



AGENDA
SPECIAL CALLED TELEPHONE MEETING
of
THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM
BOARD OF REGENTS

August 11, 2017
Austin, Texas

Sara Martinez Tucker, Chairman
Ernest Aliseda
Kevin P. Eltife
R. Steven Hicks
Janiece Longoria
Rad Weaver

		Page
CONVENE MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	<i>10:00 a.m.</i> <i>Chairman Tucker</i>	
1. U. T. System: Discussion and possible appropriate action regarding guidelines for setting tuition and fees for the academic institutions	Discussion/Action	2
2. U. T. System: Discussion regarding work and recommendations of the Faculty Workload Task Force	Discussion	2
3. U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion related to proposed changes to Admission Criteria for Graduate Programs	Discussion	3
4. U. T. System: Discussion related to proposed contract with Digerati, Inc. for a job and internship matching network	Discussion	15
ADJOURN	<i>11:30 a.m.</i> <i>approximately</i>	

1. **U. T. System: Discussion and possible appropriate action regarding guidelines for setting tuition and fees for the academic institutions**

DISCUSSION

Regent Tucker will introduce a discussion of proposed guidelines for setting tuition and fees for the U. T. academic institutions for Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020.

2. **U. T. System: Discussion regarding work and recommendations of the Faculty Workload Task Force**

DISCUSSION

Executive Vice Chancellor Leslie will provide an update regarding the work of the Faculty Workload Task Force. The Task Force was convened by Chancellor McRaven to examine *Texas Education Code* Section 51.402 and Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 31006 regarding Academic Workload Requirements and to make recommendations and provide additional guidance as needed to ensure that the U. T. academic institutions are fully compliant with law and policy.

3. **U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion related to proposed changes to Admission Criteria for Graduate Programs**

DISCUSSION

The Committee will have the opportunity to discuss and ask questions regarding the proposed changes to admission criteria for graduate programs at U. T. Rio Grande Valley as described on the following pages. Narrative explanations for the proposed changes follow on [Pages 12 - 14](#).

DRAFT Item for August 23-24, 2017 Board of Regents' Meeting

Admission Criteria - U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Changes to Admission Criteria for Graduate Programs

U. T. Rio Grande Valley requests approval for changes to the criteria for admission to the Master of Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies - Anthropology, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Master of Science in Kinesiology, Master of Education in Bilingual Education, Teacher Certification – Principal Credential (M.Ed. Educational Leadership), Teacher Certification – Principal Credential (M.Ed. in another field), Teacher Certification – Assessment of Exceptional Learners Credential (formerly Educational Diagnostician Credential) (Certification in the State of Texas only), and Teacher Certification – Assessment of Exceptional Learners Credential (formerly Educational Diagnostician Credential) programs as described below.

The changes have been reviewed and administratively approved by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and are recommended for approval by the U. T. System Board of Regents.

Summary of Changes to Admission Criteria

Master of Physician Assistant Studies	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. Minimum of 15 U.S. Semester hours completed within the past 5 years (starting in the 2016 application cycle).	1. No change
2. Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing the graduate degree.	2. No change
3. Three letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources.	3. No change
4. Documentation of a minimum of 50 hours of shadowing.	4. Documentation of a minimum of 50 hours of shadowing.
5. GRE General Test.	5. No change

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies – Anthropology	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. GRE general test	1. <u>If applicant does not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA criterion</u> , a GRE general test is required.
2. Submission of a statement of purpose and goals for pursuing the degree	2. No change
3. Submission of a resume	3. No change
4.	4. <u>Two letters of recommendation, at least one of them from an academic source</u>

Master of Science in Criminal Justice	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. If applicant does not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA criterion of 3.0, but has a GPA of 2.80 -2.99, GRE general test with minimum scores of 146 Verbal, 150 Quantitative, and 3.5 Analytical are required for conditional admission	1. If applicant does not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA criterion of 3.0, but has a GPA of <u>2.75</u> -2.99, GRE general test with minimum scores of 146 Verbal, 150 Quantitative, and 3.5 Analytical are required for conditional admission
2. Submission of three letters of recommendation from university/college professors who can assess the applicants' abilities to pursue graduate study. In exceptional cases (where an applicant has not attended school for a long period of time, say five years), a non-academic referee, such as a captain and above in the US Armed Forces or law enforcement; a federal or state judge; a senior barrister/attorney-at-law; or a Senior Federal, State/County/Local Public Service Officer above the rank	2. No change

of a supervisor; or other similar position may be considered.	
3. Submission of a 250-500 letter of intent detailing why the student is interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Criminal Justice	3. No change

