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FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee Meeting: 5/4/2022

Board Meeting: 5/5/2022
Austin, Texas

Rad Weaver, Chairman
Christina Melton Crain
R. Steven Hicks
Janiece Longoria
Nolan Perez
Stuart W. Stedman

1. U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration

RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Consent Agenda items assigned to this Committee are Items 2 - 31.

2. U. T. El Paso: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed changes to admission criteria for the Master of Business Administration degree program

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve changes to the criteria for admission to the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program at U. T. El Paso as described below.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

U. T. El Paso requests approval to change the admission criteria for the MBA degree program within the College of Business Administration. The proposed changes provide prospective students the option to submit a standardized admission exam [Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE)] score, in addition to academic credentials. This request also proposes alignment of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) requirements with those of the U. T. El Paso Graduate School.

During the 2021 admission cycle, professional MBA applicants were given the option to request a GMAT waiver for admission into the program. An analysis of Grade Point Averages (GPA) after 9 credit hours of MBA coursework was conducted and the MBA administration did not find a significant difference between cohorts admitted with and those without a GMAT requirement. The analysis suggests that a GMAT requirement provides limited to no additional value in predicting student success.

Current Admission Criteria	Proposed Admission Criteria
• Online Application for Admission into a Graduate Degree Program.	• No change
• Official transcript from an accredited institution demonstrating completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree (or equivalent in the case of an international institution) and official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended.	• No change
• One-page Statement of Purpose	• No change
• Resume	• No change
• Two letters of reference from professional and/or academic sources.	• No change

• Official GMAT score required for AMBA and Full-Time MBA.	• ~~Official GMAT score required for AMBA and Full-Time MBA.~~ GMAT (or GRE) scores (optional).
• Applicants who submit a transcript demonstrating a conferred graduate degree may request a GMAT waiver.	• ~~Applicants who submit a transcript demonstrating a conferred graduate degree may request a GMAT waiver.~~
• Applicants with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.50 or better from UTEP or a comparably accredited University may request a GMAT waiver.	• ~~Applicants with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.50 or better from UTEP or a comparably accredited University may request a GMAT waiver.~~
• Official TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper based) for international students. Evidence demonstrating English proficiency (for non- native English speakers). See UTEP Graduate School website for information and requirements (click here).	• ~~Official~~ TOEFL score as set forth by the Graduate School ~~of at least 550 (paper based) for international students~~. ~~Evidence demonstrating English proficiency (for non- native English speakers). See UTEP Graduate School website for information and requirements (click here).~~

3. U. T. Tyler: Approval to establish a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering degree program

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the institutional president that authorization, pursuant to Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 40307, related to academic program approval standards, be granted to

a. establish a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering degree program at U. T. Tyler; and

b. submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Program Description

U. T. Tyler proposes to establish a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Computer Engineering. The degree program is designed to prepare individuals who will be involved in the design of microcontrollers, microprocessors, networking equipment, firmware for embedded systems, VLSI (very large-scale integration) chips, analog sensors, mixed signal circuit boards, and operating systems. Graduates will also be suited for robotics and control applications, as these use digital circuits to control and monitor electrical systems like motors, communications, and sensors. In this area of study, students can pursue advanced coursework in computer security, artificial intelligence, computer graphics, networks, operating systems, and compilers.

The program will consist of 128 semester credit hours (SCH), with requirements including a general education core, general sciences (including physics and chemistry), advanced mathematics (including calculus up to differential equation, discrete structures, and matrix methods), and major specific course sequences in programming, circuits, electronics and microprocessors, signals and communications, and computer architecture.

Need and Student Demand

The computer engineering occupation has positive employment growth projections ranging from 1.6% to15.4% over the next decade (U.S. Department of Labor). There is projected to be a 5.34% overall growth in the profession by 2029. The data show that the mean annual salary for computer engineering occupations is in the range of $115,110 to $127,460. The State of Texas has the third highest employment level for computer hardware engineers in the country, the second highest employment level for computer network architects, and the fifth highest employment level for computer and information research scientists. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) estimates that employment for computer engineers in the State of Texas is projected to increase over the next decade by 15.5%.

