A photograph of a student walking past a large, modern building with a prominent glass window. The student is wearing a red shirt and a backpack. The building has a classical architectural style with columns. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a clear sky. The image is overlaid with a dark blue gradient at the top and bottom.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2015

UH-VICTORIA

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS (in Priority Order)

❶ Academic Program Expansion (Biennial Request: \$6,000,000)

To reach the goal of enrolling 6,000 students in Victoria by FY 2025, UHV must substantially expand its academic programs in order to meet the needs of its diverse student body and to serve the workforce demands of critical fields in the health professions, business and industry, and professional and social services. The exceptional item would cover the costs of establishing at least 12 new academic programs, which will prove necessary to implement the programs and support core curriculum requirements.

❷ Downward Expansion (Biennial Request: \$1,800,000)

During the 2010-11 and 2012-13 biennium, UHV used significant institutional funds for start-up expenses directly related to preparation for and implementation of downward expansion. For the 2012-13 biennium, UHV requested \$6.05 million for actual start-up expenses and received \$4.2 million. Appropriations to other institutions of similar size that have undergone downward expansion, including Texas A&M-Corpus (\$5.6 million appropriated 1994/95 biennium) and Texas A&M-Texarkana (\$6.2 million appropriated 2010-2011 biennium), were considerably higher. UHV is requesting funding to assist defraying downward expansion costs.

❸ Small Business Development Center/Economic Development Center (Biennial Request: \$400,000)

UHV is constructing a 63,000-square-foot academic and regional economic development facility. Expected to open by spring 2015, the facility will house the Regional Center for Economic Development, a business resource center, training areas, and UHV programs that focus on job creation and retention. The UHV Small Business Development Center will provide the management expertise and oversight for the operation. The SBDC's involvement will create valuable partnerships benefiting the entire 11-county region. The funds requested will be used for additional support staff, the expansion of training and regional conferences and the increased operational expenses associated with UHV's new Regional Economic Development Center.

TUITION REVENUE BONDS

❶ Campus Expansion/Land Acquisition (\$166,000,000)

UHV is asking for authority to issue \$166,000,000 in tuition revenue bonds for an academic expansion of 232,000 square feet of new space and renovation of 76,000 square feet of existing space, plus land acquisition of 80 acres. The additional space will allow the university to meet the needs of a growing residential campus. Available ground space for new facilities on the UHV campus traditionally has been limited. The main campus occupies two primary multipurpose buildings situated on approximately 19 acres with two nearby hotel-to-student housing conversions and one new student housing facility on eight acres. Only two locations available for expansion exist on the campus. As planned future growth takes place, current UHV buildings will be repurposed for student support and library space in accordance with the university's master plan.