Master of Science in Kinesiology	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. Submission of two letters of recommendation or reference checklists	1. No change
2. Submission of a statement of purpose in pursuing degree	2. No change
3. Submission of a resume	3. No change
4.	4. <u>Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology or related field from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or a recognized international equivalent in a similar or related field.</u>
5.	5. <u>Applicants who do not have their undergraduate training in Kinesiology or related areas, will be required to complete 9-12 hours of undergraduate leveling work. Leveling work must be completed with a "B" (GPA of 3.0 or higher based upon a 4.0 system) before acceptance into the program</u>

Master of Education in Bilingual Education	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.25 overall	1. Minimum undergraduate GPA of <u>3.0</u>
2. If applicant does not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission	2. No change
3. Submission of two letters of recommendation	3. Submission of two letters of recommendation <u>from professional or academic sources</u>
4. Submission of a personal statement essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Write 250 words in English explaining your interest in graduate studies b. Write 250 words for your chosen specialization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Dual Language Specialization: In Spanish, explain your interest in dual language environments ii. ESL Specialization: In English, explain your interest in students who speak languages other than English. iii. Educational Leadership Specialization: In English, explain your interest in leadership for bilingual environments. 	4. Submission of a personal statement essays (<u>complete both a and b</u>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Write 250 words in English explaining your interest in graduate studies b. Write 250 words for your chosen specialization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Dual Language Specialization: <u>En español, explique su interés en ambientes y aulas bilingües</u> ii. ESL Specialization: In English, explain your interest in students who speak languages other than English. iii. Educational Leadership Specialization: In English, explain your interest in leadership for

	bilingual environments.
5. Submission of a resume	5. Submission of a resume <u>which includes educational and background and work experience</u>
6. Submission of Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) or Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET) Certificate. If an applicant lacks Texas certification but has taught in another state, another country, a charter school, a private school, or a community college, conditional admission may be considered.	6. <u>Documentation of one of the following:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Teacher certification in the U.S., or</u> • <u>licenciatura or equivalent from another country, in a field related to education or language, or</u> • <u>employment in a charter school, private school, or a community college.</u> • <u>For applicants without teaching certification or experience, conditional admission may be considered.</u>
7. Documentation of one year of teaching experience	7. Documentation of one year of teaching experience

Teacher Certification – Principal Credential (M.Ed. Educational Leadership)	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. Master's degree in Educational Leadership	1. No change
2. 3.0 GPA	2. No change
3. Three (3) years teaching experience	3. <u>Two (2) years</u> teaching experience
4. Presentation of the following to the Faculty Admissions Committee. (1 hour) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of how you use student performance 	4. No change

<p>data to improve instruction</p> <p>B. Evidence of Leadership Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of End-product from M.Ed. program 2. Presentation of school site leadership roles/responsibilities 	
5. Evidence of Teaching certificate (Updated)	5. No change
6. Evidence of Teacher Service Record	6. No change
7. Criminal Background Check	7. No change

Teacher Certification – Principal Credential (M.Ed. in another field)	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. Master's degree in Educational Leadership	1. No change
2. 3.0 GPA	2. No change
3. Three (3) years teaching experience	3. <u>Two (2) years</u> teaching experience
<p>4. Presentation of the following to the Faculty Admissions Committee. (1 hour)</p> <p>A. Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of how you use student performance data to improve instruction <p>B. Evidence of Leadership Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of End-product from M.Ed. program 	4. No change

2. Presentation of school site leadership roles/responsibilities	
5. Evidence of Teaching certificate (Updated)	5. No change
6. Evidence of Teacher Service Record	6. No change
7. Criminal Background Check	7. No change

Teacher Certification – Assessment of Exceptional Learners Credential (formerly Educational Diagnostician Credential) (Certification in the state of Texas only)	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
0.	1. <u>Hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in education or related field</u>
1. Three letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources.	2. No change
2. Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing this degree.	3. No change
3. Criminal background check	4. No change
4. Proof of Professional Liability Insurance	5. No change
6.	6. <u>Hold a valid teaching certification</u>

Teacher Certification – Assessment of Exceptional Learners Credential (formerly Educational Diagnostician Credential)	
Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
0.	1. <u>Hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education in education or related field</u>
1. Three letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources.	2. No change
2. Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing this degree.	3. No change
3. Criminal background check	4. No change
4. Proof of Professional Liability Insurance	5. No change

Narrative Explanations for Proposed Changes to Admission Criteria

1. Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Delete: Documentation of a minimum of 50 hours of shadowing.