There are numerous engineering firms in East Texas that require computer engineering graduates. A recently conducted poll of the College of Engineering Advisory Board (which consists of industry leaders from throughout the region) cited the growing need to hire graduates from East Texas who are ready to live and work in the region.

Computer Engineering enrollment in the State of Texas has been steadily increasing in recent years. Based on enrollments reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the total number of undergraduate computer engineering majors increased by 39% from Fall 2014 to Fall 2019, and the number of degrees awarded increased by 136% from Academic Year 2014-2015 to the most recently completed Academic Year 2018-2019.

Based on enrollments in other engineering programs at U. T. Tyler, the proposed program anticipates a cumulative headcount enrollment of 22 in year one and reaching 120 by year five.

Program Quality

The computer engineering program will be housed in the Department of Electrical Engineering (Department), which will be renamed the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Current faculty in the Department will support the program by teaching existing courses. It is anticipated that new courses in computer networking and other areas will be added by the hired faculty.

U. T. Tyler plans to hire three new faculty with 100% of their time dedicated to delivering the program (two tenure-track faculty with Ph.D.'s in computer engineering and one senior lecturer). In addition to the new faculty hires, one computer engineering technician will be required to set up the specialized equipment and software for the program. Four existing support faculty will also support the program with 50% of their time.

Revenue and Expenses

Expenses	5-Year Total
Faculty	
Salaries	$1,867,581
Benefits	$466,895
Staff & Administration	
Administrative Staff Salaries	$50,000
Staff Benefits	$12,500
Other Expenses	
Equipment, Travel, M&O, Consumables	$194,000
Total Expenses	$2,590,976

Revenue	5-Year Total
From Student Enrollment	
Formula Funding	$1,139,401
Tuition and Fees	$2,594,914
Total Revenue	$3,734,315

Coordinating Board Criteria

The proposed program meets all applicable Coordinating Board criteria for new bachelor's degree programs.

4. U. T. Arlington: Appointment of Dr. James D. Spaniolo as President Emeritus

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs recommend that the U. T. System Board of Regents appoint James D. Spaniolo as President Emeritus at U. T. Arlington. Approval of this recommendation is requested in accordance with the Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 20301.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2004, Mr. Spaniolo became the seventh president of U. T. Arlington, serving in that position until his retirement in 2013. Before coming to U. T. Arlington, Mr. Spaniolo was dean of Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences from 1996-2003. Before his tenure at Michigan State, he was vice president and chief program officer of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the largest media-related private foundation in the United States with more than $1.5 billion in assets, from 1989-1996. He graduated with high honors from Michigan State in 1968 with a B.A. degree in political science. Following service in the U.S. Army Reserve, he became an assistant to Michigan State President Clifton R. Wharton Jr. from 1970-1972. He earned a law degree from The University of Michigan Law School in 1975 and a master's degree in public administration from The University of Michigan Institute of Public Policy Studies (now the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy).

During his tenure, he focused on building and strengthening partnerships and instilling pride among the students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Through collaboration and inclusion, he enhanced U. T. Arlington's strong academic quality meeting global needs – and beyond. Mr. Spaniolo emphasized engagement both in and out of the classroom, leading to a more well-rounded university experience. Under his leadership, U. T. Arlington saw dramatic increases in student organizational involvement, leadership opportunities, cultural events, community service activities, and new infrastructure. During his presidency, enrollment increased 34%, annual research expenditures and philanthropic giving tripled, and more than $400 million in campus construction was completed.

Through his efforts as president, Mr. Spaniolo has positioned U. T. Arlington to become a major national research university and to have highly rated academic programs in every one of its nine academic colleges and schools.