cattle. Additionally, fungal infections threaten the extinction of the banana and bacterial infections are destroying citrus crops in Florida and Texas. To make matters worse, many past biological weapons programs included work to develop agents targeting agriculture, and current adversaries may have a goal of threatening U.S. food production.

Within the U.S., the White House established the National Biodefense Strategy and Implementation Plan through an executive order with ambitious goals that include the rapid development of medical countermeasures after identifying a threat, improving threat awareness through biological intelligence and detection, developing biological attribution capabilities, and strengthening laboratory biosafety and biosecurity. Mandated by Congress in the 2022 PREVENT Pandemics Act, the White House also established the Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy to lead efforts across the federal interagency and with state, local and private partners. Within Texas, the state government has allocated funding for the Texas Department of Emergency Management to maintain a stockpile of medical supplies in preparation for future biological and other emergencies. New technologies such as rapid vaccine manufacturing processes and improved personal protective equipment additionally offer the prospect of revolutionizing preparedness and response efforts.

The proposed BP2 will engage with these state and national strategies and promote and help focus the A&M System's biosecurity research enterprise on Texas and national priorities. The Bush School's centers and institutes prioritize cross-college collaborations – as then-Dean Welsh said, *"Collaboration between Bush School faculty and others with specialized knowledge in the Texas A&M System ensures that solutions proposed through research can be effectively implemented as policies."* Texas A&M internal collaborations facilitated by BP2 will help increase the probability of obtaining federal funding for basic and applied research related to biosecurity across the A&M System. Collaborators within this enterprise are listed in Section 3. The center will also serve as an essential and sought-after national leader as biosecurity policy inevitability evolves, as well as advising national, state, local, and private sector implementation.

The great national and international need for solutions combined with the complexity of the problem requires new collaborative and adaptable institutions. Establishing BP2 will help fill an important policy research gap and drive meaningful progress on these complex issues by building on the success of the Scowcroft Institute within the Bush School and its current Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program, leveraging the unique strength of Texas A&M's ties across academia, industry, and local, state, and federal government to achieve its mission.

In keeping with Texas A&M's mission as a land-grant university, BP2's education, research, and public policy engagement will save lives by promoting sound policies and contributing to a world safe, secure, and resilient against existential biological threats. BP2's teaching and mentorship activities will connect students with biosecurity professionals and prepare them for careers in public service. BP2's research will continue to emphasize several priority areas identified by the Texas A&M Division of Research. Additionally, BP2 will focus on pandemics and the national security implications of emerging biotechnology, two urgent international priorities. BP2's work will also support the Texas A&M research strategic themes of National Security (Sub-Theme: Biodefense and Biosecurity) and Emerging Technologies and Innovations (Sub-Themes: Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing & AI, Learning, and Autonomy).

2. General Description of the Center and Its Mission and Goals

2.1 Mission

The BP2 aims to position the Scowcroft Institute, the Bush School, and Texas A&M as international leaders in policy to strengthen biosecurity, improve pandemic preparedness and response, and counter biological weapons.

2.2 Vision

A world safe, secure, and resilient against existential biological threats.

2.3 Description of the center

In fulfilling its tripartite focus on research, service, and education, the BP2 will draw on expertise from a range of disciplines as well as faculty from across the university focused on advancements in biosecurity, pandemic preparedness and response, and emergency management. BP2 will leverage this expertise to conduct and disseminate impactful, high-quality, and nonpartisan policy research that informs policy stakeholders on the crucial issues of biosecurity and pandemic preparedness. To accomplish this, BP2 will collaborate with other Texas A&M components and A&M System members as described in Sections 3.2 and 3.3. The center will also convene local, national, and international experts and decision-makers in these fields and develop collaborations with other leading organizations, increasing awareness of state and federal priorities within Texas A&M's and the A&M System's biosecurity research enterprises. BP2 will additionally offer educational programs and real-world training that develop students' skills and networks, preparing them for public policy and biosecurity careers in Texas, national-level public service and around the world. BP2 will serve our local communities, nation, and world in advance of and during future biological crises by acting as a technical resource to inform preparedness policy, providing reliable information to the public and supporting the Texas A&M, state and national public health emergency responses.

2.4 Responsible administrative unit and members

The BP2 will be located within the Scowcroft Institute at the Bush School, where it will draw on the Bush School's deep expertise and extensive network within the field of national security. In addition to annual summits hosted in College Station, BP2 will make use of the Texas A&M DC Teaching Site, which contains event and meeting space situated four blocks north of the White House, making it an ideal venue for functions that inform and foster collaboration with policymakers, federal partners, and policy experts. The Texas A&M DC Teaching Site frequently hosts events for students, faculty, staff, and the public with current and former government officials and is also home to the Bush School DC, which offers Master of International Policy and Master of National Security and Intelligence degree programs.

3. Potential Faculty Associated with the Center and Potential Intra-system and Other Collaborations

BP2 will seek and facilitate collaboration with A&M System members and professional staff across the university, policy research organizations, other respected universities, national laboratories, industry partners, international organizations, stakeholders, and agencies and departments at all levels of government who are working to create a world resilient against biological threats, whether natural, accidental, or deliberate.

3.1 Core faculty

Gerald W. Parker, D.V.M., Ph.D., will be the director of BP2. Dr. Parker will be responsible for providing leadership, strategic vision, and administrative oversight. Dr. Parker is currently the associate dean for Global One Health at the School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and director of the Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program at the Scowcroft Institute. Dr. Parker is an internationally recognized expert on biosafety, biosecurity, and pandemic and all-hazards preparedness and response. He serves as a member of the Defense Science Board at the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), an ex officio member of the Bipartisan Commission for Biodefense and chairperson for the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity at the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Dr. Parker served as a senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from August 2020 to February 2021 to assist with the federal COVID-19 response. Prior to his appointment to Texas A&M, he held technical to executive leadership positions throughout 36 years of public service, including 26 years on active duty leading military medical research and development programs and organizations. He is a former Commander and Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. Dr. Parker held senior executive level positions at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), HHS, and the DOD, including serving as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at HHS, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense at DOD. Dr. Parker holds degrees from the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, the Baylor College of Medicine Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Professor Andrew S. Natsios will oversee BP2 as director of the Scowcroft Institute. Andrew S. Natsios is an Executive Professor at the Bush School (2012-present) and director of the Scowcroft Institute (2014-present). He was previously a Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service (2006-2012). Professor Natsios served as Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development from 2001 to January 2006. He was the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan (2006-2007) to deal with the Darfur crisis and the North-South peace agreement. He was the CEO of the Big Dig in Boston, the largest construction project in American history, after a cost-overrun scandal. Professor Natsios was Vice President of the NGO World Vision U.S. (1993-1998). He served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 23 years, on active duty during the Gulf War in 1991 and was a Lt. Colonel when he retired in 1995. He is a graduate of Georgetown University (B.A.) and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government (M.P.A.). Professor Natsios, with President George H. W. Bush's Deputy Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card Jr., edited *Transforming Our World: President George H. W. Bush and American Foreign Policy*. Professor Natsios is the author of three additional books and has published opinion pieces in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has published twenty-eight journal articles in, among others, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Washington Quarterly*, *The Foreign Service Journal*, *Parameters*, and *PRISM*.

Mr. Joshua Wentzel will be the assistant director of BP2. Mr. Wentzel has six years of experience working in the U.S. Congress, including as a professional staff member on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee working on pandemic preparedness policies, the Strategic National Stockpile and emergency response medical supplies and biosecurity issues including the Prepare for and Respond to Existing Viruses, Emerging New Threats and Pandemics Act (PREVENT Pandemics Act), which became law in 2022. During the COVID-19 pandemic response, Mr. Wentzel worked for the HHS in 2020 and 2021, working closely with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response on national distribution of COVID-19 medical countermeasures, daily situational awareness reports across federal agencies such as DHS and HHS, the Assistant Secretary's testimony to Congress, and regular communication with state and local governments. Mr. Wentzel formerly held a faculty position at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering.

The Scowcroft Institute Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program is also currently accepting applications for up to two new research assistant scientists or adjuncts who would be housed within the Department of International Affairs to teach courses to students in Bush School degree programs, contingent on the approval of the Department of International Affairs, in addition to conducting research work under BP2.

Faculty Affiliates:

- John R. August, BVetMed., Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
- Shawn G. Gibbs, Ph.D., M.B.A., Dean, School of Public Health
- Glenn Laine, Ph.D., Regent's Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Vice President for Research Emeritus, and Director, Michael E. DeBakey Institute for Comparative Cardiovascular Science and Biomedical Devices
- Jason Moats, Ph.D., Professor of Practice, School of Public Health, and Director, USA Center for Rural Health Preparedness
- Christy Blackburn, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Public Health

3.2 Current collaborators

BP2 intends to cultivate partnerships within the A&M System and externally while increasing the visibility of its work and building on the reputation of Texas A&M among communities of experts, practitioners, and other stakeholders. BP2 will strategically partner with organizations with complementary missions to conduct research projects and co-host or participate in events. BP2 will disseminate its policy research products and advertise its events widely to the public and students, especially the broader A&M System, College Station, and Washington, DC communities through the Washington D.C. teaching site.

Texas A&M schools and A&M System members:

- Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (VMBS)
- Texas A&M School of Public Health, including USA Center for Rural Health Preparedness
- Texas A&M Agrilife Research, including Cross-Border Threat Screening and Supply Chain Defense Center of Excellence

External policy researchers and academics:

- Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security
- Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology

- Brown University Pandemic Center
- Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense
- Federation of American Scientists

Commercial enterprises, non-profits, and professional associations:

Medical Countermeasures Coalition (MC2), a leading non-profit group supporting medical countermeasures development, procurement and deployment policy.

3.3. Potential collaborators with complementary biosecurity, public health, emergency response, and/or agricultural security expertise

Texas A&M Schools, Colleges and units and A&M System members:

- Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy
- Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
- Texas A&M Global Health Research Complex (GHRC)
- Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, including the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL)
- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)
- Texas A&M Engineering Experimental Station (TEES)
- National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing (NCTM)

External policy researchers:

- MITRE Corporation, a not-for-profit company operating six federally funded research and development centers that provide analysis and operational support to the U.S. Government
- RAND Corporation, a nonprofit institution dedicated to providing research and analysis with a major focus on national security
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Commercial enterprises, non-profits and professional associations:

- Global Health Investment Corporation, a venture fund focused on global health security
- American Hospital Association, a national organization that represents and serves hospitals, health care networks and their patients
- Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), a biotechnology trade association
- ABSA International, formerly the American Biological Safety Association

International organizations:

- World Health Organization
- European Commission Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA)

4. Core Activities

BP2's work will align with its five mission objectives:

Research: BP2 will produce timely and relevant policy research products including policy papers, event summaries and Congressional testimony (as applicable), to inform policy stakeholders and improve their decision-making.

BP2 will focus on U.S. domestic and international biosecurity policy, including participating in state and local policy discussions in Texas. In addition to conducting its own policy research, BP2 will consider funding policy research proposals from the A&M System or external partners for projects that address priority issue areas such as the ongoing outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) in dairy cattle.

BP2's proposed staff, as part of the Scowcroft Institute's Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program, have applied for federal funding through the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) Responsible Design, Development, and Deployment of Technologies (ReDDDoT) program, with Dr. Gerald Parker and Mr. Joshua Wentzel as Co-PIs, and with a researcher from Georgetown University joining as an unfunded collaborator.

Education and Training: BP2 aims to provide experiential educational opportunities to develop expertise and leadership across academia, industry, and government to mitigate biological threats. See Section 5 below for more details.

Convening: BP2 will convene experts and decision-makers from across academia, industry, all levels of government, international organizations, and private nonprofits to inform research projects, foster connections and provide information that leads to progress on biosecurity and pandemic policy and intellectual challenges. BP2 will hold workshops to reflect real-time policy developments and where academic convening and expertise may be of greatest value. BP2 will also host regular summits at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center open to students and the local community. Students working for the Scowcroft Institute have assisted with workshops organized by staff and have attended DC-based events to assist staff who were presenting.

Serve as a Technical Resource: BP2 will serve as a technical resource for ongoing biosecurity and pandemic preparedness priorities and support the A&M System, state, national, and international responses to future biological crises, which are inevitable.

Researchers under the Department of International Affairs will be hired to work with BP2, alongside staff with subject matter expertise that can offer policy guidance to government officials and other relevant decision-makers. BP2 will also deepen and maintain connections with stakeholders through sharing educational and research materials, hosting events and attending networking opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Gerald Parker helped form and co-lead the Texas Emergency Management Advisory Group, a coalition of the willing and able that advised A&M System and Texas officials on the COVID-19 response. Dr. Parker also joined HHS as a senior executive advisor to the nation's COVID-19 response under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, as well as serving on the Texas Experts Vaccine Advisory Group that helped guide vaccine distribution decisions at a time when vaccine supplies were limited, and demand was high. BP2 plans to maintain talent and funding to offer similar assistance during future crises.

Outreach and Collaboration: See Sections 3.2 and 3.3 above for a description of outreach and collaborations. BP2 will encourage staff and faculty to participate in professional conferences and other networking opportunities that broaden and deepen their connections.

5. Impact on Education and Training of Students

BP2 will cultivate and support student interest in public service careers and develop future leaders in biosecurity, a critically important area for national and international security and global health.

Upon graduation from the Bush School (or their respective School or College), students working for BP2 in College Station or at the Washington DC Teaching Site or taking BP2-sponsored classes will have had exposure to biosecurity and pandemic policy practitioners; will be more familiar with core concepts, the process for policy development and careers in relevant federal and non-federal entities; and will be better prepared to secure an in-demand position in the workforce.

BP2's educational activities and outputs will expose students to subject area experts and to research about cutting-edge biotechnology and the emerging bioethics and safety challenges that accompany it. Of particular interest to graduate students, BP2 is aligned with students considering careers in biosecurity policy and pandemic preparedness and response, such as the students enrolled in the Master of International Affairs and Master of Public Health (MIA/MPH) combined degree program at the Bush School. BP2 will additionally support the MIA concentration in Pandemic Preparedness & Disaster Response cross-listed in both the National Security and Diplomacy (NSD) and International Development and Economic Policy (IDEP) tracks within the MIA degree. In pursuit of these goals and to expand BP2's bandwidth, BP2 will hire up to two researchers, to be housed in the Department of International Affairs, for policy research and to teach graduate courses upon agreement of the Department of International Affairs that count toward the MIA/MPH degrees and Pandemic Preparedness & Disaster Response concentration.

The Scowcroft Institute Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program has demonstrated a history of support for research projects that provide opportunities for student researchers. This support has included field research for faculty and students as well as groundbreaking research to understand the drivers of vaccine hesitancy in Africa, which is now resulting in the publication of several new papers at the forefront of this research area. The Scowcroft Institute, through the Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program, has sponsored tabletop exercises for students to understand the dynamics of a government response to an infectious disease emergency. Students have been able to present findings from this exercise at an annual summit, future iterations of which BP2 will host at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center. The creation of BP2 will ease the coordination required to support similar projects for students and faculty.

6. Resource Requirements

BP2 is resourced through 2030 with the capability to support a director, assistant director, one to two researchers, and a small administrative staff including administrators shared with and jointly funded by the Scowcroft Institute, program assistants, and student workers. Annual budget requirements for salaries are estimated at $350,000 to support the director, assistant director, and student workers, and to support work travel, annual summits, numerous smaller workshops and other events, and supplies. A portion, 17.5% of the salary of the director, Dr. Parker, is paid by the center with the remaining portion of the salary supported by other university components. The center may provide seed grants to recipients outside of the Scowcroft Institute subject to availability of funding. Computers, office space, information technology support, and other services are provided by the Bush School.

Additional activities will be conducted subject to successful fundraising. In the unexpected event of a funding shortfall, the Scowcroft Institute will provide support for shared administrative staff. The creation of BP2 as a formal center will enhance the visibility of this work to external audiences and will be leveraged to generate new external interest from potential donors.

7. Sources and Future Expectations of Financial Support

Current funding sources
The Scowcroft Institute received a grant from the A&M System in 2021 that has supported the Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program. The program has approximately $3,000,000 in its operating accounts. With the elevation of the program to BP2, this funding will be used to support BP2. The Horizon Institute of Public Service is supporting all the expenses, including salary and overhead, for a visiting scholar (fellow) based in DC to work on biosecurity policy from August 2023 to August 2024.

