
# *Consent Agenda Items*

# *Meeting*

# *of the*

# *Board of Regents*

*February 6, 2025*

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS**
**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
**February 6, 2025**
**College Station, Texas**

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

1.1 Approval to Establish a New Graduate Competency-Based Education Program Fee at East Texas A&M University, A&M System

1.2 Approval of Revisions to System Policy *22.02, System Investment*, A&M System

**2. COMMITTEE ON AUDIT**

2.1 Approval of Revisions to System Policy *07.04, Gifts, Donations and Honoraria*, A&M System

**3. COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS AND PHYSICAL PLANT**

3.1 Approval of the Project Scope and Increased Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the Teaching & Academic Student Support Services Facility Project, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas (Project No. 05-3380), A&M System

3.2 Approval of the Project Scope and Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the South Texas Workforce Development Project, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Brownsville, Texas (Project No. 09-3426), A&M System

3.3 Approval of the Project Scope and Budget, Appropriation for Construction Services, and Approval for Construction for the New Event Center/Arena Project, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, Texas (Project No. 21-3390), A&M System

3.4 Approval to Amend the FY 2025 – FY 2029 A&M System Capital Plan to Add the Player Development Center at Blue Bell Park Project for Texas A&M University with an FY 2025 Start Date and Appropriate Funding for Pre-Construction Services (Project No. 02-3448), Texas A&M

3.5 Approval to Amend the FY 2025 – FY 2029 A&M System Capital Plan to Add the Student Housing Phase III and Dining Project for Texas A&M University-San Antonio with an FY 2025 Start Date and Appropriate Funding for Pre-Construction Services (Project No. 25-3444), A&M-San Antonio

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

Informational Report

Report of System Construction Projects Authorized by the Board

**4. COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**
*(No agenda items)*

**5. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS *(not assigned to Committee)***

Executive Session Items

5.1 *Authorization for the President to Negotiate and Execute an Employment Contract with the Head Football Coach, PVAMU

5.2 *Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Ground Lease of Approximately 2.92 Acres of Land for Construction of a Hangar at Easterwood Airport, A&M System

5.3 *Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Lease of Space in Galleria Village Located at 1716 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas, Texas A&M

5.4 *Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Lease of Space in the Valley Park Center Building Located at 400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway, College Station, Brazos County, Texas, Texas A&M

5.5 *Authorization to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement and Other Related Documents with Aegis Aerospace, Inc., Texas A&M

5.6 Establish the INSPIRE Alliance – Integrated National Security: Precise Insight & Resilient Engineering (INSPIRE), TEES

5.7 *Appointment of Chief Auditor, BOR, A&M System

Regular Item

5.8 Adoption of a Resolution Honoring Charlie Hrncir for his Leadership and Service as Chief Auditor of The Texas A&M University System and Bestowing the Title of Chief Auditor Emeritus, BOR, A&M System

**6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The Texas A&M University System/Board of Regents

6.1 Approval of Minutes, BOR

6.2 Approval of Revisions to System Policy *02.04, System Members of The Texas A&M University System*, A&M System

6.3 Approval of Revisions to System Policy *11.09, Low-Producing Academic Programs*, A&M System

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

6.4 Confirmation of New and Amended Field Trip and Study Abroad Fees for The Texas A&M University System, A&M System

6.5 Confirmation of Appointment and Commissioning of Peace Officers, A&M System

6.6 Granting of the Title of Emeritus, February 2025, The Texas A&M University System, A&M System

6.7 Approval for Dr. Amir Asadi and Dr. Dorrin Jarrahbashi, System Employees, to Serve as Members of the Board of Directors, and Employees of Advanced Micro Spray, LLC, a Business Entity that has Licensed Technology from The Texas A&M University System, A&M System

6.8 Approval for Dr. Cédric Geoffroy and Dr. Arthur Sefiani, System Employees, to Serve as Officers, Members of the Board of Directors, and Employees of NeuroCreis, Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System, A&M System

