

11.02 Creation of Centers and Institutes

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Policy Statement

The creation of a center or institute requires the recommendation of the chancellor and the approval of the Board of Regents (board) of The Texas A&M University System (system). Centers or institutes shall be periodically reviewed and may be modified or dissolved in accordance with this policy.

Reason for Policy

This policy provides a means to evaluate proposed centers or institutes and to ensure that such entities are appropriately designed, funded and maintained.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. System members are authorized to establish centers and institutes subject to recommendation by the chancellor and approval by the board. Centers and institutes shall be discussed with the board in concept prior to full-scale development of a proposal for its approval except where the delay for such discussion would jeopardize grant and contract funding of the center or institute because of externally imposed deadlines. The agenda item for approval of a center or institute shall disclose the rationale for creating the entity, its impact on the education and training of students, the sources and future expectations of financial support, the governance and advisory structure, and the mechanisms for periodic review, in a format prescribed by the chancellor.
2. Accountability for each center or institute is to be vested with the academic officer or agency program administrator under whose direction the center or institute functions. Monitoring of the functions of the center or institute shall be maintained by the responsible administrative official. All centers and institutes shall be periodically reviewed at least every five years. Periodic reviews required by the proposal shall be forwarded to the vice chancellor for academic affairs.
3. Major changes in function, focus, or funding sources for centers and institutes shall receive prior approval from the responsible system member chief executive officer (CEO) and the chancellor and subsequent approval by the board.

4. All directors of centers shall report to a departmental chair, academic dean, or other appropriate officer within the designated system member, as appropriate. Faculty serving within a center shall report to the director.
5. In the event that a system member proposes to dissolve a center or institute, the system member CEO shall submit a request for dissolution to the chancellor who will either approve or disapprove.

Definitions

Center – (a) smaller, interdisciplinary collaborative effort, revolving around a specific research or education activity, whose participants involve more than one academic department or unit; (b) administered by a director or agency director or below; (c) focused on largely externally supported research or education activities broader than those interests of a given department or administrative unit.

Institute – (a) large integrative units, housing intercollegiate or interagency activities; (b) administered by a director reporting to a dean or agency director or above; (c) focused on largely external supported research or educational activities much broader than those interests of a given department or administrative unit.

EXCEPTIONS:

Programs, Laboratories, Faculties and Facilities (which may have been referred to as ‘centers’ prior to existence of board policy) – (a) lesser administrative, educational or research entities, usually residing within an academic department or unit; (b) requires no approval by the board.

NOTE: These definitions do not apply to administrative centers (e.g., counseling-professional development-continuing education; computer centers; training centers) within universities, agencies, or to small agency or departmental research or teaching centers serving as the focal point of narrow disciplinary activity.

Contact Office

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