Future funding sources
BP2 anticipates a mixture of funding from private philanthropic organizations with an interest in mitigating biological threats and government contracts or grants for events and research. BP2 will leverage its current funding position to apply for additional grants and support over the long term. The program has raised $1.2 million of which $520,000 is from private philanthropic organizations.

Possible government funders include NSF, DHS (especially for collaborations with the Cross Border Threat Screening and Supply Chain Defense Center of Excellence at Texas A&M), HHS, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Texas Department of State Health Services. The Scowcroft Institute Pandemic and Biosecurity Policy Program has applied for funding from the NSF's ReDDDoT program in the amount of $47,030. The program director has previously received federal funding for projects at Texas A&M outside of the Scowcroft Institute. The program has previously received funding from DHS.

Possible philanthropic funding sources include the Horizon Institute for Public Service, the Gates Foundation, Open Philanthropy, Effective Giving, Longview Philanthropy, Schmidt Futures, Arnold Ventures, and others. BP2 will also work to generate support from individual private donors, including those who have a history of contributing to the Scowcroft Institute. The Scowcroft Institute has successfully raised funds from outside the university through private donors including law firms, individuals associated with the Presidency of President George H. W. Bush, and others.

8. Governance and Advisory Structure

BP2 will be structured under A&M System Policy *11.02, Creation of Centers and Institutes* and led by a director reporting to the director of the Scowcroft Institute.

BP2 will also have a five-person internal steering committee composed of three representatives connected to the center's structure and two independent executive-level advisors from the A&M System. An External Advisory Board will be created, following A&M System and Texas A&M requirements, to help promote the mission, vision, and values of BP2 and to enhance innovation, collaboration and productivity of BP2. The external advisory board will be composed of nationally and internationally recognized biosecurity experts and will additionally advise the BP2 director. Both the steering committee and external advisory board will meet at least once per year, and members will serve at the pleasure of the board or committee. The external advisory board will consist of 3-5 members. Potential members will be selected by the BP2 director and, following required approval, will be invited to serve on an uncompensated basis.

Internal steering committee members will be as follows:

- BP2 Director (serves as chair) – Dr. Gerald Parker
- Scowcroft Institute Director – Professor Andrew Natsios
- BP2 Assistant Director – Mr. Joshua Wentzel
- Independent executive-level member – TBD
- Independent executive-level member – TBD

See Figure 1 for a visual representation of BP2's structure.

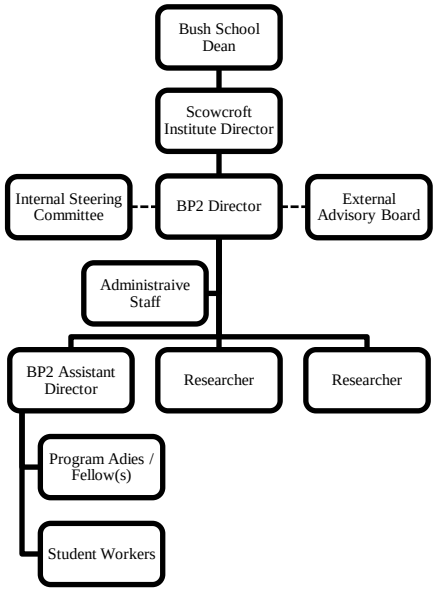

Figure 1. Structure of the Biosecurity and Pandemic Policy Center.

9. Mechanisms for Periodic Review

The BP2 will be reviewed in accordance with policies established for institutes and centers (i.e., A&M System Policy *11.02, Creation of Centers and Institutes,* A&M System Regulation *11.02.01 Management and Evaluation of Centers and Institutes,* and Texas A&M Standard Administrative Procedure *11.02.99.M0.01, Centers and Institutes*). The BP2 director will provide an annual report to the director of the Scowcroft Institute and the dean of the Bush School, who will forward to the vice president for research. An in-depth review will be performed every five years by a review committee as required by A&M System Regulation 11.02.01 and Texas A&M SAP 11.02.99.M0.01 which will provide feedback to the dean of the Bush School and the director of the Scowcroft Institute regarding the center's effectiveness in meeting its mission. Both the five-year review and annual reports/internal reviews will be shared with Texas A&M vice president for research who will review the reports and may provide comments and/or recommendations as to improvements or other actions that may be indicated. The final report of the periodic review will be submitted to the System Office of Academic Affairs and System Office of Research.

Agenda Item No. 6.15

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Mark A. Welsh III, President
Texas A&M University

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker

Proposed Board Action:

Authorize the president of Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker.

Background Information:

In accordance with Section 1.2 of System Policy *11.07, Granting of Honorary Degrees,* Texas A&M submits this request to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker. This recognition is in tribute to his distinguished career as an internationally noted leader in American foreign policy and diplomacy.

The nomination for this Honorary Doctor of Letters degree was received from Dr. F. Gregory Gause, Professor of International Affairs and John H. Lindsey ’44 Chair and is supported by Department Head Dr. David Bearce and the faculty of the International Affairs Department within the Bush School of Government & Public Service. The nomination was endorsed by the Texas A&M Committee on Honorary Degrees. The Faculty Senate, meeting in executive session, approved the nomination and recommended it to the president of Texas A&M.

With Board authorization, this honorary degree will be presented to Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker at the Texas A&M commencement ceremony in August 2024, when the Bush School of Government & Public Service graduates receive their degrees.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

None.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

Approval of this agenda item and awarding this Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Ambassador Crocker will recognize his outstanding and meritorious service toward The Texas A&M University System strategic imperatives 3 and 7. Specifically, Ambassador Crocker’s award-winning work in the Foreign Service and in support of American diplomacy worldwide is a model for today’s graduates to pursue as they strive to address national and global challenges while becoming responsible and engaged citizens.

Agenda Item No. 6.15

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 23, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

"The president of Texas A&M University is authorized to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker."

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark A. Welsh III
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Texas A&M University
Honorary Degree Candidate Summary of Accomplishments

Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker
Candidate for Honorary Doctor of Letters

Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker received his B.A. in English from Whitman College in 1971 and was a Mid-Career Fellow at Princeton University where he studied public policy and Near Eastern Affairs. For his seminal accomplishments, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009, the James Joyce Award from the Literary and Historical Society of University College Dublin in 2016, and the Sylvanus Thayer Award from the West Point Association of Graduates in 2020. He currently serves as a Senior Fellow for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Ambassador Crocker is a world-famous specialist in American diplomacy and foreign affairs. He is attributed with being his generation's leading American diplomat in the Greater Middle East, serving in some of the most important and complex environments for American foreign policy during his time with the Foreign Service. His work in tense environments such as Lebanon (1990-93), Kuwait (1994-97), Syria (1998-2001), and Afghanistan in 2002 earned him a reputation from presidents of both parties as a key player of Middle Eastern relations. He was the first American diplomat on the scene at the Marine Corps barracks bombing in Beirut, which ultimately contributed to him being recognized as only the 75th Honorary Marine in their long and illustrious history.

He was conferred the rank of Career Ambassador by President George W. Bush in 2004, the highest rank that the Foreign Service bestows. He is the recipient of numerous other awards and recognitions including, the Inaugural Bancroft Award from the Naval Academy (2016), the Director's Award from the Director of Central Intelligence (2012), and the Department of Defense Award for Civilian Service (1997, 2008).

Ambassador Crocker has interacted with faculty of Texas A&M University as Dean of the Bush School of Government & Public Service and Executive Professor (2010-2016). His awarding of this honorary degree would allow for a stronger campus connection, including presentation of lectures for students, and enhance the visibility of our programs in Government & Public Service.

In supporting the nomination, former Texas A&M University President and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates notes: "His experience in the Middle East allowed him to take his knowledge to the classroom to help students and through the media to share with a wider audience to further his belief that he could help improve the lives of others nationally and internationally." Dr. Gates continues by saying that Ambassador Crocker "is one of the finest public servants I have ever known, and I strongly endorse his nomination to receive an honorary degree from Texas A&M."

The Nomination is presented by the International Affairs Department and endorsed by the faculty of the Bush School of Government & Public Service, Interim Dean Frank B. Ashley III, the Committee on Honorary Degrees, Faculty Senate, Provost & Executive Vice President Alan Sams, and President Mark A. Welsh III.

Agenda Item No. 6.21

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Richard M. Rhodes, President
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Subject: Approval of a New Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership Degree Program and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (A&M-Central Texas) leading to a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

The A&M-Central Texas Ed.D. in Educational Leadership will prepare educators and other professionals for advanced responsibility, leadership and accountability in diverse communities of learning. The proposed program in Educational Leadership would be A&M-Central Texas's first doctoral program if approved. Therefore, there is no overlap or redundancy created by the proposed program. The existing and well-performing, Master of Education programs in Educational Leadership and Higher Education Leadership will provide a natural pipeline for students.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Financial implications for the proposed doctoral program will rely predominantly on current faculty members and will not require any new facilities beyond those currently available to faculty, staff and students. The university's space utilization and classroom availability are sufficient to meet the needs of the program for the foreseeable future. The program is expected to become self-sufficient within five (5) years based on anticipated costs and projected enrollment revenue.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:

The proposed degree will provide a high-quality and cost-effective doctoral program for educational administrators in Central Texas. Evidence of need and emphasis on evidence-based practice specifically align with imperatives three and six of The Texas A&M University System's (A&M System) strategic plan. Additionally, it aligns with Imperative 1.1 and 3.1 of the A&M-Central Texas Strategic Plan.

1.1 Develop and offer outstanding undergraduate and graduate programs that promote intellectual and personal growth, enhance student success, and respond to regional and statewide needs.

3.1 Prepare educated and engaged citizens that contribute to their communities and enhance the vitality of the region.

Agenda Item No. 6.21

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Doctor of Education Degree Program with a Major in Educational Leadership and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Central Texas leading to a Doctor of Education degree with a major in Educational Leadership.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Central Texas's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Richard M. Rhodes, Ph.D.,
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Doctor of Education
with a major in Educational Leadership
(CIP 13.0401.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Education and Human Development, Department of Educational Leadership and Human Development

The field of educational leadership (K-12 and higher education) is dynamic and complex, requiring leaders who are thoroughly prepared in the areas of assessment, administration, resource management, and law; while maintaining a foremost focus on student learning. Effective management of such complexities will require institutions to seek individuals with an understanding of best practices and the ability to conduct practical research. A potential avenue for obtaining such an advanced level of understanding is through a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership with specializations in either K-12 Administration leading to superintendent certification or College and University Administration. School district superintendents, community college presidents, and other central Texas community leaders are in full support of a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in educational leadership at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (A&M-Central Texas). Substantial interest in an educational leadership doctoral program by potential participants has been documented through a series of focus groups held in school districts and higher education institutions in the region.

Upon successful completion of program requirements, students will be able to:

- Analyze evidence-based trends in the field of educational leadership;
- Integrate multiple theoretical frameworks of educational leadership;
- Utilize practical research strategies to inform decision-making processes; and
- Prepare and present written work to both academic and practitioner audiences.

The outcomes for the proposed degree are relatively consistent with existing programs; however, the proposed program gives priority to evidence-based practices and strategies promotive of student and organizational success. A potential area of differentiation is the emphasis placed in the fourth outcome on preparing graduates to communicate effectively with both academic and practitioner audiences. These audiences require clear and evidence-based articulations of ideas and interventions, yet the way the information is conveyed should be tailored. Where academic writing is scholarly to advance the existing body of knowledge, peer audiences typically seek a more streamlined rationale and theoretical grounding and favor more robust descriptions of application.

Students will enter the program as part of a cohort and will progress through the required coursework in step with an outlined sequence. To maintain program rigor and fidelity, students will be limited to nine semester credit hours of transfer credit, and no course credit will be granted by examination or for professional experience. In addition, there is no universally accepted

competency-based approach to the field of educational leadership, and the proposed program will not accept competency-based requests for accelerations to candidacy.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2025.

A&M-Central Texas certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.146 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards and costs. The estimated new costs for the program's first five years are $1,610,285.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

The proposed Ed.D. in Educational Leadership would be A&M -Central Texas's first doctoral program if approved. Therefore, there is no overlap or redundancy created by the proposed program. The existing, and well-performing, Master of Education (M.Ed.) programs in Educational Leadership and Higher Education Leadership will provide a natural pipeline for students.

Population projections indicate a growing census in the Central Texas area, and that the number of Educational Leadership positions requiring doctorate-level education is also increasing. There are 38 public school districts in the general Central Texas region (Bastrop, Bell, Coryell, Falls, Lampasas, McLennan, Milam, Mills, Travis, and Williamson counties), four community colleges (Austin Community College System, Central Texas College, Temple College, and McLennan Community College), a technical college (Texas State Technical College), and four universities (Baylor University, A&M-Central Texas, Southwestern University, and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor) whose current employees constitute a large labor force in the region potentially attracted to the proposed degree. The median salary for K-12 district-level administrators is $108,305 (*TEA TAPR Reports, 2022*). The career outlook for postsecondary education administrators is strong, with a national median salary of $97,500 (BLS, 2020).

B. Projected Enrollment

Area interest in an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership has been strong for the past five years, and initial enrollment is sustainable based largely on graduates of the two M.Ed. programs in the department. The proposed program will utilize a cohort model, and students will be required to enroll as dictated by a specific full-time sequence.

Table 1. Enrollment Projections

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time					
In-state	7	11	18	29	45
Out-of-state					
Out-of-country					
FTSE Semester Credit Hours					
Part-Time					
In-state	2	2	2	2	2
Out-of-state					
Out-of-country					
FTSE Semester Credit Hours					
Total New Students	**9**	**13**	**20**	**31**	**47**
Total FTSE Semester Credit Hours	**54**	**105**	**151**	**164**	**175**
Attrition Headcount		0	0	1	5
Graduates	0	0	0	0	3
Cumulative Headcount	**9**	**22**	**42**	**72**	**111**

C. Existing State Programs

The nearest public institution offering the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration (CIP 13.0401), is Tarleton State University. This was an on-campus program but shifted to distance education delivery in 2020. The total enrollment in this program in 2017 was 123; it increased to 151 by 2021. In 2017, they had 12 students complete the program, by 2021, that number had grown to 26 completions.

The University of Mary Hardin Baylor, a nearby private institution, offers an on-campus Ed.D. with emphases in Higher Education/Higher Education Administration (CIP 13.0406) and in Superintendency and Educational System Administration (CIP 13.0411). Over the past five years, they have had an average of 9.5 students completing the Ed.D. with an emphasis on Higher Education, and 9.6 complete the Superintendency emphasis.

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

A&M-Central Texas has adequate faculty to support the program after one additional hire planned for summer 2025. Dr. Morgan Lewing will initially direct the doctoral program and devote at least 75% of his instructional workload to the Ed.D. coursework. Doctors Lisa Bunkowski, Tamlyn Jones, and Austin Vasek will also serve as core faculty members in the doctoral program. All faculty members, in cooperation with their respective academic leadership (i.e., College Dean and/or Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs), are qualified to teach each course they are assigned, whether by terminal degree, appropriate coursework, experience, related degree, discipline recognition, certifications, or relevant experience or other training. All related information needed is outlined in A&M-Central Texas Guidelines for Certification of Faculty Credentials.

B. Program Administration

The Ed.D. program will be housed within the College of Education & Human Development and Dr. Lewing will serve as the program coordinator.

C. Other Personnel

No additional support staff will be required for the new degree program.

D. Supplies, Materials

No new supplies or materials will be required to support the new program.

E. Library

The university library possesses ample resources to support the new program and has endorsed the degree plan's feasibility based on current capacity.

F. Equipment, Facilities

The doctoral program will not require any new facilities beyond those currently available to faculty, staff, and students. The university's space utilization and classroom availability are sufficient to meet the needs of the program for the foreseeable future.