Many potentially excellent candidates do not have sufficient shadowing hours since they would not have worked in the field prior to enrolling in the program. The students in the program will gain considerable shadowing hours as part of the curriculum.

2. Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies - Anthropology

Change: GRE general test (required of all applicants) to required only for applicants that do not meet the GPA requirement for clear admission (3.0).

The GRE was added as a requirement for all applicants when degree programs were proposed for UTRGV and was not a requirement previously at the legacy institution. The program believes that applicants that meet the GPA requirement for clear admission (3.0), have a strong resume (resume submission required), and submit a well-articulated statement of purpose and goals would not accrue additional advantage from taking the GRE test. In order to facilitate a holistic assessment of applicants with GPAs below 3.0, the GRE test would be required. In addition, the program is also now requesting two letters of recommendation from all applicants.

3. Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Change: Conditional GPA requirement reduced to a range of 2.75 – 2.99 from 2.80 – 2.99.

This requested change is to bring the program in line with the university general requirement of 2.75 – 2.99 used for conditional admission for all other graduate programs.

4. Master of Science in Kinesiology

Change: Add requirement of a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology or related field. Students without a Kinesiology undergraduate degree will be required to take additional undergraduate leveling work.

Previously, applicants could enter the program from a wide cross-section of undergraduate background. It had become apparent that students without a Kinesiology background either performed poorly in their courses or were required to take several foundation courses which unexpectedly increased their time to degree and unplanned tuition costs. This revision will result in greater transparency and

ensure that students accepted into the program have the required background to be successful and/or are well aware of foundation requirements.

5. Master of Education in Bilingual Education

Change: Lower undergraduate GPA requirement for clear admission from 3.25 to 3.0.

This change will better align the program with the overall university requirement of 3.0 for clear admission to graduate programs.

Change: Submission of letters of recommendation to be completed specifically by professional or academic sources.

This change was deemed necessary to ensure that the letters of recommendations addressed the candidate's academic abilities. Many letters received were very general and did not address the candidate's academic abilities.

Change: Personal statement essays now have more specific criteria.

This change is intended to ensure that candidates provide better-quality essays that would facilitate the review process.

Change: Resume must now include educational background and work experience.

This change is to ensure that applicants create better and more relevant resumes to facilitate the review process.

Change: Teacher Certification now includes entities other than Texas.

An increasing number of applications are coming from states other than Texas. This opens applications to these applicants.

Delete: Documentation of one year of teaching experience.

Students are required to have documentation of at least one-year of teaching experience to sit for the Texas teaching certification. Students can achieve this while working through the program so it isn't necessary to have this prior to program entry.

6. Teacher Certification – Principal Credential (M.Ed. Educational Leadership)

Change: Teaching experience requirement reduced from 3 to 2 years.

The program is aligning with TEA requirement of two years teaching experience.

7. Teacher Certification – Principal Credential (M.Ed. in another field)

Change: Teaching experience requirement reduced from 3 to 2 years.

The program is aligning with TEA requirement of two years teaching experience.

8. Teacher Certification – Assessment of Exceptional Learners Credential (Texas Certification)

Change: Requirement of a graduate degree from an accredited institution recognized by THECB.

This specifies that the undergraduate degree must be recognized by the THECB for Texas certification and is primarily a clarification.

Change: Hold a valid teaching certification.

A valid teaching certificate is required in Texas to be certified and to teach in the area. This is to ensure that applicants are prepared for certification when they complete their coursework.

9. Teacher Certification – Assessment of Exceptional Learners Credential (Non-Texas Certification)

Change: Requirement of a graduate degree from an accredited institution.

This specifies that the undergraduate degree does not have to be recognized by the THECB since certification will be conferred by a governing board outside Texas.

4. **U. T. System: Discussion related to proposed contract with Digerati, Inc. for a job and internship matching network**