6.9 Approval for Dr. Dinakar Sagapuram and Dr. Prabhakar Pagilla, System Employees, to Serve as Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Employees of MetPeel, Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System, A&M System

6.10 Approval for Dr. Charles Aubeny, a System Employee, to Serve as Chief Technology Officer, Member of the Board of Directors, and Employee of Deep Anchor Solutions Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System, A&M System

East Texas A&M University

6.11 *Naming of the Gamebird Habitat Trails, ETAMU

Prairie View A&M University

6.12 Approval of Academic Tenure, February 2025, PVAMU

Tarleton State University

6.13 Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026, Tarleton

6.14 Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to O.H. “Bud” Frazier, M.D., Tarleton

6.15 Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Rehabilitation Science and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Tarleton

6.16 Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Speech-Language Pathology and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Tarleton

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

6.17 Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in School Mental Health Counseling and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Tarleton

6.18. Adoption of a Resolution Honoring the Tarleton Men's Rodeo Team, Tarleton

Texas A&M International University

6.19 Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Civil Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMIU

6.20 Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Computer Science, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMIU

Texas A&M University

6.21 Approval of Academic Tenure, February 2025, Texas A&M

6.22 Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026, Texas A&M

6.23 Establishment of the Center for Comparative Genomics, Texas A&M (also listed under AgriLife Research)

6.24 *Naming of Athletics Facilities and Related Structures, Texas A&M

6.25 *Naming of a Graduate Program in Mays Business School, Texas A&M

6.26 *Naming of the Small Animal Teaching Hospital, Texas A&M

6.27 *Naming of a Space in the Harrington Education Center Office Tower, Texas A&M

6.28 *Naming of Spaces within the Instructional Laboratory and Innovative Learning Building (ILSQ), Texas A&M

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

6.29 Approval of Academic Tenure, February 2025, A&M-Central Texas

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

6.30 *Naming of the I-Create Makerspace in the Mary and Jeff Bell Library on the Campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, A&M-Corpus Christi

6.31 *Naming of the Lounge within the Special Collections and Archives Space in the Downtown Building, A&M-Corpus Christi

6.32 *Naming of Practice Room in the New Arts and Media Building on the Campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, A&M-Corpus Christi

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

6.33 *Naming of the Small Gallery Space on the First Floor in the Downtown Building, A&M-Corpus Christi

6.34 *Naming of a Staff Office within the Special Collections and Archives Space in the Downtown Building, A&M-Corpus Christi

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

6.35 Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026, Texas A&M-Kingsville

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

6.36 Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026, A&M-San Antonio

6.37 Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Electrical Engineering and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, A&M-San Antonio

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

6.38 Approval of Academic Tenure, February 2025, TAMUT

6.39 Approval of Amended Mission Statement and Authorization to Provide Notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

6.40 Approval of a New Master of Public Administration Degree Program with a Major in Public Administration and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TAMUT

6.41 *Naming of Various Facilities and Areas, TAMUT

West Texas A&M University
*(No consent agenda items)*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
*(No consent agenda items)*

Texas A&M AgriLife Research

6.23 Establishment of the Center for Comparative Genomics, AgriLife Research (also listed under Texas A&M)

6.42 *Naming of a Room and Facility in the Animal Reproductive Biotechnology Center, AgriLife Research

Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station
*(No consent agenda items)*

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

6.43 *Authorization of Signature Authority for Phillips 66 Letter of Agreement, Contract 25-115478, TEEX

Texas A&M Forest Service

6.44 *Authorization to Grant a Conditional Roadway Easement along State Highway 75 North in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas, to the Texas Department of Transportation, TFS

6.45 Authorization to Execute FY 2025 Federal Non-research Grant Agreements, and any Amendments, Modifications or Extensions, TFS

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

6.46 *Naming of the Lobby of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory College Station Laboratory, TVMDL