G. Accreditation

The superintendent certification component is currently approved by the Texas Education Agency. No other accreditation will be required.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			**SOURCES OF FUNDING**	
Faculty	$1,610,285		Formula Income	$426,660
Program Administration			Statutory Tuition	$87,552
Graduate Assistants	$0		Reallocation	
Supplies & Materials			Designated Tuition	
Library & IT Resources			Other Funding:	$1,098,668
Equipment, Facilities				
Other				
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,610,285		**Estimated 5-year Revenues**	$ 1,612,880

Agenda Item No. 6.22

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Richard M. Rhodes, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Lieutenant General Horace "Pete" Taylor

Proposed Board Action:

Authorize the President of Texas A&M University-Central Texas (A&M-Central Texas) to award an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree to Lieutenant General Horace "Pete" Taylor, U.S. Army, Retired.

Background Information:

In accordance with Section 1.2 of System Policy *11.07, Granting of Honorary Degrees*, A&M-Central Texas submits this request to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Lieutenant General Horace "Pete" Taylor. This recognition is in tribute to his distinguished career and for the positive and significant impact his lifetime of service has made on A&M-Central Texas, the state of Texas, and the United States of America.

This nomination is supported by university leadership including Executive Staff which represents academic, financial, student affairs, and enrollment constituencies. It is also supported by specific endorsements by a committee including faculty representation, communications, and the coordinating leadership of the A&M-Central Texas chief of staff. With this broad-based support, the university is proud to endorse and forward this nomination in accordance with The Texas A&M University System Policy *11.07.*

With Board authorization, this honorary degree will be awarded in August 2024, at the commencement ceremony of A&M-Central Texas.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

None.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The A&M System Strategic Plan Imperative #5 affirms the System's commitment to provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas. Lieutenant General Taylor led the 40-year effort that brought together the Central Texas community of leaders, businessmen and women, U.S. Army leadership, chambers of commerce, legislative leaders, and higher education leaders to establish a public, state-supported, regional university for Central Texas.

Because of his extraordinary leadership and indefatigable will to accomplish this challenging goal, A&M-Central Texas has awarded almost 11,000 undergraduate and graduate degrees since 2009, significantly contributing to the strength of the state's economy. Furthermore, the many programs and services available at the university have and always will be focused on the needs of the county, region, and state.

With respect to Strategic Plan Imperative #2, Lieutenant General Taylor, formerly the two-term foundation board chair, made a bold promise to raise 100% of the funds needed to offer institutional scholarships for the university, thus proactively ensuring affordability. This original pledge benefits the university to this day, allowing university leadership to leverage its entire annual budget for programs, staff and necessary facilities that support enrollment growth.

Agenda Item No. 6.22

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS
Office of the President
June 12, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Lieutenant General Horace "Pete" Taylor

I recommend approval of the following minute order:

> **"Texas A&M University-Central Texas is authorized to award an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree to Lieutenant General Horace "Pete" Taylor, U.S. Army, Retired."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Richard M. Rhodes, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Central Texas
Honorary Degree Candidate Summary

Lieutenant General Horace "Pete" Taylor, U.S. Army, Retired
Candidate for Honorary Doctor of Letters

Lieutenant General Horace "Pete" Taylor, U.S. Army, Retired, has tirelessly dedicated himself to public education in Central Texas. Lieutenant General Taylor has spent four decades making significant contributions to education at all levels and was among the most prominent community leaders involved in the legislative campaign and subsequent gubernatorial approval that added Texas A&M University-Central Texas to The Texas A&M University System in 2009.

For more than 33 years, Lieutenant General Taylor fulfilled his oath as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, demonstrating exceptional leadership focused on training, planning, operations, and crisis management culminating in his appointment as Commanding General at Fort Hood (now Fort Cavazos).

Lieutenant General Taylor is well-known and much beloved in Central Texas, recognized and revered as a man who devoted his Army career in service to thousands of servicemen and women and their families. Lieutenant General Taylor tirelessly led and often initiated projects that served the community, the county, and the Central Texas region. After retiring from the U.S. Army in 1993, Lieutenant General Taylor served as one of five congressionally appointed members on the Overseas Basing Commission, founded the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, and the Military Child Education Coalition, serving as chair for both.

Lieutenant General Taylor championed a decades-long battle of more than 40 years to address the lack of public higher education in Central Texas. Serving as the Chairman of the Central Texas University Task Force, he rallied community leaders, business owners, and educational advocates who – individually and collectively – developed and executed the over-arching strategies that persisted through multiple legislative setbacks. His efforts eventually resulted in legislative approval via the passage of SB 629, ultimately signed by former Governor Rick Perry and formally establishing Texas A&M University-Central Texas as the 11th regional university within the A&M System.

Lieutenant General Taylor's legacy of philanthropy and dedication to making undergraduate degrees affordable remains a cornerstone of the university foundation board. He has also personally funded the Lt. Gen. (Ret.) H. G. "Pete" Taylor Endowed Scholarship to benefit former military men and women seeking teaching certification, worked tirelessly to establish and implement the General Robert Shoemaker Scholarship creating a permanently funded scholarship pathway from Shoemaker High School to Central Texas College to A&M-Central Texas, and in 2015, he funded the Mary Jane Taylor Advancement and Alumni Services Suite in honor of his late wife. His commitment is also more than monetary, as he is well-known for mentoring scholarship recipients and A&M-Central Texas students and staff, as well as students from Shoemaker High School and Central Texas College, encouraging them to pursue their undergraduate and graduate degree goals.

Agenda Item No. 6.23

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE
Office of the President
May 29, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024,
Texas A&M University-Commerce

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at Texas A&M University-Commerce as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 24-04."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark J. Rudin
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.23
EXHIBIT

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE
BACKGROUND OF FACULTY
RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE
TENURE LIST NO. 24-04

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Michael K. Schmit	Associate Professor Counseling	2	5	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2016)	Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi			
Fa 2016 – Su 2018 Fa 2018 – Fa 2020 Sp 2021 – Fa 2021 Sp 2022 – Sp 2024	University of North Texas Texas A&M University-Commerce Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School		Assistant Professor Assistant Professor (2 years toward tenure) Assistant Professor Associate Professor	

Dr. Schmit excels in scholarship in the larger realm of counseling and therapy. He has 22 peer-reviewed articles (and another in press), an academic book, a book chapter under contract, and numerous other encyclopedia entries and newsletter articles. Dr. Schmit is a strong classroom instructor. His teaching evaluation scores, for almost every course he has taught, are well above departmental and college standards. Dr. Schmit's service record is also strong. He has been both a reviewer and editor for journals in the counseling field and frequently serves as a program reviewer for professional conferences. Within his university settings he has served on numerous committees including being the accreditation liaison for both Higher Learning Commission and Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Dr. Schmit's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND ARTS

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Joseph Romero	Professor Literature and Languages	0	>15	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (1999)	Duke University			

Fa 2001 – Sp 2006 Fa 2006 – Sp 2015 Fa 2015 – Sp 2024	University of Mary Washington University of Mary Washington University of Mary Washington	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2006) Professor

Dr. Joseph Romero's research interests are in Higher Education Leadership, Hellenistic Greek and Latin Literature, and Literature's Engagement with Philosophy. His publication record includes several articles and serving as a co-editor for a book, as well as numerous presentations on the classics, philosophy and religion. In addition, he has an impressive service record in his department, college and university. He is an active member in professional organizations related to his field and has been selected to serve as a fellow with the American Philological Association, Duke University, and American Council on Education.

Dr. Romero's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

Name	**Present Rank** **Department**	**Yrs. Towards Tenure*** **Univ.**	 **Other Inst.**	**Effective Date** **Tenure**
Dr. Erin Webster Garrett	Professor Literature and Languages	0	>15	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2001)	University of Denver			
Fa 2001 – Sp 2007 Fa 2007 – Sp 2013 Fa 2013 – Sp 2018 Fa 2018 – Sp 2024	Radford University Radford University Radford University Virginia Commonwealth University	Assistant Professor Associate Professor (Tenured 2012) Professor Associate Professor		

Dr. Erin Webster-Garrett has received consistently high teaching evaluations in courses spanning first-year writing through graduate courses in 18th and 19th century literatures in English. In addition, she received national recognition for teaching innovations in digital humanities and engaged learning. She oversaw more than 40 student independent projects each semester and has served as a faculty fellow mentor and as part of the Grace E. Harris Leadership network. She has been active in grant-writing, publishing and has been regularly involved in professional development activities related to research and teaching.

Dr. Webster-Garrett's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

* Each university determines, through a review process, the number of years each faculty member will be awarded tenure based on his/her dossier.

Agenda Item No. 6.24

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Mark J. Rudin, President
Texas A&M University - Commerce

Subject: Approval of Amended Mission Statement and Authorization to Provide Notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the amended mission statement for Texas A&M University-Commerce (A&M-Commerce) and authorize notification of the amendment to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Background Information:

As provided by 19 Texas Administrative Code, §5.24 Submission of Mission Statements and Planning Notification and The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) Policy *03.02, Academic Mission Statements and Program Inventory*, the Board of Regents approves changes to an institution's mission statement. A&M-Commerce completed a review of its mission as it relates to the goals, objectives and strategies for the university outlined in the refreshed 2024-2029 strategic plan. Through the planning process of the 2024-2029 strategic plan, it was determined that the mission statement should be amended to reflect better the university's goals, objectives and strategies. The existing and amended mission statements are attached.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

There are no funding implications for this request.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

This agenda item supports the Strategic Plan Imperatives 1, 2, and 3. A&M-Commerce's new mission statement ensures that: (1) All qualified students will find a place in the A&M System and will have an array of pathways to pursue their ambitions and interests; (2) The A&M System will remain affordable and accessible; and (3) Our students will leave the A&M System as responsible and engaged citizens prepared for successful careers in an increasingly global economy. These three imperatives are embodied in A&M-Commerce's new mission statement, which serves as the foundation for the university's strategic goals, objectives and strategies to serve local, regional and global stakeholders.

Agenda Item No. 6.24

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE
Office of the President
June 3, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Amended Mission Statement and Authorization to Provide Notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the amended Mission Statement for Texas A&M University-Commerce as shown in the attached exhibit. The Board also authorizes notification of Texas A&M University-Commerce's amended Mission Statement to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark J. Rudin
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Amended Mission Statement

(REVISED – WITHOUT ANNOTATIONS)

MISSION STATEMENT

We Transform Lives.

We transform lives by providing an accessible education in an environment where faculty and staff care and are dedicated to the success of all our students throughout their academic career. We empower our students, faculty and staff to become the best version of themselves by supporting their continuous development and growth. Fueled by our resilience, tenacity and talents, we strengthen the rural and urban communities we serve. Innovation is the heartbeat of Texas A&M University-Commerce, with career preparedness as a cornerstone of our educational mission. We are committed to ensuring our graduates are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Through robust career exploration, internships, industry partnerships, and skill development initiatives, we bridge the gap between academia and the workplace.

Amended Mission Statement
(REVISED - ANNOTATED)

~~Educate. Discover. Achieve.~~

We Transform Lives.

We transform lives by providing an accessible education in an environment where faculty and staff care and are dedicated to the success of all our students throughout their academic career. We empower our students, faculty and staff to become the best version of themselves by supporting their continuous development and growth. Fueled by our resilience, tenacity and talents, we strengthen the rural and urban communities we serve. Innovation is the heartbeat of Texas A&M University-Commerce, with career preparedness as a cornerstone of our educational mission. We are committed to ensuring our graduates are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Through robust career exploration, internships, industry partnerships, and skill development initiatives, we bridge the gap between academia and the workplace.

EXISTING MISSION STATEMENT

INSTITUTION: Texas A&M University-Commerce

Educate. Discover. Achieve.

Agenda Item No. 6.26

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI
Office of the President
May 17, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024,
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 24-04."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Kelly M. Miller
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.26
EXHIBIT

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI
BACKGROUND OF FACULTY
RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE
TENURE LIST NO. 24-04

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Kyoko Amano	Professor English	0	>15	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2002)	State University of New York at Binghamton			
Fa 2021 – Present Fa 2017 – Sp 2021 Fa 2014 – Sp 2017 Su 2008 – Sp 2014 Fa 2003 – Sp 2008	University of Houston-Victoria Lock Haven University University of Indianapolis University of Indianapolis University of Indianapolis	Professor Professor Professor Associate Professor Assistant Professor		

Dr. Kyoto Amano's research focuses on post-war Japanese and Japanese American literature. She has authored or co-authored four peer-reviewed journal articles, one book chapter, and several other items, including articles, creative non-fiction pieces, book reviews, and poetry. Dr. Amano has received $287,000 as Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI on internal and external grants, awards, and fellowships, including three National Endowment for the Humanities awards. She is working on a book project titled, *Atomic Bomb Literature in the U.S.*

Dr. Amano teaches a variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including honors project proposals, first-year literature and a study abroad course titled Hiroshima Peace. Her service includes advising Honors students. Her many administrative roles include serving as Dean at the University of Houston-Victoria (2021-present) and Lock Haven University (2017-2021). Prior to those positions, she served as Department Chair at the University of Indianapolis, where she earned the rank of full professor.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Kyoko Amano has behaved in a professional manner across her career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Name	Present Rank Department	Yrs. Towards Tenure* Univ.	 Other Inst.	Effective Date Tenure
Dr. Cathy L. Miller	Professor Nursing and Health Sciences	3	6	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Post-Doctoral (2017) Ph.D. (2014)	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine University of Texas-Tyler			
Fa 2018 – Present Fa 2015 – Sp 2018	University of Texas at Tyler Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi		Professor Associate Professor	

Dr. Cathy Miller's research focuses on health-care related to trauma, resilience, child sex trafficking, and other gender-based violence. She has authored and co-authored seven peer-reviewed journal articles, multiple textbook contributions and other scholarly work. Dr. Miller has received $506,200 as Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI on internal and external grants, including one from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, in the Department of Justice. In 2020, Dr. Miller was named a Nurses with Global Impact Honoree by the United Nations.

Dr. Miller teaches a variety of graduate courses in nursing and consistently earns excellent teaching evaluations. She is a member of the Board of Directors and serves as Director of Research and Scholarship for the United Nations Global Strategic Operatives for the Eradication of Human Trafficking. She also works on the prevention of human trafficking with multiple state and federal agencies. Dr. Miller was promoted to Professor and awarded tenure at the University of Texas at Tyler in 2018.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Cathy Miller has behaved in a professional manner across her career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

*Each university determines, through a review process, the number of years each faculty member will be awarded tenure based on his/her dossier.

Agenda Item No. 6.33

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program, with a Major in Computer Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Engineering**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

A&M-Texarkana is seeking approval to offer a B.S. degree in Computer Engineering. The proposed program is tailored to prepare students for professional careers in computer, hardware and software engineering. This program will focus on designing, developing and evaluating innovative computing solutions, covering specialized areas such as computer and embedded systems architecture and design, software engineering and computer networking.

Program graduates will be equipped to pursue careers in developing cutting-edge computing technologies, engaging in research and development or advancing their studies in the field.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Institutional funds will be used to support the B.S. in Computer Engineering. The program will consist of four core faculty members hired over the first four years. In addition, four faculty members will serve as support faculty members. The new costs for the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed B.S. in Computer Engineering aligns with The Texas A&M University System (System) strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.33

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program, with a Major in Computer Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana leading to a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Bachelor of Science
with a major in Computer Engineering
(CIP 14.0901.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: Division of Information Systems and Computing Technologies within the College of Business, Engineering, and Technology

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Engineering (CENG) at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) is tailored to prepare students for professional careers in computer, hardware and software engineering. This program focuses on designing, developing and evaluating innovative computing solutions, covering specialized areas such as computer and embedded systems architecture and design, software engineering and computer networking. By emphasizing various engineering principles, critical analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, and effective communication, the program aims to cultivate a deep understanding of computer engineering concepts.

Upon completion, program graduates will be equipped to pursue careers in developing cutting-edge computing technologies, engaging in research and development or advancing their studies in the field. The curriculum is designed to foster adept engineers, innovators and leaders capable of applying their expertise across diverse realms of computing and networking. Students will gain a holistic understanding of computer engineering concepts, honing their skills in analysis, design, problem-solving, and communication, thus preparing them for immediate entry into the computer industry and providing a strong foundation for further academic pursuits or leadership roles in the field.

The B.S. CENG degree program is comprised of 125 semester credit hours (SCH), which includes 110 SCH of core courses, 9 SCH of prescribed electives and 6 SCH of a final project.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2025.