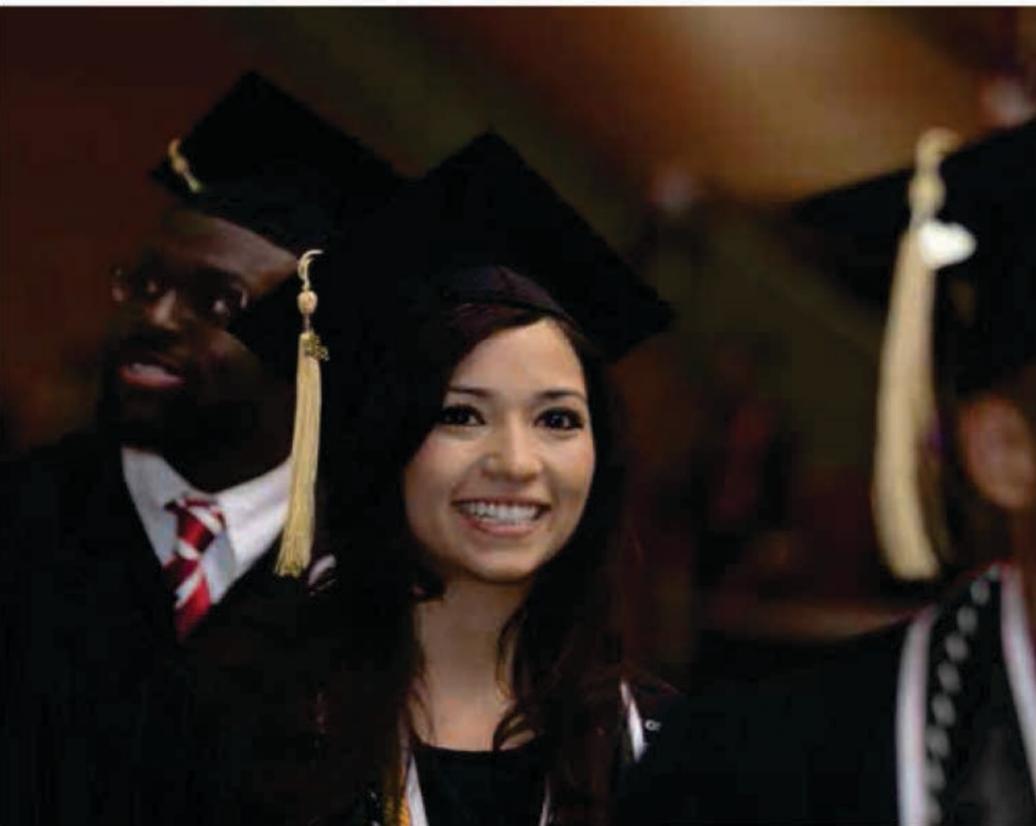


UH SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

TUITION REVENUE BONDS

① UH System at Cinco Ranch Building and Land Purchase (\$58,540,000)

Through this project, the University of Houston System will purchase land and construct a new 60,000 square foot academic building in the West Houston/Katy region. This project is part of a major UHS effort to expand academic programs to address the workforce needs in the region. Currently, students in West Houston and the Katy area have the opportunity to complete more than 20 undergraduate degrees and more than 12 graduate degrees in high-demand fields in business, education and nursing. The UH System partners closely with growing local community colleges that provide freshman and sophomore level coursework prior to transferring to the undergraduate degree programs offered at the Cinco Ranch campus. The additional space provided by this building is crucial to the expansion of degree programs needed to serve the rapidly growing population of West Houston/Katy.



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM

UH SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

① Tuition Revenue Bond Projects (TRBs)

Maintaining quality in our classrooms, laboratories, libraries and equipment remains critical to achieving the UH System's goals of academic and research excellence. As enrollment and the number of faculty at our institutions grow, so too does the need for expanded and better infrastructure. Funding capital construction projects through direct appropriation and tuition revenue bonds is vital to address these needs.

② Higher Education Fund (HEF)

The State of Texas and its universities are in a period of tremendous growth and are therefore in need of expanded facilities. The UH System recommends the Legislature re-authorize the Higher Education Fund (HEF) for the next 10 years with a 50 percent increase (from \$262.5 million to \$393.75 million) – a percentage consistent with increases for the past two 10-year allocation cycles.

③ State Coverage for Hazlewood Exemptions

In FY 2014, the UH System universities funded \$9.8 million in Hazlewood exemptions to help veterans and their families attend college. Absent full state coverage, the UH System universities must fund these exemptions through other institutional resources, including tuition paid by other students.

④ Base Formula Funding

As demands on our universities grow, so does the need to provide adequate resources for basic educational services through the formulas. For the upcoming biennium, the University of Houston System encourages the Legislature to provide sufficient funding to cover current services (growth plus inflation) at the state's universities.



5 Financial Aid/TEXAS Grants

State funding for financial aid is essential for Texas to expand access to higher education and ensure student graduation. This rings especially true at the UH System institutions, where the education of many students is not paid by their families.

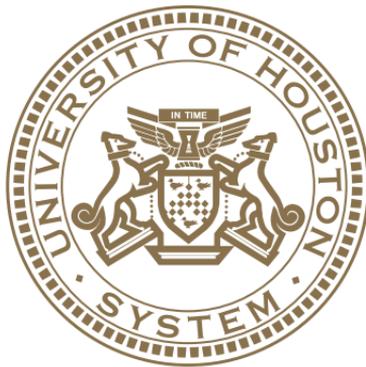
6 Special and Exceptional Items

The Legislature funds numerous programs at the UH System universities that fall outside the scope of formula funding. These programs have a tremendously positive impact on our academic programs, research endeavors and the communities we serve. The UH System recommends continuation of special item funding and consideration for exceptional item funding.



Mission of the University of Houston System

The University of Houston System provides access to comprehensive higher education programs and services. The UH System's research and scholarship are globally significant, nationally competitive and serve as an engine for economic development, while its public service activities enhance the quality of life.



Office of Governmental Relations

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