Texas A&M Transportation Institute
*(No consent agenda items)*

Texas Division of Emergency Management
*(No consent agenda items)*

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

| | |
|---|---|
| A&M System | The Texas A&M University System |
| A&M-Central Texas | Texas A&M University-Central Texas |
| A&M-Corpus Christi | Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi |
| A&M-San Antonio | Texas A&M University-San Antonio |
| A/E | Architect/Engineer |
| AgriLife Extension | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service |
| AgriLife Research | Texas A&M AgriLife Research |
| BOR | Board of Regents |
| FP&C | Facilities Planning and Construction |
| ETAMU | East Texas A&M University |
| POR | Program of Requirements |
| PUF | Permanent University Fund |
| PVAMU | Prairie View A&M University |
| RELLIS | Respect, Excellence, Leadership, Loyalty, Integrity and Selfless Service |
| RFS | Revenue Financing System |
| TAMHSC | Texas A&M Health Science Center |
| TAMIU | Texas A&M International University |
| TAMUG | Texas A&M University at Galveston |
| TAMUT | Texas A&M University-Texarkana |
| Tarleton | Tarleton State University |
| TEES | Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station |
| TEEX | Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service |
| Texas A&M at Qatar | Texas A&M University at Qatar |
| Texas A&M | Texas A&M University |
| Texas A&M-Kingsville | Texas A&M University-Kingsville |
| TDEM | Texas Division of Emergency Management |
| TFS | Texas A&M Forest Service |
| THECB | Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board |
| TTI | Texas A&M Transportation Institute |
| TVMDL | Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory |
| UTIMCO | The University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company |
| WTAMU | West Texas A&M University |

**Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.*

**Agenda Item No. 6.1**

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
**Office of the Board of Regents**
**January 30, 2025**

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Minutes

I recommend adoption of the following minute order :

**"The following minutes are approved:**

**October 25, 2024, Special Meeting,**
**November 6-7, 2024, Regular Meeting,**
**November 7, 2024, Workshop Meeting,**
**November 8, 2024, Workshop Meeting,**
**January 6, 2025, Special Telephonic Meeting."**

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Burt Spillers
Executive Director

Attachments (5)

Agenda Item No. 6.2

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Billy Hamilton, Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Approval of Revisions to System Policy *02.04, System Members of The Texas A&M University System*

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve revisions to System Policy *02.04, System Members of The Texas A&M University System.*

## Background Information:

System Policy 02.04 is proposed for revision to reflect the new name and abbreviation of Texas A&M University-Commerce. As approved by the board of regents at the November 7, 2024 regular meeting, the university's new name is East Texas A&M University and the acronym is ETAMU.

## A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

None.

## Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Addresses:

The board's adoption, maintenance, and revision of system policies advances all eight Strategic Plan Imperatives by providing policy direction to the member institutions and agencies.

Agenda Item No. 6.2

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
Office of the Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
November 8, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Revisions to System Policy *02.04, System Members of The Texas A&M University System*

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The revisions to System Policy *02.04, System Members of The Texas A&M University System*, as shown in the attached exhibit, are approved, effective immediately."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.2
EXHIBIT

# 02.04 System Members of The Texas A&M University System

Revised February 6, 2025 (MO -2025)
~~Revised December 6, 2019~~
Next Scheduled Review: ~~December 6, 2024~~February 6, 2030
Click to view Revision History.

## Policy Summary

The Texas A&M University System (system), under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents (board), is comprised of System Offices and its member universities and agencies.