A&M-Texarkana certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

Employment of computer hardware engineers is projected to grow 5% from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). About 4,600 openings for computer hardware engineers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. In Texas, the projected employment for computer hardware engineers from 2020 to

2030 is expected to increase from 4,470 to 5,090, marking a 14% growth which is higher than the national average.

B. Projected Enrollment

Table 1 provides the projected five-year enrollment and includes full-time, part-time, in-state, out-of-state, and international students. The estimated enrollment is 18 students in year one and is expected to increase to 43 in year five.

Table 1. Projected Five-Year Enrollments

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time					
In-state	10	15	18	20	25
Out-of-state	3	3	4	5	5
Out-of-country	0	0	1	1	2
Part-Time					
In-state	3	4	4	5	6
Out-of-state	2	2	2	2	5
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Total New Students	**18**	**24**	**29**	**33**	**43**

C. Existing State Programs

Table 2 provides the existing public and private degree programs that are distributed geographically across Texas. This program is not currently offered within 100 miles of the Northeast Texas region. This is a significant disadvantage for the area. Northeast Texas includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties.

Table 2. Graduates of Existing Texas Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Programs (CIP Code 14.0901.00)

University	2021-2022
University of Houston-Clear Lake	30
University of Houston	30
Texas A&M International University	0
LeTourneau University	7
University of North Texas	30
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	47
Prairie View A & M University	17
St. Mary's University	17
Southern Methodist University	2
Texas A & M University-Kingsville	0
Texas A & M University-College Station	192
The University of Texas at Arlington	35
The University of Texas at Dallas	91
The University of Texas at Tyler	0
The University of Texas at San Antonio	50
Texas Tech University	37
DeVry University-Texas	0

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

The B.S. CENG program consists of four core faculty members hired over the first four years of the program. In addition, four faculty members will serve as support faculty members.

B. Program Administration

An administrative stipend for the program coordinator is included at a cost of $30,000 over five years.

C. Other Personnel

A shared administrative assistant is included at a cost of $35,000 per year. This administrative assistant will be shared with the Division of Engineering.

D. Supplies, Materials

Laboratory supplies and materials at a cost of $5,000 in year one and $2,000 for the next five years. A program coordinator stipend of $8,000 in years two through five.

E. Library

Purchase of software to accompany equipment in Robotics and Data Communication/Networking labs at a cost of $10,000 each year.

F. Equipment, Facilities

Creation of a Robotics Lab ($100,000) and Data Communication/Networking Lab ($200,000) for students.

G. Accreditation Page

The College of Business, Engineering and Technology will apply for accreditation with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) in year three. The standard cost for ABET accreditation is $12,895. This includes $3,885 base fee for program review, $3,885 fee for two program evaluators, off-campus location visits (two) at $420 each, and other travel-related expenses at $400.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$1,170,000		Formula Income	$465,602
Program Administration	$30,000		Statutory Tuition	
Graduate Assistants			Reallocation	
Supplies & Materials	$45,000		Designated Tuition	
Library & IT Resources	$50,000		Other Funding:	
Equipment, Facilities	$300,000		Tuition	$1,331,057
Other – Accreditation	$12,895		Fees	$455,190
Other – Personnel	$35,000			
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,642,895		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	$2,251,849

Agenda Item No. 6.34

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Business Administration Degree Program with a Major in Quantitative Finance, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) leading to a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Quantitative Finance**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

A&M-Texarkana is seeking approval to offer an M.B.A. degree in Quantitative Finance. The proposed program is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) designated degree that focuses on critical thinking and analytical problem-solving. The educational objectives for this degree program include the demonstration of the application of a set of professional code of ethics and standards of conduct and the application of financial principles and techniques for management decision-making and investment analysis.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Institutional funds will be used to support the M.B.A. in Quantitative Finance. The program currently has two core faculty members and will seek to add two additional support faculty. The new costs for the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed M.B.A. in Quantitative Finance aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.34

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Business Administration Degree Program with a Major in Quantitative Finance, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new Master of Business Administration degree program, with a major in Quantitative Finance at Texas A&M University-Texarkana.

The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Master of Business Administration
with a major in Quantitative Finance
(CIP 27.0305.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Business, Engineering, and Technology, Division of Business

Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) proposes to offer the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree program with a major in Quantitative Finance. The proposed program is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) designated degree that focuses on critical thinking and analytical problem-solving. The curriculum provides a strong theoretical foundation with practical applications using various professional and statistical software applications and databases such as the Bloomberg Terminal and BankFocus. The program will seek accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and participation in the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute's University Affiliation program, which demonstrates a dedication to high standards and quality.

The educational objectives for the proposed M.B.A. degree program include the demonstration of the application of a set of professional code of ethics and standards of conduct. This includes the application of financial principles and techniques for management decision-making and investment analysis. Additionally, the demonstration of proficiency in the various use of technology application and database to analyze data and communication, verbal and written, of financial analysis and recommendations.

The proposed Quantitative Finance degree is comprised of 30 semester credit hours (SCH) and allows students to pursue specialization through the Certified Financial Accountant (CFA®) track. Students will complete similar coursework if they pursue a general track without the CFA specialization. The courses particular to the CFA track adhere to a defined list of CFA Institute courses that are mapped to their curriculum. This is required to participate in CFA Institute's University Affiliation Program offering a recognition of quality as well as discounts for students who decide to pursue the CFA charter.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2025.

A&M-Texarkana certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

STEM occupations are expected to grow by approximately 11% from 2022 to 2032. Non-STEM occupations are expected to grow 2% during the same time. The median annual wage for STEM occupations in 2022 is $97,980, while the mean annual salary for non-STEM occupations is $44,670. Financial managers are listed as the occupation with the most job growth from 2022 to 2032.

Texas Workforce Commission expects increases in employment through 2030. The need for the following positions and expected increase are listed below:

- Financial Managers = 33.28%
- Financial and Investment Analysts = 21.17%
- Financial Risk Specialists = 21.17%
- Personal Financial Advisors = 20.92%
- Financial Quantitative Analyst = 21.17%
- Investment Fund Managers = 33.28%

B. Projected Enrollment

Table 1. provides the projected enrollment of 14 students in year one increasing to 51 students in year four of the program.

Table 1. Projected Enrollment

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time					
In-state	2	3	5	6	6
Out-of-state	2	3	6	8	8
Out-of-country	8	12	20	30	30
Part-Time					
In-state	2	3	5	7	7
Out-of-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Total New Students	**14**	**21**	**36**	**51**	**51**

C. Existing State Programs

The existing programs in Texas are in large metropolitan areas.

Table 2. Existing Texas Public Universities Degree Programs (CIP Code 27.0305.00) and Graduates

Degree Title & Designation	University	2021-2022
Master of Science degree with a major of Quantitative Finance	Texas A&M University	4
Master of Science in Finance degree with a major of Finance	Texas A&M University-Commerce	N/A
Master of Science degree with a major of Quantitative Finance and Economics	Texas State University	5
Master of Science degree with a major of Quantitative Finance	The University of Texas at Arlington	12

Master of Science in Finance degree with a major of Finance	The University of Texas at Austin	62
Master of Business Administration degree with a major of Financial Mathematics	The University of Texas at Austin	
Master of Science degree with a major of Financial Technology and Analytics	The University of Texas at Dallas	87
Master of Science degree with a major of Finance	The University of Texas at San Antonio	22
Master of Science degree with a major of Finance	The University of Texas Permian Basin	0
Master of Science degree with a major of Finance	University of Houston	53
Master of Science degree with a major of Finance	University of North Texas	13

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty
The program currently has two core faculty members and will add two additional support faculty.

B. Program Administration
No additional program administration costs are required.

C. Other Personnel
No other personnel costs are required.

D. Supplies, Materials
The institution will allocate $380,365 for several statistical software packages: Eviews, MatLab, STATA, Gauss, FactSet, S&P Capital IQ, WRDS.

E. Library
No library costs are required.

F. Equipment, Facilities
No equipment or facilities costs are required.

G. Accreditation Page
No accreditation is being sought for this program.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$1,404,000		Formula Income	$596,413
Program Administration			Statutory Tuition	
Graduate Assistants	$47,424		Reallocation	
Supplies & Materials	$380,365		Designated Tuition	
Library & IT Resources			Other Funding:	
Equipment, Facilities			Tuition	$1,531,507
Other			Fees	$312,554
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,831,789		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	$2,440,474

Agenda Item No. 6.35

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Healthcare Administration Degree Program, with a Major in Healthcare Administration, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) leading to a Master of Healthcare Administration (M.H.A.), with a major in Healthcare Administration**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

A&M-Texarkana is seeking approval to offer an M.H.A. degree in Healthcare Administration. The proposed program is recommended for individuals pursuing a career as a healthcare executive in a variety of settings such as hospital systems, rehabilitation hospitals and home health agencies. The M.H.A. will prepare graduates to develop, plan and manage healthcare operations, finances, resource allocation, policy making, and services within healthcare facilities and across healthcare systems.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Institutional funds will be used to support the M.H.A. in Healthcare Administration. Three core faculty members will be hired within the first three years of the program. Two additional support staff members are currently employed at the university. The new costs for the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:

The proposed M.H.A. in Healthcare Administration aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.35

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Healthcare Administration Degree Program, with a Major in Healthcare Administration, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana leading to a Master of Healthcare Administration with a major in Healthcare Administration.

The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Master of Healthcare Administration
with a major in Healthcare Administration
(CIP 51.0701.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services, Division of Nursing

The Master of Healthcare Administration (M.H.A.) is a two-year, five-semester master's degree program recommended for individuals pursuing a career as healthcare executives in a variety of settings such as hospital systems, rehabilitation hospitals and home health agencies. The M.H.A. will prepare its graduates to develop, plan and manage healthcare operations, finances, resource allocation, policy making, and services within healthcare facilities and across healthcare systems, with an emphasis on social determinants of health.

The program observes educational objectives applying management and leadership principles to adaptively lead diverse people, teams, and organizations in private, public, for-profit, and nonprofit healthcare organizations. Students will be able to:

- Develop institutional goals and coherent strategies that directly align with the organization's mission and vision.
- Use informatics and data analysis to improve decision-making processes and healthcare operations to provide exemplary patient care and ensure equitable access to quality health services.
- Facilitate open and effective communication and develop relationship management skills to establish rapport and cultivate trust among diverse stakeholders.
- Create time-sensitive and budgetary solutions to address healthcare inequities caused by political, socioeconomic, financial, demographic, and technological disparities that meet the needs of local and regional communities to promote patient welfare, coordinate community resources, and sustain population health.
- Respond to a complex, highly regulated healthcare system using lawful and ethical practices that demonstrate integral stewardship, fiduciary responsibility, and shared governance.
- Create educational opportunities for healthcare leaders and practitioners through continuous professional development to improve occupational efficacies. Innovate healthcare service methods that create synergies among people, systems, and the community.
- Provide astute fiscal management across all healthcare sectors.

The M.H.A. degree program contains an anchor track of 42 semester credit hours (SCH). Students may choose the Experience in Healthcare Administration Track or Entry in Healthcare Administration Track. The Entry track requires completion of 6 additional SCH.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2025.

Texas A&M University-Texarkana certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

I. NEED

A. **Employment Opportunities**

Demand for healthcare executives in Texas is increasing exponentially due to several factors, including the aging healthcare leadership workforce, increased accreditation requirements within the healthcare setting, and the current levels of burnout and turnover due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, opportunities to pursue the M.H.A. have not increased to meet the demand. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of healthcare administrators needed by 2030 will increase by 32%. Texas is the second highest state employer of healthcare administrators. In East Texas, there are currently 60 vacant positions for healthcare administrators. Graduates of the M.H.A. program will have ample career opportunities, including working in hospital and physician practices, healthcare systems, mental health facilities, health departments, consulting firms, educational and healthcare policy organizations, health insurance organizations, and rehabilitation facilities. Annual salaries for graduates of M.H.A. programs range from $80,000 as a Nursing Director or Project Manager to $240,000 as an Executive Leader.

B. Projected Enrollment

Table 1 provides a projected enrollment of 15 new students in year one and increasing to a total of 60 students by year five.

Table 1. Projected Enrollment

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time					
In-state	15	30	45	60	60
Out-of-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Part-Time					
In-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Total Students	**15**	**30**	**45**	**60**	**60**

C. Existing State Programs

The closest public M.H.A. programs offered in Northeast and Deep East Texas are at least two to three hours from Texarkana; in Commerce, Longview, the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, or Central Arkansas. Admission to existing M.H.A. programs in Texas is extremely competitive because of the high demand for the degree.

Table 2. Existing State Programs, (CIP code 51.0701.00), and Graduates

Degree Title & Designation	University	2021-2022
Master of Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Health Care Administration	Baylor University	38
Master of Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Health Care Administration	LeTourneau University	4
Master of Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Health Administration	Midwestern State University	11
Master of Business Administration degree with a major of Business Administration: Health Care Management Concentration	Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio	14
Master of Science degree with a major of Healthcare Leadership	Texas A&M University-Commerce	N/A
Master of Science in Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Health Care Administration	Texas Southern University	8
Master of Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Healthcare Administration	Texas State University	25
Master of Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Healthcare Administration	Texas Woman's University	94
Master of Science degree with a major of Health Care Administration	The University of Texas at Arlington	26
Master of Science degree with a major of Healthcare Leadership and Management	The University of Texas at Dallas	69
Master of Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Health Care Administration	University of Houston-Clear Lake	85
Master of Healthcare Administration and Master of Business Administration degree with a major of Health Care/Business Administration	University of Houston-Clear Lake	
Master of Science degree with a major of Health Services Administration	University of North Texas	34
Master of Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Healthcare Administration	University of St. Thomas	N/A
Master of Healthcare Administration degree with a major of Health Care Administration	University of the Incarnate Word	0
Master of Business Administration degree with a major of Healthcare Management	West Texas A&M University	55

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

One core faculty will be hired in fall 2024 and two additional core faculty members will be hired within the first three years of the program. Two additional support staff members are currently employed at the university.

B. Program Administration

The program will seek $125,000 ($25,000/year) for the first five years for a program coordinator ($20,000 at $4,000/year) and to support general operations ($105,000 at $21,000/year).

C. Other Personnel

A part-time administrative assistant is required at a salary of $36,000 per year ($180,000).

D. Supplies, Materials

No supplies and materials costs are required.

E. Library

No library costs are required.

F. Equipment, Facilities

No equipment or facilities costs are required.

G. Accreditation Page

The program will seek accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. Introductory fees include an eligibility fee of $2,575 and an annual maintenance fee of $825. Candidacy fees include an application fee of $5,525, an annual fee of $2,950, a supplemental modality fee of $825, and an initiation fee of $9,850.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$1,168,500		Formula Income	$652,403
Program Administration	$125,000		Statutory Tuition	
Graduate Assistants			Reallocation	
Supplies & Materials			Designated Tuition	
Library & IT Resources			Other Funding – Better East Texas 3 Legislative Funding	$600,000
Equipment, Facilities			Tuition	$784,783
Other - Personnel	$180,000		Fees	$278,902
Other – Accreditation	$22,550			
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,496,050		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	$2,316,088

Agenda Item No. 6.36

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science in Engineering Degree Program, with a Major in Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) leading to a Master of Science in Engineering (M.S.E.) with a major in Engineering**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

A&M-Texarkana is seeking approval to offer an M.S.E. degree in Engineering. The proposed program is designed for prospective students who have an undergraduate degree in fields related to general engineering backgrounds and wish to pursue a graduate degree in engineering. The program was created to address the needs of students whose schedules or locations do not allow on-campus study, working professionals who wish to obtain an advanced degree, or those who wish to change fields within engineering.

Program graduates will have the ability to apply knowledge of mathematics, science, and engineering and use the techniques, skills, and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Institutional funds will be used to support the M.S.E. in Engineering. Two core faculty members will be hired in the first two years of this degree program. Six existing faculty members will be used as support for the program. The new costs for the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed M.S.E. in Engineering aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.36

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science in Engineering Degree Program, with a Major in Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana leading to a Master of Science in Engineering with a major in Engineering.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Master of Science in Engineering
with a major in Engineering
(CIP 14.0101.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Business, Engineering, and Technology in the Division of Engineering

The Master of Science in Engineering (M.S.E.) degree with a major in Engineering is designed for prospective students with undergraduate degrees in fields related to general engineering backgrounds who wish to pursue graduate degrees in engineering. Graduates will have the ability to apply knowledge of mathematics, science, and engineering and use the techniques, skills, and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice. The program was created to address the needs of students whose schedules or locations do not allow on-campus study, working professionals who wish to obtain an advanced degree, or those who wish to change fields within engineering.

