

University of Houston MD Proposal: Summary of Staff Perspectives



Stacey Silverman, Ph.D.
Academic Quality and Workforce
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Summary of Staff Perspectives

Staff recommendation is Approval (with two additional recommendations)

- The proposed program would likely prepare physicians for entry into primary care and would prepare physicians to pursue medical careers in geographically underserved areas.
- The institution's two goals for the proposed program: 1) have 50 percent of its graduates practice primary care medicine, and 2) have 50 percent of its enrollment from under-represented populations.
- The proposed program's budget depends on a mix of general revenue, including special item and formula funding, tuition and fees, reallocation of institutional funds, and donations.
- UH has strong supporting academic programs, existing faculty, and physical and administrative infrastructure necessary to develop, implement, and sustain a high-quality program.
- UH submitted a **specific** plan regarding how the institution will provide sufficient first-year residency positions for graduates, pursuant to the provisions and intent of SB 1066, 85th Legislature, Regular Session.



Statutory Requirements on Degree Reviews

- TEC 61.0512 states that, “the board may not summarily disapprove a program without completing the review required by this section.”
- Statute specifies four criteria the proposed program **must** meet during the review. Statute does **not** limit the Coordinating Board to considering **only** these criteria in deciding whether to approve the degree program (per TEC, 61.0512(c)(4)).
- The staff review of this and all program proposals **incorporates these criteria broadly as well as specific factors established in the Texas Administrative Code, such as workforce demand, student financial assistance, and library and IT resources, to fully inform the Board.**

The Coordinating Board is statutorily directed to consider ***at least*** the following four criteria when reviewing program proposals

Per TEC 61.0512

(c) The board shall review each degree or certificate program offered by an institution of higher education at the time the institution requests to implement a new program to ensure that the program:

- (1) is **needed by the state and the local community** and **does not unnecessarily duplicate programs** offered by other institutions of higher education or private or independent institutions of higher education;
- (2) has **adequate financing** from legislative appropriation, funds allocated by the board, or funds from other sources;
- (3) has **necessary faculty** and **other resources to ensure student success**; and
- (4) **meets academic standards** specified by law or prescribed by board rule, including rules adopted by the board for purposes of this section.

Statutory Criterion 1: *“The program is needed by the state and the local community and does not unnecessarily duplicate programs offered by other institutions of higher education or private or independent institutions of higher education.”*

Staff Perspective: Proposed program partially meets the criterion

- Texas expanded medical education and in 2017 surpassed Pennsylvania with the second largest entering medical school class size
- Texas ranked 36th nationally in the ratio of medical students per 100,000 population
- Houston is home to two mature medical schools; neither is slated to increase class size in the coming years
- Texas A&M University Health Science Center has a partnership with Methodist Hospital Houston, which serves as one of its training sites for some of its medical students
- UTMB Galveston and the site of the recently approved Sam Houston State University DO program are in the region

Statutory Criterion 1: *“The program is needed by the state and the local community and does not unnecessarily duplicate programs offered by other institutions of higher education or private or independent institutions of higher education.”*

Staff Perspective: Proposed program partially meets the criterion

- There is a need for **improved diversity in the physician population**
- There are needs for improved geographic distribution in **specific regions, including inner-city and rural areas**
- It is evident from the information provided in the proposal and subsequent information that the proposed program would address these needs:
 - ✓ Proposed model of admitting underrepresented students into the program could lead to an increase in graduates providing health care services to underrepresented patients
 - ✓ Educating underrepresented medical students may encourage graduates to enter primary care in greater numbers, and could also positively affect their likelihood to practice in inner-city and rural communities
 - ✓ Implementation of current educational elements, including a flipped classroom approach and longitudinal experiences that promote primary care specialties

Statutory Criterion 2: *“The program has adequate financing from legislative appropriation, funds allocated by the board, or funds from other sources.”*

Staff Perspective: Proposed program meets the criterion

- UH's proposed program is **dependent on a mixed funding model**. The mix includes a reliance on general revenue, including special item and formula funding, tuition and fees, reallocation of institutional funds, and donations
- UH's proposed program would set **tuition and fees at \$22,510** annually, which is in line with existing Texas public medical schools
- UH received a **donation of \$3.2 million**, which would cover tuition and fees for the inaugural class for all four years of the program

Recommendation: UH commits to aggressively pursue funds to provide scholarships and/or loan repayment to achieve its goal of having 50 percent of its students from under-represented populations.

Statutory Criterion 3: *“The program has necessary faculty and other resources to ensure student success.”*

Staff Perspective: Proposed program meets the criterion

- UH hired **seven core faculty** to establish the proposed program and **will hire 20 additional core faculty** prior to enrolling students
- UH identified **37 existing faculty** that could support the proposed program
- With 90 master's degree programs, 45 doctoral programs, and 3 professional practice programs, UH **has expertise in offering graduate programs**
- UH has **existing space** in a newly opened building that will house the medical students for their first two years
- UH has plans underway to build a new free-standing building to accommodate the future medical students

Recommendation: UH will provide documentation of hiring 20 additional core faculty through the submission of letters of intent, curricula vitae, and provide a list of courses to be taught prior to August 2020.

Statutory Criterion 4: *“The program meets academic standards specified by law or prescribed by board rule, including rules adopted by the board for purposes of this section. . .”*

Staff Perspective: Proposed program meets this criterion

Under THECB Rule 5.46, “requests for new doctoral programs must provide information and documentation demonstrating that the proposed programs **meet all of the following criteria.**”

There are 19 criteria total under this section.