The M.S.E. Engineering program provides students with the opportunity to dive deeper into a technical specialty and broaden their knowledge in engineering fields. The following are the learning outcomes that M.S.E. graduate must acquire:

1. Ability to lead multidisciplinary engineering teams through the identification, definition, planning, execution, and closure of major engineering projects and problems.
2. Knowledge of topics inherent to all engineering disciplines in the electrical or mechanical major.
3. Knowledge of both traditional and emerging engineering topics.
4. Graduates can continue to pursue advanced learning that would lead to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree.

The proposed master's program is a 30-semester credit hour program. The program is purely engineering-focused including options for a thesis or a fully course-based master's program. Students will select their concentrations in Electrical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2025.

Texas A&M University-Texarkana certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the employment of mechanical and electrical engineers is to grow 10% and 5%, respectively from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations. The Texas Workforce Commission forecasts a growth rate of at least 9% for mechanical engineers, 10% for industrial engineers, and 14% for all other engineers by 2030 in the northeast Texas region. The graduate engineering degree at A&M-Texarkana will meet the higher regional demand from manufacturing industries. Graduates with a master's degree will provide industries with more specialized knowledge and skills.

B. Projected Enrollment

Table 1 provides the estimated total enrollment for year one at 17 students with an increase to 70 by year five.

Table 1. Projected Enrollment

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time					
In-state	8	12	18	24	30
Out-of-state	2	5	7	8	10
Out-of-country	0	1	3	5	8
Part-Time					
In-state	4	6	10	12	12
Out-of-state	3	4	5	8	10
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Total Students	**17**	**28**	**43**	**57**	**70**

C. Existing State Programs

The nearest university that offers a Master of Engineering is 122 miles away from Texarkana. This is a significant disadvantage for the area. Northeast Texas includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties. The state's existing programs and recent graduates are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Existing State Programs (CIP Code 14.0101.00), and Graduates

Degree Title & Designation	University	2021-2022
Master of Engineering degree with a major of Engineering	Baylor University	0
Master of Engineering degree with a major of Engineering Master of Engineering Science degree with a major of Engineering	Lamar University	48
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering	LeTourneau University	0
Master of Science in Engineering degree with a major of Engineering	Prairie View A&M University	15
Master of Science degree with a major of Applied Science	Southern Methodist University	2

Master of Science in Information Engineering and Management with a major of Applied Science		
Master of Engineering degree with a major of Engineering Master of Science degree with a major of Interdisciplinary Engineering	Texas A&M University	10
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering	Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	N/A
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering	Texas State University	26
Master of Engineering degree with a major of Engineering	Texas Tech University	8
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering	The University of Texas at El Paso	3
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering Data Science	University of Houston	2
Master of Science degree with a major of Data Engineering	University of North Texas	2
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering	West Texas A&M University	8

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

The institution commits to hiring two core faculty members in the first two years of this degree program. Six existing faculty members will provide support for the degree program.

B. Program Administration

The institution commits to providing $20,000 to support the program coordinator.

C. Other Personnel

No other personnel costs are required.

D. Supplies, Materials

No supply or material costs are required.

E. Library

The institution is seeking $70,000 ($30,000 in year 1; and $10,000 in years 2 through 5).

F. Equipment, Facilities

The institution is seeking $275,000 in year one of the program to establish four research labs for students. The institution is seeking an additional $25,000 for a start-up research package for one faculty member assigned to the program in year two.

G. Accreditation Page

Program accreditation for this degree program will not be sought.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$1,170,000		Formula Income	$1,372,114
Program Administration	$20,000		Statutory Tuition	
Graduate Assistants			Reallocation	
Supplies & Materials			Designated Tuition	
Library & IT Resources	$70,000		Other Funding:	
Equipment, Facilities	$300,000		Tuition	$1,655,884
Other			Fees	$548,363
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,560,000		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	3,576,361

Agenda Item No. 6.37

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program, with a Major in Engineering Management, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) with a major in Engineering Management**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

A&M-Texarkana is seeking approval to offer an M.S. degree in Engineering Management. The proposed program is designed for prospective students who have a science, technology, engineering, and math background who are looking to move into managerial responsibilities or are expecting to move into managerial positions. The major focus areas of the program are engineering economics and finance, quality control and reliability, project management, project decision-making, optimization, leadership and entrepreneurship, and strategic management.

Program graduates will be equipped to solve complex engineering problems and to identify, assess and manage potential risks in engineering projects.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Institutional funds will be used to support the M.S. in Engineering Management. The program will utilize three core faculty members hired in the first three years. The Division of Engineering also has four support faculty members. The new costs for the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed M.S. in Engineering Management aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.37

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Engineering Management, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana leading to a Master of Science with a major in Engineering Management.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Master of Science
with a major in Engineering Management
(CIP 15.1501.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Business, Engineering, and Technology, Division of Engineering

The proposed M.S. in Engineering Management degree program is designed for prospective students who have a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) background and who are looking to move into managerial responsibilities or are expecting to move into managerial positions. There are six major areas of focus in the program: engineering economics and finance, quality control and reliability, project management, project decision-making, optimization, leadership and entrepreneurship, and strategic management.

The educational objectives of this program include the ability to solve complex engineering problems and to outline long-term strategies for engineering operations or product development considering both technical feasibility and business profitability. Training also includes effective communication with various audiences as professionals, the ethical and professional responsibility for the profession, and teamwork skills. Students will gain the ability to acquire and apply new knowledge and to identify, assess and manage potential risks in engineering projects, as well as develop an awareness of engineering, standards, regulations, and laws specific to the industry of operation.

This degree program encompasses 30 semester credit hours (SCH) consistent with other M.S. Engineering Management degrees across the state and programs from other nationally acclaimed institutions and The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) expectations. This degree program will offer tracks in energy systems, manufacturing, and pulp and paper packaging.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2025.

A&M-Texarkana certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

I. NEED

A. **Employment Opportunities**

According to the Texas Labor Analysis website (https://texaslaboranalysis.com/), it is estimated that engineering managers positions will grow at 11.16% between 2018-2028 in

East Texas, Northeast Texas, and Dallas areas, with projected employment of 2,391 positions in 2028.

B. Projected Enrollment

The projected total enrollment is shown in Table 1. An estimated 15 new students are projected to enroll in year one and the program will increase to 90 total students by year five.

Table 1. Projected Enrollment

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time					
In-state	10	18	30	35	40
Out-of-state	2	3	7	10	8
Out-of-country	0	2	5	7	8
Part-Time					
In-state	3	5	9	12	18
Out-of-state	0	2	4	8	12
Out-of-country	0	2	5	5	4
Total Students	**15**	**32**	**60**	**77**	**90**

C. Existing State Programs

No university in Northeast Texas within 120 miles offers a degree in Engineering Management. This is a significant disadvantage for the area. Northeast Texas includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties. Despite having a well-established industrial community in the Texarkana region, hiring and retaining qualified engineers in the region has always been difficult. Skilled engineers often overlook areas such as Texarkana in favor of major urban areas. Table 2 provides the existing programs in Texas and the recent graduates.

Table 2. Existing State Programs, (CIP Code 15.1501.00), and Graduates

Degree Title & Designation	University	2021-2022
Master of Engineering Management degree with a major of Engineering Management	Lamar University	21
Master of Engineering Management and Leadership degree with a major of Engineering Management and Leadership	Rice University	0
Master of Engineering Management degree with a major of Engineering Management	Southern Methodist University	44
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering Systems Management	St. Mary's University	1
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering Management	Texas State University	11
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering Management	The University of Texas at Arlington	13

Master of Science in Engineering degree with a major Engineering Management	The University of Texas at Austin	15
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering Leadership	The University of Texas at Tyler	20
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering Management	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	16
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering Management	University of Houston-Clear Lake	29
Master of Science degree with a major of Engineering Management	University of North Texas	2

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

This program will utilize three core faculty members hired in the first three years of the program. The Division of Engineering has four support faculty members.

B. Program Administration

Program Coordinator expenses total $20,000 ($4,000 a year).

C. Other Personnel

No additional personnel are needed for this program.

D. Supplies, Materials

The institution will provide $45,000 for software related to the program and $80,000 for a research startup package for faculty members.

E. Library

No additional library resources are needed.

F. Equipment, Facilities

No additional equipment or facilities are needed.

G. Accreditation Page

No plan to seek accreditation.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$1,241,500		Formula Income	$1,838,776
Program Administration	$20,000		Statutory Tuition	
Graduate Assistants			Reallocation	
Supplies & Materials	$45,000		Designated Tuition	
Library & IT Resources			Other Funding:	
Equipment, Facilities			Tuition	$2,196,355
Other	$80,000		Fees	$703,321
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,386,500		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	$4,738,452

Agenda Item No. 6.38

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Approval of a New Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree Program, with a Major in Nursing Practice, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) leading to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

A&M-Texarkana is seeking approval to offer a D.N.P. degree with a major in Nursing Practice. The proposed program is recommended for individuals pursuing a career in a variety of advanced practice nursing professions such as nurse practitioner, nurse executive and nursing education. Graduates possess the highest level of nursing expertise and may work either in clinical settings or leadership roles.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Institutional funds will be used to support the D.N.P. program. The proposed program will utilize one core faculty member and three support faculty members. A&M-Texarkana will hire four additional core faculty members within the first three years of the program. The estimated new costs for the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed D.N.P. program aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.38

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree Program, with a Major in Nursing Practice, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana leading to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a major in Nursing Practice.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Doctor of Nursing Practice
with a major in Nursing Practice
(CIP 51.3818.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services, Division of Nursing

The Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree with a major in Nursing Practice is a specialty nursing program that will produce leaders in nursing. Graduates will possess the highest level of nursing expertise and may work either in clinical settings or leadership roles. They will possess the knowledge to influence healthcare outcomes through organizational leadership, health policy implementation and direct patient care.

Upon completion of the D.N.P. program, the graduate will be prepared to:

- Integrate nursing science with knowledge from ethics, the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences as the basis for the highest level of nursing practice.
- Develop and evaluate care delivery approaches that meet current and future needs of patient populations based on scientific findings in nursing and other clinical sciences, as well as organizational, political, and economic sciences.
- Use analytic methods to critically appraise existing literature and other evidence to determine and implement the best evidence for practice.

The proposed D.N.P. is a three-to-four year, eight-to-ten semester doctoral program recommended for individuals pursuing a career in a variety of advanced practice nursing professions such as nurse practitioner, nurse executive and nursing education. This 39-semester credit hour (SCH) program offers six tracks: Executive, Education, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) delivered through in-person, hybrid, and online modalities. Students completing the BSN and MSN have the option to seek the DNP upon completion of their respective degree program.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2026.

A&M-Texarkana certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.146 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

Demand for doctoral-prepared nurses in Texas is increasing exponentially due to several factors, including the aging population in need of primary care, increased focus on advanced education for nursing providers and leaders due to the rapidly changing healthcare climate, and the current levels of burnout and turnover for practitioners, educators and leaders due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent data

from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing shows a nursing faculty shortage in excess of 7% with rural and small universities experiencing greater shortages due to lack of competitive salaries and geographic location.

B. Projected Enrollment

Table 1 provides the projected enrollment in year one and two at 15 students and increases and stays at 20 students each year through year five.

Table 1. Projected Enrollment

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time					
In-state	15	15	20	20	20
Out-of-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Part-Time					
In-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Total New Students	**15**	**15**	**20**	**20**	**20**

C. Existing State Programs

Table 2 provides the existing programs available at public, independent and health science centers in Texas. The closest degree program for students in Northeast Texas is the Dallas Metroplex.

Table 2. Texas, Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs Graduates, (CIP Code 51.3801.00)

University	2021-2022
Abilene Christian University	46
Concordia University Texas	N/A
Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi	16
University of St Thomas	3
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	10
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	27
Texas A & M University-College Station	N/A
The University of Texas at Arlington	94
The University of Texas at Austin	0
The University of Texas at El Paso	21
The University of Texas at Tyler	12
Texas Wesleyan University	N/A
Texas Woman's University	13
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	40
Prairie View A & M University	5
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	0
University of Houston	N/A
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	4

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences	42
South University-Austin	N/A
West Coast University-Dallas	2
Walden University	6

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

The institution currently employs one core faculty member and three support faculty members to support the program. The program will hire four additional core faculty members within the first three years of the program.

B. Program Administration

No additional program administration costs are required.

C. Other Personnel

No other personnel costs are required.

D. Supplies, Materials

The estimated additional costs for supplies and materials are $25,000 over the first five years.

E. Library

The proposed program will require an estimated $25,000 in library subscriptions and software over the first five years.

F. Equipment, Facilities

The proposed program will require an estimated $50,000 for facilities and equipment for the simulation lab over the first two years.

G. Accreditation Page

The program will seek Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation. The cost includes an annual evaluation and new program fees at a total cost of $18,400.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			**SOURCES OF FUNDING**	
Faculty	$1,550,000		Formula Income	$1,300,546
Program Administration			Statutory Tuition	
Graduate Assistants			Reallocation	
Supplies & Materials	$25,000		Designated Tuition	
Library & IT Resources	$25,000		Other Funding:	
Equipment, Facilities	$50,000		Tuition	$900,612
Other - Accreditation	$18,400		Fees	$306,775
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,668,400		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	$2,507,933

Agenda Item No. 6.39

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Approval of a New Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Program, with a Major in Physical Therapy, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

Background Information:

A&M-Texarkana is seeking approval to offer a D.P.T. degree with a major in Physical Therapy that will include a 3+ option for students to attend A&M-Texarkana for three years and apply for the D.P.T. program, thus graduating in a little over five years with both the B.S. in Physical Therapy and D.P.T. degrees.

In addition to the physical therapy focus, the program will focus on how to create, build and sustain physical therapy practice in rural areas to assist with keeping graduates in the East Texas region.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Institutional funds will be used to support the D.P.T. program. The program will consist of one core faculty member employed for the program. The institution will hire one additional core faculty member in the fall of 2024. An additional nine core faculty members will be hired in the first four years of the program. The estimated new costs for the first five years will not exceed $2 million.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

The proposed D.P.T. program aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.39

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Program, with a Major in Physical Therapy, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree with a major in Physical Therapy.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Doctor of Physical Therapy
with a major in Physical Therapy
(CIP 51.2308.00)

Program Review Outline

BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services, Division of Health

Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) proposes to offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree with a major in Physical Therapy (PT). The program will include a 3+ option for undergraduate students to attend A&M-Texarkana for three years and seamlessly apply for the D.P.T. program. Students could graduate in a little more than five years with both the Bachelor of Science (B.S). and D.P.T. degrees. In addition, the A&M-Texarkana D.P.T. program will offer early acceptance into the D.P.T. program for students who enroll at A&M-Texarkana for their undergraduate education. Early acceptance students will be high school graduates with a grade point average of 3.75 or greater and commit to pursuing a D.P.T. degree at A&M-Texarkana.

The A&M-Texarkana D.P.T. program will provide service opportunities for students and faculty in the communities in eastern Texas. A stakeholder group will assist the program in prioritizing offerings in and to communities. The programming will be both in person and via telehealth. Community programs will span from health promotion and wellness to physical therapy evaluation and treatment. In addition to the physical therapy focus, the program will focus on how to create, build, and sustain physical therapy practice in rural areas. This focus will assist with keeping graduates in the eastern Texas area.

The A&M-Texarkana D.P.T. program is a seven-semester, 99-semester credit hour program utilizing a hybrid format, immersive labs (12 days every 6 weeks), active learning strategies and competency-based outcomes.

The proposed implementation date is spring 2026.

A&M-Texarkana certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.146 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs.

I. NEED

A. Employment Opportunities

Texas is underserved for physical therapy services with just 56 licensed physical therapists per 100,000 residents. Texas ranks 40th nationally for physical therapists per resident. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) reported 850 physical therapists at work in Northeast Texas, East Texas and the Texoma regions in 2020. TWC projects a

15% growth rate for physical therapist positions by 2028; thus, increasing the number needed to 1,093.

B. Projected Enrollment

Table 1 provides the projected enrollment for the D.P.T. program. The program will enroll a cohort of approximately 40 students in year one and increasing to a total of 80 students in year four.

Table 1. Projected Enrollment

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time					
In-state	40	40	60	80	80
Out-of-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Part-Time					
In-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-state	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-country	0	0	0	0	0
Total Students	**40**	**40**	**60**	**80**	**80**

C. Existing State Programs

There is no D.P.T. program in the East Texas region. The nearest program is offered by the private institution, Baylor University in Waco, which is more than 250 miles away. The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy's (CAPTE) 2022 report shows that the average D.P.T. program receives approximately 243 qualified applicants, accepts 144 applicants and enrolls 46 students.

Table 2 shows the existing programs offered at Texas public universities and health-related institutions.

Table 2. Existing State Programs, Doctor of Physical Therapy with a major in Physical Therapy (CIP Code 51.2308.00)

University	2021-2022 Graduates
Angelo State University	27
Texas Woman's University	103
Baylor University	137
Hardin-Simmons University	39
Texas State University	40
The University of Texas at El Paso	35
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	N/A
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	40
University of the Incarnate Word	47
Samuel Merritt University	44
San Diego State University	38

Touro University Nevada	36
University of Puerto Rico – Medical Sciences	21
University of Southern California	133
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	77
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences - Dallas	854
West Coast University - Los Angeles	N/A
University of North Texas Health Science Center	43
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	38
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	79
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	42

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

A. Faculty

The proposed program will include one existing core faculty member and one additional core faculty member will be hired in fall of 2024. The proposed program will hire nine additional core faculty members within the program's first four years.

B. Program Administration

No additional program administration costs are required.

C. Other Personnel

A support staff member is required at a cost of $36,000 per year for the first five years.

D. Supplies, Materials

Supplies and materials are needed at a cost of $150,000 per year for the first five years.

E. Library

No additional library costs are required.

F. Equipment, Facilities

No new equipment or facilities costs are required.

G. Accreditation Page

The proposed program will seek accreditation through CAPTE. This cost is approximately $30,670 over the first five years.

III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS			SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Faculty	$775,000		Formula Income	$1,307,839
Program Administration			Statutory Tuition	
Graduate Assistants			Reallocation	
Supplies & Materials	$750,000		Designated Tuition	
Library & IT Resources			Other Funding:	
Equipment, Facilities			Tuition	$5,647,516
Other – Accreditation	$30,670		Fees	$928,700
Other – Support Staff	$180,000			
Estimated 5-Year Costs	$1,735,670		**Estimated 5-Year Revenues**	$7,884,055

Agenda Item No. 6.40

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Establishment of the Northeast Texas STEM Center

Proposed Board Action:

Establish the Northeast Texas STEM Center (NTSC) within the College of Business, Engineering, and Technology at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana).

Background Information:

The Upper East Texas region has often been considered an underserved region of the state. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that between 2009 and 2019, employment growth for upper East Texas was 5.8 percent, compared with the overall state employment growth of 22.3 percent. This significant difference suggests a lack of economic and financial opportunity for the population in the East Texas region. Launching the NTSC can significantly impact economic growth opportunities for businesses and citizens through active engagement and education.

The NTSC will serve multiple strategic functions. It would directly address workforce development needs by aligning educational programs with regional economic drivers, thus enhancing job readiness and technical competence. Secondly, it could be a magnet for economic activity, attracting new businesses looking for regions with skilled labor pools and fostering an environment conducive to innovation and investment. Thirdly, the NTSC would elevate the university's academic profile and attract a higher caliber of students and faculty, further enhancing its educational impact and research capabilities. By integrating educational excellence with practical industry application, the NTSC would not only fill a critical gap in the regional education landscape but also contribute significantly to the economic resilience and growth of the Upper East Texas region.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Start-up funding for the NTSC was provided by the 88th Texas Legislature.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

Approval of this agenda item will advance The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) Strategic Imperative 5 – The A&M System will provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy. By leveraging A&M-Texarkana's academic strengths in engineering and computer science, the NTSC will provide comprehensive outreach, education, and support programs designed to engage and prepare students for successful careers in STEM fields thus driving economic growth.

Agenda Item No. 6.40

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Establishment of the Northeast Texas STEM Center

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Northeast Texas STEM Center is hereby established as an organizational unit of Texas A&M University-Texarkana within the College of Business, Engineering, and Technology."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Northeast Texas STEM Center (NTSC)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Rationale for the Creation of the Center

The Upper East Texas region, comprised of cities such as Texarkana, Tyler, Longview, Paris, Marshall, Palestine, Mount Pleasant, Sulphur Springs, Jacksonville, Kilgore, Henderson, and Athens, has often been considered an underserved region of the state. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that between 2009 and 2019, employment growth for upper East Texas was 5.8% compared with the overall state employment growth of 22.3%.[1] This significant difference suggests a lack of economic and financial opportunity for the population in the East Texas region. Launching the Northeast Texas STEM Center (NTSC) can significantly impact economic growth opportunities for businesses and citizens through active engagement and education.
The proposal to establish the NTSC at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) is strongly supported by the demographic and economic data of the Upper East Texas region, which spans approximately 16,000 square miles across three metropolitan statistical areas. This region has demonstrated modest population growth, with a total increase of 4.1% since the 2010 Census yet it is behind the state in terms of both educational attainment and median household income. Specifically, the region has a lower percentage of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher compared to the state average, and the median household income in 2018 was $48,967, significantly below the state's median.[1]

Given these factors, the region is ripe for educational initiatives to boost economic mobility and enhance employment opportunities. The significant industries in the area, including support activities for wood product and paper manufacturing, mining, oil and gas extraction, and forestry and logging, employ a large portion of the workforce, suggesting a substantial demand for skilled STEM professionals. These industries not only provide substantial employment but also offer higher-than-average wages, making them critical to the region's economic stability and growth. Moreover, the region's high school graduation rates consistently outperform the state's, with a 93.9% graduation rate in the 2017-18 school year compared to the state's 90%. This indicates a strong foundation of educational achievement that can be further enhanced with higher education opportunities in STEM fields. By establishing the NTSC, A&M-Texarkana could capitalize on this educational foundation, providing pathways for advanced education that align closely with local industry needs.

The NTSC would serve multiple strategic functions. Firstly, it would directly address the workforce development needs by aligning educational programs with regional economic drivers, thus enhancing job readiness and technical competence. Secondly, it could be a magnet for economic activity, attracting new businesses looking for regions with skilled labor pools and fostering an environment conducive to innovation and investment. Thirdly, the NTSC could elevate the university's academic profile and attract a higher caliber of students and faculty, further enhancing its educational impact and research capabilities. Community engagement through

[1] https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/economic-data/regions/2020/upper-east.php

outreach and continuing education programs offered by the NTSC could also address specific local challenges, such as the aging population and the need for continuous skills development in a rapidly evolving job market. By integrating educational excellence with practical industry application, the NTSC at A&M-Texarkana would not only fill a critical gap in the regional education landscape but also contribute significantly to the economic resilience and growth of the Upper East Texas region.

2. General Description of the Center and Its Mission and Goals.

Vision

Transform Northeast Texas into a STEM education and innovation hub, driving economic growth and enhancing the region's national competitiveness.

Mission

To collaborate with K-12 education ISD systems, higher education institutions, community groups, and industry partners to establish a seamless pipeline for the cultivation of STEM professionals in East Texas. By leveraging A&M-Texarkana's academic strengths in engineering and computer science, the NTSC will provide comprehensive outreach, education and support programs designed to engage and prepare students for successful careers in STEM fields.

Objectives

1. Implement a suite of STEM programs, including workshops, mentorships and conferences to engage and inspire students, educators and professionals.
2. Forge strategic partnerships to enhance STEM education opportunities and career pathways.
3. Promote the growth of a diverse STEM community, ensuring equitable opportunities for individuals from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

3. Potential Faculty Associated with the Center and Potential Intersystem and Other Collaborations.

The following faculty will be associated with the NTSC:

- **Executive Director for the NTSC and part-time professor**
  The director is responsible for the development and operations of the NTSC and will also manage strategic direction and stakeholder engagement with a 50% teaching load.

- **Dr. Mohamed Morsy, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering- Chair of the Engineering Department at A&M-Texarkana**
  Dr. Morsy will conduct a robotics workshop and help organize a STEM conference.

- **Dr. Vikram Bhaudaria, Associate Professor of Management Information Systems, Department Chair of Computer Science and Information System at A&M-Texarkana**
  Dr. Bhaudauria will help organize hackathon competitions.

- **Faculty of the College of Business, Engineering, and Technology (CBET)**
  Faculty from CBET will be engaged in potential workshops, conferences and mentorship programs with the NTSC.

4. Potential Activities

Robotics Workshops: Intensive, hands-on sessions where students design, build and program robots, learning critical thinking, teamwork and problem-solving skills. These workshops will be a cornerstone of the NTSC activities, highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of STEM fields.

Workshops and Seminars

- **Objective:** Cover emerging technologies, career planning in STEM and practical skills like coding and data analysis.
- **Implementation:** Monthly seminars led by industry professionals and faculty, highlighting trends in STEM fields.

Mentorship Program

- **Objective:** Pair students with STEM professionals to provide mentorship, career guidance and academic support**.**
- **Implementation:** Develop a platform for mentor-mentee matching, supported by regular check-ins and group networking events.

STEM Conferences:

- **Objective:** Organize annual conferences for knowledge sharing and networking among the STEM community.
- **Implementation:** Feature keynote speakers, panel discussions and poster sessions, with opportunities for K-12 students to present STEM projects or research.

School Visits and Campus Tours

- **Objective:** Expose K-12 students to STEM education and careers through interactive campus experiences.
- **Implementation:** Coordinate with local schools for regular visits, incorporating lab tours, faculty talks, and student-led project showcases.

STEM Competitions and Hackathons

- **Objective:** Encourage innovation and practical problem-solving through competitive events.
- **Implementation:** Host annual hackathons and design competitions with themes aligned to current technological and societal issues.

Teacher Training

- **Objective:** Equip K-12 STEM educators with the latest STEM teaching resources and methodologies**.**
- **Implementation:** Offer workshops focusing on STEM curriculum development, technology integration, and student engagement strategies.

Industry and Academic Partnerships

- **Objective:** Foster internships, guest lectures, and collaborative research to bridge academic learning with industry practice.
- **Implementation:** Establish agreements with key industry partners for student internships and co-op placements, enhancing job readiness.

5. Impact on Education and Training of Students

The NTSC aims to leverage A&M-Texarkana's existing strengths in engineering and computer science to build a comprehensive STEM program. This will include academic offerings and extensive outreach and support programs designed to engage students from K-12 through higher education. The NTSC's mission is to transform Northeast Texas into a hub for STEM education and innovation, driving economic growth and enhancing the region's national competitiveness. By implementing a suite of STEM programs, including workshops, mentorships and conferences, the NTSC intends to engage and inspire students, educators and professionals. These initiatives are designed to forge strategic partnerships enhancing STEM education opportunities and career pathways, thus promoting the growth of a diverse STEM community and ensuring equitable opportunities for all students, particularly those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In practical terms, the NTSC will directly address workforce development needs by aligning educational programs with the significant industries in the area, such as mining and oil and gas extraction, which demand skilled professionals. For students, the impact will be multifaceted: enhancing their job readiness and technical competence, providing them with real-world applications of their studies and increasing their employability in high-demand sectors. Furthermore, the STEM Center will act as a magnet for economic activity, attracting businesses seeking regions with a skilled labor pool and fostering an environment conducive to innovation and investment.

Community engagement initiatives like school visits, campus tours and teacher training programs will also play a crucial role. These activities aim to expose K-12 students to STEM education and careers, offering them a glimpse of the university environment and hands-on experiences that could inspire future educational and career choices. For Texas A&M University Texarkana, the NTSC will elevate the university's academic profile, attract a higher caliber of students and faculty, and enhance its educational impact and research capabilities.

Overall, the establishment of the NTSC represents a strategic investment in the educational and economic future of the region, promising substantial benefits for students, the local community and the broader regional economy.

6. Resource Requirements

The successful operation and growth of the NTSC at A&M-Texarkana require various critical resources. These include human resources, technological infrastructure, physical facilities, and financial support. Here, we outline the critical resources needed to achieve the Center's strategic goals.

Human Resources

- **Director of the NTSC**: A dedicated leader to manage strategic direction and stakeholder engagement, with a 50% teaching load.
- **Administrative Assistant**: To support administrative tasks, communications and event coordination on a part-time basis.
- **Faculty Involvement**: Engagement from faculty members in the fields of engineering, computer science and related disciplines to deliver and develop STEM programs.

Technological Infrastructure

- **Laboratory Equipment**: State-of-the-art equipment for robotics, data analytics and cybersecurity workshops.
- **Computing Resources**: High-performance computing systems to support software development, simulations and data-intensive research projects.
- **Software Licenses**: Up-to-date software for design, analysis, programming, and collaboration, accessible to both faculty and students.

Physical Facilities

- **Dedicated Space for the NTSC**: Classrooms, laboratories and offices equipped to support a collaborative learning and research environment.

7. Sources and Future Expectations of Financial Support

- **Operational and Program Funding:** Sufficient funding to cover day-to-day operational costs, including utilities and office supplies, as well as substantial investment in programming such as workshops, conferences and outreach activities.

- **Faculty and Staff Compensation:** Competitive salaries and stipends to attract and retain high-quality faculty and staff, acknowledging their contributions to the NTSC's success.

Estimated Total Budget

- **Estimated Total Annual Budget:** $360,000
  This budget estimate is designed to cover the full range of costs associated with the NTSC, from compensations and operational expenses to the acquisition of high-quality equipment and the execution of diverse programming activities. It reflects the commitment to providing a robust infrastructure and competitive financial support, ensuring the NTSC's success in transforming Northeast Texas into a leading STEM education and innovation hub, enhancing economic growth and regional competitiveness.

8. Governance and Advisory Structure

NTSC Personnel:

- **Executive Director for the Northeast Texas STEM Center**
- **Dr. Sushil Sharma, Dean of the College of Business, Engineering, and Technology (CBET)**
  Dr. Sharma will be responsible for overseeing the NTSC director and all faculty and staff who work in the NTSC, housed within CBET.

- **NTSC Administrative Assistant**
  An administrative assistant is proposed to support the NTSC director and other faculty members. This person will be responsible for supporting the NTSC's overall activities, including support for reaching out on campus and in the community.

Internal Advisory Board:

- **NTSC Strategic Planning**
  A strategic plan committee will be established to ensure the mission and vision of the NTSC are followed to help establish a precise roadmap and to create a premier NTSC.

The committee is composed of faculty, staff and students from A&M-Texarkana, as well as East Texas community leaders.

External Advisory Board:

- An External Advisory Board will be established to ensure the NTSC is addressing the needs of the students, community and businesses in upper East Texas. This board will also help to identify collaboration among different stakeholders in the area and to enhance the financial and economic networking needed to implement various projects. This External Advisory Board will consist of community and industry leaders and northeast school district leaders from the Upper East Texas region.

9. Mechanisms for Periodic Review

The NTSC will be externally reviewed at least every three years in accordance with A&M System Regulation *11.02.01* and guidelines (Standard Administrative Procedure *11.02.99.H0.01 – Centers and Institutes*). Reviewers will make recommendations directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of A&M-Texarkana.

Agenda Item No. 6.41

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Sonja Yates Hubbard

Proposed Board Action:

Authorize the president of Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) to award an Honorary Doctor of Leadership degree to Sonja Yates Hubbard.

Background Information:

In accordance with Section 1.2 of System Policy *11.07, Granting of Honorary Degrees,* A&M-Texarkana submits this request to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Sonja Yates Hubbard. This recognition is in tribute to her distinguished career and for the positive and significant impact her lifetime of service has made on A&M-Texarkana, the state of Texas, and the United States of America.

The nomination for this Honorary Doctor of Leadership degree received the unanimous support of the ad hoc University Honorary Degrees Committee. The nomination was endorsed by the provost and the president of A&M-Texarkana.