- Design of the proposed program
- Freedom of inquiry and expression
- Programs at the undergraduate and master’s levels
- Need for the program
- Faculty resources
- Teaching loads of faculty
- Critical mass of superior students
- On-campus residency expectations
- Adequate financial assistance
- Carefully planned program
- External learning experiences
- Support staff
- Physical facilities
- Library and IT Resources
- Costs and funding
- Program evaluation standards
- Strategic plan
- Marketable skills, and
- First doctoral program requires SACSCOC notification



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Statutory Criterion 4: *“The program meets academic standards specified by law or prescribed by board rule, including rules adopted by the board for purposes of this section. . .”*

Staff Perspective: Proposed program meets the criterion

The proposal meets THECB Rule 5.46(3) “Doctoral programs, in most instances, should be undergirded by quality programs in a wide number of disciplines at the undergraduate and master’s levels. Quality programs in **other related and supporting doctoral areas must** also be available.”

- UH offers PhD programs in the related and supporting areas of biochemistry, biology, biomedical engineering, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, school psychology, kinesiology, neuroscience, pharmacy, and pharmacology
- UH offers special professional degree programs in the related and supporting areas of pharmacy and optometry and offers an advanced post-professional master’s of legal letters in health law
- The institution offers master’s level programs in nursing administration, nurse practitioner, and nursing education



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Statutory Criterion 4: *“The program meets academic standards specified by law or prescribed by board rule, including rules adopted by the board for purposes of this section. . .”*

Staff Perspective: Proposed program meets the criterion

THECB Rule 5.46(5)(A): “If an institution is required to hire additional faculty prior to opening the proposed program and enrolling students, the institution **will provide documentation on a schedule determined** by the Coordinating Board of the faculty hires through submission of a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and a list of courses in the curriculum that the faculty hire would be qualified to teach. **Proposed recruitment of such faculty shall not meet this criterion.** No authorized doctoral program shall be initiated until qualified faculty are active members of the department through which the program is offered.”



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Statutory Criterion 4: *“The program meets academic standards specified by law or prescribed by board rule, including rules adopted by the board for purposes of this section. . .”*

Staff Perspective: Proposed program meets the criterion

Rule 5.46(9): “There should be adequate financial assistance for doctoral students so as to assure that most of them can be engaged in full-time study. **Initially, funds for financial assistance to the doctoral students usually come from institutional sources.** As the program develops and achieves distinction, it increasingly shall attract support from government, industry, foundations, and other sources.”

- UH provided clear communication that it would provide financial support for its inaugural class and would seek additional financial support to support additional classes
- UH received a \$3.2 million donation which will cover the tuition and fees for the inaugural class for all four years

Recommendation: UH commits to aggressively pursue funds to provide scholarships and/or loan repayment to achieve its goal of having 50 percent of its students from under-represented populations.



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HCR 102, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session

(Author: Chairman J.M. Lozano

Senate Sponsor: Senator Charles Schwertner)

**HCR 102 (Passed the Texas Senate 31-0, Passed the Texas House 134-12;
Signed by the Governor on 6/15/17)**

- Expresses the Legislature's support for **prioritizing a substantial increase in funding for graduate medical education** before it considers authorizing the creation and support of additional medical schools.
- Charges the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to work with institutions of higher education and the medical community to **achieve the 1.1 to 1 goal** for graduate medical education.
- Texas is **currently just at the 1.1 to 1 ratio** of first-year residency positions to medical school graduates. It will require **an additional \$60.675 million** in GME Expansion Grant funding next biennium just to keep up with additional graduates **from currently operating medical schools**.



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SB 1066, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session

(Authors: Senators Schwertner, Buckingham, Campbell, Huffman, Nelson

Co-Authors: Bettencourt, Hinojosa, Kolkhorst, Seliger, Zaffirini)

**SB 1066 (Approved in the Texas Senate 31-0, Unopposed in the Texas House;
Signed by the Governor on 6/12/17)**

- Requires an institution proposing an M.D. or D.O. degree to provide a **"specific plan regarding the addition of first-year residency positions** for the graduate medical education program to be offered in connection with the new degree program."
- The **plan must propose an increase in the total number of first-year residency positions in the state sufficient to reasonably accommodate their and other medical schools' projected graduates.**
- **Submission of such a specific plan is required for approval.**



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SB 1066, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session

(Authors: Senators Schwertner, Buckingham, Campbell, Huffman, Nelson
Co-Authors: Bettencourt, Hinojosa, Kolkhorst, Seliger, Zaffirini)

Staff Perspective: Proposal offers a specific plan

- The UH proposal includes the development of new residency programs and the development of **103 first-year** residency positions in the region
- The institution partnered with HCA Gulf Coast Division to develop new residency programs in internal medicine, emergency medicine, family medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, obstetric/gynecology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, orthopedic surgery, and a transitional program.
- The institution did **include affiliation agreements with potential GME hospitals, community health centers, and local foundations that provide firm commitments to create residency positions.**
- Given that UH proposes to enroll students in fall 2020, **a minimum of 30 newly established first-year residency positions would be needed in 2024.**



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Staff Recommendations

Staff recommendation is Approval with two additional recommendations

Recommendation 1: UH commits to aggressively pursue funds to provide scholarships and/or loan repayment to achieve its goal of having 50 percent of its students from under-represented populations.

Recommendation 2: UH will provide documentation of hiring 20 additional core faculty through the submission of letters of intent, curricula vitae, and provide a list of courses to be taught prior to August 2020.



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