With Board authorization, this honorary degree will be presented to Mrs. Hubbard at A&M-Texarkana's commencement ceremony in December 2024.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

None.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

Mrs. Sonja Yates Hubbard is a highly distinguished business and community leader. As the visionary Chief Executive Officer of E-Z Mart Stores, Inc. from 1998 to 2018, she grew the family owned and operated company to over 500 locations in four states including Texas. Mrs. Hubbard is co-founder of Eagle Aspire – a leadership development and mentoring program for senior students at A&M-Texarkana that provides them opportunities to interact with and learn from world-class corporate leaders. She and her co-leader personally plan and participate in all sessions with the students. This recognition honors her association and contributions to A&M-Texarkana in achieving Imperative 5 of The Texas A&M University System strategic plan to provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy.

Agenda Item No. 6.41

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA
Office of the President
May 29, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Sonja Yates Hubbard

I recommend approval of the following minute order:

"The president of Texas A&M University-Texarkana is authorized to award an Honorary Doctor of Leadership degree to Sonja Yates Hubbard."

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Honorary Degree Candidate Summary

Mrs. Sonja Yates Hubbard, CPA
Candidate for Honorary Doctor of Leadership

Sonja Yates Hubbard currently serves as a Principal for the Yates Group, a real estate asset management firm formed after the sale of E-Z Mart Stores, Inc. E-Z Mart was a family-owned convenience stores chain based in Texarkana, Texas and founded by Mrs. Hubbard's father Jim Yates in 1970. Under her leadership, the company grew to over 500 locations operating across Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. She served as the CEO of the company from 1998 until the transaction closing in April 2018.

During Mrs. Hubbard's 25 year career with the company, E-Z Mart Stores, Inc. was recognized in 2001 by the University of Arkansas' Walton College as a Business Giant, has been listed in Fortune 500's Largest Privately Held Businesses, ranked in Working Women's Top 500 Women-Owned Businesses, and is annually positioned in the Top Ten of Arkansas' Largest Privately Held Companies list by Arkansas Business.

Mrs. Hubbard is a Certified Public Accountant who received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Before beginning her career at E-Z Mart, she worked in public accounting where she performed audit, tax and bookkeeping services for two firms.

A multitude of national, state and local boards of directors have benefited from Mrs. Hubbard's expertise including current service on the Riverbend Water Resources District, Opportunities, Inc., CHRISTUS Northeast Texas Hospitals, Arkansas Research Alliance, Arkansas Children's Hospital System, UAMS (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences) Fund Foundation, AR-TX Regional Economic Development Inc., the regional economic district to the Texarkana region, BWI, Inc., and Farmers Bank. Previous service includes the Board of Directors for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis after serving as a Director and President of the Little Rock Federal Reserve Branch Bank, Director and Chairman for the National Association of Convenience Stores (the first woman to ever hold this position), National Association of Convenience Stores Political Action Committee , Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Center, Texas A&M University-Texarkana Foundation, Texarkana Country Club, Wadley Regional Medical Center, CHRISTUS St. Michael Hospital, City of Texarkana, Texas Budget Committee, and the Four States Fair.

Recognized as a highly distinguished business and community leader, Mrs. Hubbard has been the recipient of countless awards including the 2023 David Pryor Award for Outstanding Spirit & Commitment from Opportunities, Inc., 2020 Outstanding Philanthropist from Association of Fundraising Professionals, 2019 C.E. Palmer Achievement Award (Texarkana's most prestigious award for community service), 2019 Idalee Hawkins Leadership Award, 2010 Texarkana Regional Arts & Humanities Hero Award for Leadership, 2010 CSN's Convenience Store Hall of Fame induction, 2009 Accountant of the Year in Industry/Government by the University of Arkansas, 2009 recognized as a Woman of Influence in the Food Industry, 1999 Outstanding CPA in Business and Industry by the Arkansas Society of CPAs.

Agenda Item No. 6.43

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
May 29, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, August 2024,
West Texas A&M University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at West Texas A&M University as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 24-04."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Walter V. Wendler
President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.43
EXHIBIT

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
BACKGROUND OF FACULTY
RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE
TENURE LIST NO. 24-04

SYBIL B. HARRINGTON COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Name	**Present Rank** **Department**	**Yrs. Towards Tenure*** **Univ.**	 **Other Inst.**	**Effective Date** **Tenure**
Dr. Dan W. Peterson	Professor Communication	0	13	Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival
Ph.D. (2002)	Ohio University			
Fa 2002 – Sp 2007 Fa 2007 – Sp 2024 Su 2024	Missouri State University Oregon Institute of Technology West Texas A&M University	Assistant Professor Professor (Tenured 2011) Professor		

Dr. Dan Peterson has been hired and will be serving as the Dean for the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities. Dr. Peterson has expertise in the discipline of communication. His research and teaching include communication pedagogy, interpersonal and organizational communication, and public speaking for adult learners.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Peterson has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

* Each university determines, through a review process, the number of years each faculty member will be awarded tenure based on his/her dossier.

Agenda Item No. 6.44

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Walter V. Wendler, President
West Texas A&M University

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Connie Wootton

Proposed Board Action:

Authorize the president of West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) to award an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Education degree to Connie Wootton.

Background Information:

In accordance with Section 1.2 of System Policy, *11.07, Granting Honorary Degrees*, WTAMU submits this request to award an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Education degree to Connie Wootton. This recognition is in tribute to her distinguished career and for the positive and significant impact her lifetime of service has made on the West Texas Region, WTAMU, the state of Texas, and the United States of America.

This nomination received unanimous support from the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences Faculty Ad Hoc committee, as required in the WTAMU Rule *11.07.99.W1, Granting of Honorary Degrees.*

With Board authorization, this honorary degree will be presented to Connie Wootton at WTAMU's commencement ceremony in December 2024.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

None.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

Connie Wootton is a highly distinguished professional and community leader in the education field. She weaved a path of helping children, parents and faculty in public and private schools in Amarillo, the Southwest Region, and onto national recognition by the National Association of Episcopal Schools. Ms. Wootton has led several community enrichment initiatives, including The Hope and Healing Place, The Turn Center and Rebuilding Broken Lives. This recognition honors her association and contributions to WTAMU in achieving Imperative 5 of the Texas A&M System strategic plan in providing services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy.

Agenda Item No. 6.44

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
June 10, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Connie Wootton

I recommend approval of the following minute order:

"The president of West Texas A&M University is authorized to award an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Education degree to Connie Wootton."

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Walter V. Wendler, President

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

West Texas A&M University
Honorary Degree Candidate Summary of Accomplishments

Connie Wootton
Candidate for Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Education

Connie Wootton's professional career began with undergraduate (1971) and graduate (1976) degrees from West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) (formerly West Texas State University). She weaved a path of helping children, parents and faculty in public and private schools in Amarillo, the Southwest Region, and onto national recognition by the National Association of Episcopal Schools. Ms. Wootton has many gifts, but her whole being is governed by her love of education and young people with service of distinction to several entities, including Horace Mann Middle School, St. Andrews School and the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools. Because of her leadership, the young people she mentored are productive professionals and examples of model citizenship. Throughout her career Ms. Wootton exhibited behavior that reflects the goodness of public service found only in the heart of selfless, faithful, charitable individuals. Her focus as an educator includes the importance of veracity, perseverance and compassion, without compromising fundamental learning skills.

Ms. Wootton's servant's heart has been the foundation of her outstanding career, spreading far beyond the traditional classroom setting. She has also made a significant impact via numerous community programs, including but not limited to the following:

- The Hope and Healing Place is an organization founded out of the belief that every child, teen and adult deserves the opportunity to grieve in a supportive and understanding environment. Ms. Wootton serves as a volunteer and fundraiser for the organization. She plays a critical role in the Sky Ranch initiative, a camp for children who have lost loved ones.
- The Turn Center is a non-profit organization that provides therapy services to children with special needs. In 2020, the Turn Center was severely threatened by COVID. Ms. Wootton stepped in as interim director and began the daunting task necessary to ensure the needs of the children continued to be met. Today, the center engages in robust activities and has a sound financial base, thanks to Ms. Wootton.
- Rebuilding Broken Lives is a group of volunteers working in prison ministry to provide the inmate population with personal, professional and spiritual support. Ms. Wootton is a founding member of Rebuilding Broken Lives.

Ms. Wootton's accomplishments have been noticed throughout her career. Examples include recognition by WTAMU in 1999 with the Distinguished Alumni Award and in 2020 by the National Association of Fundraising Professionals for her volunteer work.

Ms. Wootton's lifelong service to the community reflects the mission of WTAMU. Educators like Ms. Wootton provide their gifts to make the system work, enriching the lives of students and society. Her inspirational dedication to others makes her an ideal candidate for an honorary doctorate in education.

Agenda Item No. 6.46

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Al Davis, Director
Texas A&M Forest Service

Subject: Authorization to Execute Federal and State Non-research Grant Agreements and any Amendments, Modifications or Extensions

Proposed Board Action:

Authorize the Texas A&M Forest Service director or designee to execute federal and state, non-research grant agreements, with a value of $500,000 or more. These grants are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service and the Office of the Governor.

Program Name	Estimated Award Amount
FY2025 Consolidated Programs Grant	7,033,922
FY2025 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grants	3,429,997
FY2025 Community Wildfire Defense Grants	38,856,580
FY2025 Texas Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Grant	1,587,960

Background Information:

The agency has received the Consolidated Programs Grant for decades. It has allowed the agency to provide technical assistance to citizens of Texas, which resulted in healthy and more productive trees and forests. It has helped the agency develop innovative web-based tools for use by the citizens in determining the wildfire risk of their property. And, it has enabled the agency to lead an effort to re-establish Longleaf Pine stands in Texas, which will result in Texans benefiting long-term economically from the stands. These grant funds are specifically intended by the USDA Forest Service to pass through to state forestry agencies like the Texas A&M Forest Service.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will provide additional grant funds to the agency. The funding is anticipated to be awarded in multiple grants, but that process is still being worked out by the USDA Forest Service. The grants will provide additional funding for existing programs that have been funded under the Consolidated Programs Grant and will aid in the state's Forest Action Plan. In addition, funding will be provided for Community Wildfire Defense. These grant funds are specifically intended by the USDA Forest Service to pass through to state forestry agencies like the Texas A&M Forest Service.

The Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Rider 25 for Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor provides $20 million in state funds for grants to support state and regional efforts to improve and sustain interoperable emergency radio infrastructure. The agency has applied for a grant from this program.

Consolidated Programs Grant (CPG)

The Consolidated grant funds the following programs:

State Fire Assistance (SFA) – Address critical preparedness needs for firefighter safety, increased initial attack capability, and training.

National Fire Plan – Preparedness – Promote firefighter safety, capability and capacity through innovation and partnerships.

National Fire Plan – Mitigation – Reduce hazardous fuels and wildfire risk to communities, promote wildfire protection planning (CWPPs, Firewise, etc.), and implement wildfire prevention activities.

Forest Stewardship (FS) – Conduct forestry activities, such as: 1) prepare forest stewardship plans, 2) assist landowners in implementing forest management activities, 3) provide seedlings for reforestation and restoration activities, 4) develop genetically improved tree seeds and seedlings, 5) educate landowners about forest management practices and issues, 6) coordinate with cooperators to improve program delivery, 7) provide landowner recognition for exemplary forest stewardship, 8) train state and cooperator staffs on program delivery, and 9) practice sustainable forestry on state-owned lands. The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Program is to encourage long-term stewardship of non-federal, non-industrial private forest lands, particularly in priority landscape areas as identified in Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies.

Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) – Provide technical assistance through state forestry organizations to support U&CF planning, training and continuing education, demonstration projects, and assistance to local and state governments and non-profit, volunteer organizations in developing viable and continuing U&CF programs.

Cooperative Forest Health (CFH) – Detect, monitor, and evaluate forest health conditions on state and private lands.

Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) – Competitively funded projects that focus on issues and landscapes of national importance and are intended to shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations.

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) – Address critical fire management needs and develop fire preparedness capabilities to address fire prevention, wildland urban interface, hazardous fuels treatments, firefighter training, and initial attack fire suppression capabilities.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Grants

Consolidated Programs Grant (CPG) - These grants will provide additional funding for existing programs that have been funded under the Consolidated Programs Grant (see above) and will aid in the state's Forest Action Plan.

Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG) – These funds were awarded to Texas A&M Forest Service to administer subawards to 11 counties selected by the USDA Forest Service. The funds will be used by the counties to provide grants to at-risk communities to develop or revise a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and to carry out projects described in the CWPP. CWDG prioritizes at-risk communities that are identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and/or have been impacted by a severe disaster.

Texas Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Grant

This competitive grant from the Office of the Governor, if awarded, would provide radio equipment to harden existing infrastructure, adding updated cross banding capability and deployable tower sites that will allow Texas A&M Forest Service to provide continuous radio coverage in areas where our current radio network exists and to provide interoperable coverage in areas where there are currently no tower sites.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Texas A&M Forest Service would receive an estimated $49,320,499 from the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service to fund the programs described above and $1,587,960 from the Office of the Governor. The agency would also complete obligations on prior years' awards for the same grant programs.

Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

"The A&M System will provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy." Grant funding supports the Texas A&M Forest Service mission of providing outreach to landowners regarding forest stewardship and conservation and provides training and equipment to firefighters for wildfire fighting capacity and preparedness.

Agenda Item No. 6.46

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
Office of the Director
June 25, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorization to Execute Federal and State Non-research Grant Agreements and any Amendments, Modifications or Extensions

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The director of the Texas A&M Forest Service, or designee, is authorized to execute, following review for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, grant agreements, amendments, modifications, or extensions with the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service for the Fiscal Year 2025 Consolidated Programs Grant, the Fiscal Year 2025 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grants, and the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Wildfire Defense Grant, and with the Office of the Governor for the Fiscal Year 2025 Texas Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Grant."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Al Davis
Director
Texas A&M Forest Service

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Jeffrey W. Savell
Vice Chancellor and Dean
Agriculture and Life Sciences

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Agenda Item No. 6.47

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: W. Nim Kidd, Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services
Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management

Subject: Approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management Disaster Recovery Loan Program Rule Revisions

Proposed Board Action:

Authorize rule revisions to the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Disaster Recovery Loan Program.

Background Information:

TDEM is seeking authorization to revise the rules for the Disaster Recovery Loan Program.

Texas Government Code, Sections 418.061 through 418.067 require the TDEM to develop rules to implement the Disaster Recovery Loan Program to provide short-term loans for disaster recovery projects in eligible political subdivisions. These rules were developed and previously approved on May 14, 2020.

Following new legislation passed this last session, the approval of this request will sync rules and legislation to allow 30 days for the political subdivision to submit its operating budget for the most recent fiscal year of the date of its adoption; removes language stating The Texas A&M University System must utilize the Campus Receivables Collector (CRC) Program; removes language of monthly principal and interest payments to the Comptroller of Public Accounts; adds language that TDEM will notify the state auditor's office and take remedial actions if the political subdivision fails to make consecutive payments.

A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

No financial implications.

Strategic Plan lmperative(s) this Item Advances:

This rule revision supports the A&M System Strategic Plan Imperative Number 5:

"The A&M System will provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy."

The revisions to the TDEM Disaster Recovery Loan Program will assist with meeting the needs of eligible political subdivisions.

Agenda Item No. 6.47

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services
July 2, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management Disaster Recovery Loan Program Rule Revisions

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

"The chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, or designee, following a review for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, is authorized to amend the rule for the TDEM Disaster Recovery Loan Program."

Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

W. Nim Kidd
Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Billy Hamilton FOR]
John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Phillip Ray
Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.47
EXHIBIT

Disaster Recovery Loan Program Rule

Revised: August 1, 2024
Approved May 14, 2020
Next Scheduled Review: ~~May 14, 2025~~August 1, 2029

Rule Summary

- Texas Government Code, Sections 418.061 through 418.067 require the Texas Division of Emergency Management (Division) to develop rules to implement the Disaster Recovery Loan Program to provide short-term loans for disaster recovery projects in eligible political subdivisions.
- These rules provide the requirements for the implementation~~s~~ of the program.

Definitions

- Eligible political subdivision means a county, municipality, or school district that:
  - is located wholly or partly in an area declared to be a disaster area by the governor or the president of the United States; and
  - before applying to the division for a loan under this subchapter:
    - has submitted to the division, within 15 days of the date of its adoption by the governing body of the political subdivision, the political subdivision's operating budget for the most recent fiscal year; and
    - has submitted an application for a loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's community disaster loan program;
  - an assessment of damages due to the disaster for which the declaration was made has been conducted in the political subdivision; and
  - the division, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will determine that the estimated cost to rebuild the political subdivision's infrastructure damaged in the disaster is greater than 50 percent of the political subdivision's total revenue for the current year as shown in the most recent operating budget of the political subdivision submitted to the division under this section.
- Disaster Recovery Loan Account means the account created in the general revenue fund with the comptroller and administered by the Division including money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the account by the legislature; money received by the ~~comptroller~~ Division for repayment of the loan principal and interest; gifts or grants contributed to the account; and interest earned on deposits and investments of the account. Funds in the account may only be used to provide short-term loans to eligible political subdivisions in the manner indicated in this rule.

Rule

1. Disaster Recovery Loan Program

1.1 The Division ~~shall~~ must develop a loan program to provide short-term loans to eligible political subdivisions for disaster recovery projects.

1.2 The loans must meet the following conditions:

1.2.1 the loan must be made at or below market interest rates for a term not to exceed 10 years; and

1.2.2 the loan proceeds must be expended by the eligible political subdivision solely for the applicable disaster recovery project.

2. Application for Disaster Recovery Loan Program

2.1 The Division ~~shall~~ must develop and maintain an application ~~which~~ that ~~will~~ provides sufficient information to verify the eligibility of the political subdivision and the applicable project for a loan.

2.2 The application will be posted to the Division website.

2.3 Determination of Eligibility of Political Subdivisions

2.3.1 Eligible political subdivision means a county, municipality, or school district that:

a. is located wholly or partly in an area declared to be a disaster area by the governor or the president of the United States; and

b. before applying to the division for a loan under this subchapter:

1. The political subdivision has submitted its operating budget for the most recent fiscal year to the division within 30~~15~~ days of the date of its adoption by the governing body of the political subdivision; and

2. has submitted an application for a loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's community disaster loan program;

2.3.2 The political subdivision must show that an assessment of damages due to the disaster for which the declaration was made has been conducted in accordance with TDEM requirements in the political subdivision.

2.3.3 The political subdivision must provide to the Division sufficient information to show that the estimated cost to rebuild the political subdivision's infrastructure damaged in the disaster is greater than 50 percent of the political subdivision's total revenue for the current year as shown in the most recent operating budget of the political subdivision submitted to the division under this section.

2.4 The loan application will contain at a minimum the following items:

2.4.1 A description of the disaster recovery project for which the applicant is requesting the loan;

2.4.2 An estimate of the total cost of the project;

2.4.3 A statement of the amount of federal money that the applicant will receive for the project, or, if that information is not available on the date the applicant submits the application, an estimate of the amount and the total requested amount;

2.4.4 A statement of the amount of insurance collected for the damage to the original structure, if any;

2.4.5 The revenue source from which payments on the loan principal and interest will be made.

2.4.6 Evidence that the applicant has staff, policies, and procedures in place adequate to complete the project.

2.4.7 The requested term of the loan, not to exceed ten years, and the requested amount of the loan.

2.4.8 Proof of authority for the chief elected official of the political subdivision to enter into the loan agreement. (This can be a resolution from the political subdivision or minutes of a meeting authorizing the loan agreement or specific authorizing statute.)

2.4.9 The signature of the chief elected official of the political subdivision authorizing the political subdivision to enter into the loan agreement with the Division.

3. Review of applications

3.1 The Division will verify that the information contained in 2.3 and 2.4 above.

3.2 The Division, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will verify the information contained in 2.3.3 above.

3.3 Once the information in 3.1 and 3.2 is ~~are~~ verified as accurate, the Division will determine the availability of funds in the Disaster Recovery Loan account to provide the loan.

4. Awarding of the Loan

4.1 After verification of available funds and the verification of information in Section 3, the Division will evaluate currently viable applications on a first-come, first-served basis.

4.1.1 In the event that funds are not available to provide the loan, the Division ~~shall~~ must notify the local jurisdiction of the unavailability of funds.

4.1.2 If funds subsequently become available, all eligible and verified applicants will be notified, and the Division ~~shall~~ must make additional awards.

4.2 Based ~~up~~on the current market interest rates, the Division will determine the interest rate for the loan which will be at or below the market interest rate.

4.3 The Division will determine the term of the loan which ~~shall~~ must not exceed ten years.

4.4 If the term of the loan exceeds two years, the Division ~~shall~~ must notify the state auditor's office of the loan within 30 business days from when the loan is made.

5. Management of the Loan

5.1 The Division ~~shall~~ must provide~~notify~~ the political subdivision ~~of the award of the loan~~a loan agreement which will include~~, including~~ all loan terms and repayment provisions.

5.2 The political subdivision ~~shall~~ must have 60 days to accept the terms of the loan on the ~~form~~ loan agreement provided by the division which ~~shall~~ must be signed by the chief elected official of the political subdivision and returned to the Division.

5.3 The Division shall enter the loan terms into an accounting system which will track the principal and interest payments required.~~The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) shall enter the loan terms into the Campus Receivables Collector (CRC) Program which will track the principal and interest payments required.~~

~~5.4~~ The political subdivision shall make annual repayments of the loan principal and interest to the ~~Comptroller of Public Accounts monthly~~Division~~.~~

~~5.5~~ The political subdivision will receive an annual report ~~monthly~~ on the loan balance and payments made.

~~5.6~~5.4 Missed Payment

~~5.6.1~~5.4.1 In the event that a political subdivision fails to make a scheduled payment on the loan, the Division ~~shall~~must~~, within 10 business days,~~ notify the ~~JM:~~ political subdivision and chief elected official of the missed payment and request that the payment be made.

~~5.6.2 If a political subdivision fails to make two consecutive the payments, the Division shall send a notice of the missed payments to the chief elected official of the political subdivision. The notice shall request that the missed payments be submitted within 10 business days.~~

~~5.6.3~~5.4.2 If the political subdivision fails to make consecutive ~~three consecutive~~ payments, the Division ~~shall~~ must notify the state auditor's office and take remedial actions as provided in Section 5.~~9~~7.

~~5.7~~5.5 Loan Forgiveness and Revision of Loan Terms

~~5.7.1~~5.5.1 If the term of a loan from the account exceeds two years, the state auditor ~~shall~~must, on the second anniversary of the date on which the eligible political subdivision received the loan, conduct a limited audit of the political subdivision to determine whether the political subdivision has the ability to repay the loan under the terms of the loan. The state auditor's participation under this provision is subject to approval by the legislative audit committee for inclusion in the audit plan under Texas Government Code Section 321.013(c).

~~5.7.2~~5.5.2 The Division may forgive a loan made to an eligible political subdivision if the state auditor determines that the political subdivision is unable to repay the loan.

~~5.7.3~~5.5.3 Once the state auditor has determined that the political subdivision does not have the ability to repay the loan, the Division ~~shall~~ must determine whether to reduce the payments on the loan to a level that is manageable by the political subdivision or to forgive the loan.

~~5.7.4~~5.5.4 In the event that the Division chooses to renegotiate the loan terms ~~to reduce the payments~~ made by the political subdivision, the Division ~~shall~~ must notify the political subdivision and negotiate a revision to the loan terms with the political subdivision.

~~5.7.5~~5.5.5 If the political subdivision renegotiates the terms of the loan, the Division will revise the terms of the loan accordingly. The terms ~~shall~~ must take effect upon receipt by the Division of the new loan terms signed by the chief elected officer of the political subdivision.

~~5.8~~5.6 Remedies for Default of Payment

~~5.8.1~~5.6.1 In the event that a political subdivision ~~which~~ that has been found to have the ability to repay the loan by the State Auditor fails to make payments ~~for three consecutive periods~~, or does not make up missed payments, the Division may take such actions as are necessary to ensure the viability of the loan program. The Division may use such methods as are routinely used in state-funded loan programs.

~~5.9~~5.7 Loan Closure

~~5.9.1~~5.7.1 Upon final repayment of the loan, the Division ~~shall~~ must send to the political subdivision notification of the closure of the loan.

~~5.9.2~~5.7.2 If the Division chooses to forgive a loan due to the political subdivision's inability to repay as determined by the state auditor's office, the

Division ~~shall~~ must notify the political subdivision that the loan has been forgiven~~, and enter the information in the CRC.~~.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements ~~(Required)~~

- Texas Government Code Subchapter C-1

Contact Office ~~(Required)~~

- Office of the Chief Operating Officer
- (512) 424-5353

Disaster Recovery Loan Program Rule

Revised: August 1, 2024
Approved May 14, 2020
Next Scheduled Review: August 1, 2029

Rule Summary

- Texas Government Code, Sections 418.061 through 418.067 require the Texas Division of Emergency Management (Division) to develop rules to implement the Disaster Recovery Loan Program to provide short-term loans for disaster recovery projects in eligible political subdivisions.
- These rules provide the requirements for the implementation of the program.

Definitions

- Eligible political subdivision means a county, municipality, or school district that:
  - is located wholly or partly in an area declared to be a disaster area by the governor or the president of the United States; and
  - before applying to the division for a loan under this subchapter:
    - has submitted to the division, within 15 days of the date of its adoption by the governing body of the political subdivision, the political subdivision's operating budget for the most recent fiscal year; and
    - has submitted an application for a loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's community disaster loan program;
  - an assessment of damages due to the disaster for which the declaration was made has been conducted in the political subdivision; and
  - the division, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will determine that the estimated cost to rebuild the political subdivision's infrastructure damaged in the disaster is greater than 50 percent of the political subdivision's total revenue for the current year as shown in the most recent operating budget of the political subdivision submitted to the division under this section.
- Disaster Recovery Loan Account means the account created in the general revenue fund with the comptroller and administered by the Division including money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the account by the legislature; money received by the Division for repayment of the loan principal and interest; gifts or grants contributed to the account; and interest earned on deposits and investments of the account. Funds in the account may only be used to provide short-term loans to eligible political subdivisions in the manner indicated in this rule.

Rule

1. Disaster Recovery Loan Program

    1.1 The Division must develop a loan program to provide short-term loans to eligible political subdivisions for disaster recovery projects.

    1.2 The loans must meet the following conditions:

        1.2.1 the loan must be made at or below market interest rates for a term not to exceed 10 years; and

        1.2.2 the loan proceeds must be expended by the eligible political subdivision solely for the applicable disaster recovery project.

2. Application for Disaster Recovery Loan Program

    2.1 The Division must develop and maintain an application that provides sufficient information to verify the eligibility of the political subdivision and the applicable project for a loan.

    2.2 The application will be posted to the Division website.

    2.3 Determination of Eligibility of Political Subdivisions

        2.3.1 Eligible political subdivision means a county, municipality, or school district that:

            a. is located wholly or partly in an area declared to be a disaster area by the governor or the president of the United States; and

            b. before applying to the division for a loan under this subchapter:

                1. The political subdivision has submitted its operating budget for the most recent fiscal year to the division within 30 days of the date of its adoption by the governing body of the political subdivision; and

                2. has submitted an application for a loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's community disaster loan program;

        2.3.2 The political subdivision must show that an assessment of damages due to the disaster for which the declaration was made has been conducted in accordance with TDEM requirements in the political subdivision.

        2.3.3 The political subdivision must provide to the Division sufficient information to show that the estimated cost to rebuild the political subdivision's infrastructure

damaged in the disaster is greater than 50 percent of the political subdivision's total revenue for the current year as shown in the most recent operating budget of the political subdivision submitted to the division under this section.

2.4 The loan application will contain at a minimum the following items:

2.4.1 A description of the disaster recovery project for which the applicant is requesting the loan;

2.4.2 An estimate of the total cost of the project;

2.4.3 A statement of the amount of federal money that the applicant will receive for the project, or, if that information is not available on the date the applicant submits the application, an estimate of the amount and the total requested amount;

2.4.4 A statement of the amount of insurance collected for the damage to the original structure, if any;

2.4.5 The revenue source from which payments on the loan principal and interest will be made.

2.4.6 Evidence that the applicant has staff, policies, and procedures in place adequate to complete the project.

2.4.7 The requested term of the loan, not to exceed ten years, and the requested amount of the loan.

2.4.8 Proof of authority for the chief elected official of the political subdivision to enter into the loan agreement. (This can be a resolution from the political subdivision or minutes of a meeting authorizing the loan agreement or specific authorizing statute.)

2.4.9 The signature of the chief elected official of the political subdivision authorizing the political subdivision to enter into the loan agreement with the Division.

3. Review of applications

3.1 The Division will verify that the information contained in 2.3 and 2.4 above.

3.2 The Division, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will verify the information contained in 2.3.3 above.

3.3 Once the information in 3.1 and 3.2 is verified as accurate, the Division will determine the availability of funds in the Disaster Recovery Loan account to provide the loan.

4. Awarding of the Loan

4.1 After verification of available funds and the verification of information in Section 3, the Division will evaluate currently viable applications on a first-come, first-served basis.

4.1.1 In the event that funds are not available to provide the loan, the Division must notify the local jurisdiction of the unavailability of funds.

4.1.2 If funds subsequently become available, all eligible and verified applicants will be notified, and the Division must make additional awards.

4.2 Based on the current market interest rates, the Division will determine the interest rate for the loan which will be at or below the market interest rate.

4.3 The Division will determine the term of the loan which must not exceed ten years.

4.4 If the term of the loan exceeds two years, the Division must notify the state auditor's office of the loan within 30 business days from when the loan is made.

5. Management of the Loan

5.1 The Division must provide the political subdivision a loan agreement which will include all loan terms and repayment provisions.

5.2 The political subdivision must have 60 days to accept the terms of the loan on the loan agreement provided by the division which must be signed by the chief elected official of the political subdivision and returned to the Division.

5.3 The Division shall enter the loan terms into an accounting system which will track the principal and interest payments required.

5.4 The political subdivision shall make annual repayments of the loan principal and interest to the Division. The political subdivision will receive an annual report on the loan balance and payments made.

5.5 Missed Payment

5.5.1 In the event that a political subdivision fails to make a scheduled payment on the loan, the Division must notify the political subdivision and chief elected official of the missed payment and request that the payment be made.

5.5.2 If the political subdivision fails to make consecutive payments, the Division must notify the state auditor's office and take remedial actions as provided in Section 5.7.

5.6 Loan Forgiveness and Revision of Loan Terms

5.6.1 If the term of a loan from the account exceeds two years, the state auditor must, on the second anniversary of the date on which the eligible political subdivision received the loan, conduct a limited audit of the political subdivision to determine whether the political subdivision has the ability to repay the loan under the terms of the loan. The state auditor's participation under this provision is subject to approval by the legislative audit committee for inclusion in the audit plan under Texas Government Code Section 321.013(c).

5.6.2 The Division may forgive a loan made to an eligible political subdivision if the state auditor determines that the political subdivision is unable to repay the loan.

5.6.3 Once the state auditor has determined that the political subdivision does not have the ability to repay the loan, the Division must determine whether to reduce the payments on the loan to a level that is manageable by the political subdivision or to forgive the loan.

5.6.4 In the event that the Division chooses to renegotiate the loan terms made by the political subdivision, the Division must notify the political subdivision and negotiate a revision to the loan terms with the political subdivision.

5.6.5 If the political subdivision renegotiates the terms of the loan, the Division will revise the terms of the loan accordingly. The terms must take effect upon receipt by the Division of the new loan terms signed by the chief elected officer of the political subdivision.

5.7 Remedies for Default of Payment

In the event that a political subdivision that has been found to have the ability to repay the loan by the State Auditor fails to make payments, or does not make up missed payments, the Division may take such actions as are necessary to ensure the viability of the loan program. The Division may use such methods as are routinely used in state-funded loan programs.

5.8 Loan Closure

5.8.1 Upon final repayment of the loan, the Division must send to the political subdivision notification of the closure of the loan.

5.8.2 If the Division chooses to forgive a loan due to the political subdivision's inability to repay as determined by the state auditor's office, the Division must notify the political subdivision that the loan has been forgiven.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

- Texas Government Code Subchapter C-1

Contact Office

- Office of the Chief Operating Officer
- (512) 424-5353

***Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.**