## Policy

The members of the system include the following, which may be identified by the designated acronyms or abbreviations, along with such other members as may be added in the future:

**SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION**

SO: System Offices, including the Office of the Board of Regents

**SYSTEM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Texas A&M: | Texas A&M University |
| TAMUG: | Texas A&M University at Galveston * |
| Texas A&M at Qatar: | Texas A&M University at Qatar * |
| TAMHSC: | Texas A&M University Health Science Center ** |
| PVAMU: | Prairie View A&M University |
| Tarleton: | Tarleton State University |
| A&M-Central Texas: | Texas A&M University-Central Texas |
| TAMIU: | Texas A&M International University |
| ~~A&M-Commerce~~ETAMU: | East Texas A&M University~~-Commerce~~ |
| A&M-Corpus Christi: | Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi |
| Texas A&M-Kingsville: | Texas A&M University-Kingsville |
| A&M-San Antonio: | Texas A&M University- San Antonio |
| A&M-Texarkana: | Texas A&M University-Texarkana |

| | |
|---|---|
| WTAMU: | West Texas A&M University |

**SYSTEM MEMBER AGENCIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| AgriLife Extension: | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service |
| AgriLife Research: | Texas A&M AgriLife Research |
| TDEM: | Texas Division of Emergency Management |
| TEES: | Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station |
| TEEX: | Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service |
| TFS: | Texas A&M Forest Service |
| TTI: | Texas A&M Transportation Institute |
| TVMDL: | Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory |

* Texas A&M University at Galveston and Texas A&M University at Qatar are branch campuses of Texas A&M University.

** Texas A&M University Health Science Center is a health-related institution under the administration of Texas A&M University.

## Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

## Contact Office

~~System Office of the~~ Chancellor
(979) 458-6000

# 02.04 System Members of The Texas A&M University System

Revised February 6, 2025 (MO -2025)
Next Scheduled Review: February 6, 2030
Click to view Revision History.

## Policy Summary

The Texas A&M University System (system), under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents (board), is comprised of System Offices and its member universities and agencies.

## Policy

The members of the system include the following, which may be identified by the designated acronyms or abbreviations, along with such other members as may be added in the future:

**SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION**

SO: System Offices, including the Office of the Board of Regents

**SYSTEM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Texas A&M: | Texas A&M University |
| TAMUG: | Texas A&M University at Galveston * |
| Texas A&M at Qatar: | Texas A&M University at Qatar * |
| TAMHSC: | Texas A&M University Health Science Center ** |
| PVAMU: | Prairie View A&M University |
| Tarleton: | Tarleton State University |
| A&M-Central Texas: | Texas A&M University-Central Texas |
| TAMIU: | Texas A&M International University |
| ETAMU: | East Texas A&M University |
| A&M-Corpus Christi: | Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi |
| Texas A&M-Kingsville: | Texas A&M University-Kingsville |
| A&M-San Antonio: | Texas A&M University- San Antonio |
| A&M-Texarkana: | Texas A&M University-Texarkana |
| WTAMU: | West Texas A&M University |

**SYSTEM MEMBER AGENCIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| AgriLife Extension: | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service |
| AgriLife Research: | Texas A&M AgriLife Research |
| TDEM: | Texas Division of Emergency Management |
| TEES: | Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station |
| TEEX: | Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service |
| TFS: | Texas A&M Forest Service |
| TTI: | Texas A&M Transportation Institute |
| TVMDL: | Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory |

* Texas A&M University at Galveston and Texas A&M University at Qatar are branch campuses of Texas A&M University.

** Texas A&M University Health Science Center is a health-related institution under the administration of Texas A&M University.

## Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

## Contact Office

Chancellor
(979) 458-6000

Agenda Item No. 6.3

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** James R. Hallmark, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Approval of Revisions to System Policy *11.09, Low-Producing Academic Programs*

**Proposed Board Action:**

Approve revisions to System Policy *11.09, Low-Producing Academic Programs.*

**Background Information:**

The policy was revised to be in compliance with the Board of Regents resolution, effective November 7, 2024.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

None.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

The board's adoption, maintenance and revision of system policies advances all eight Strategic Plan Imperatives by providing policy direction to the member institutions and agencies.

Agenda Item No. 6.3

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
January 2, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Revisions to System Policy *11.09, Low-Producing Academic Programs*

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The revisions to System Policy *11.09, Low-Producing Academic Programs*, as shown in the attached exhibit are approved, effective immediately."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

# 11.09 Low-Producing Academic ~~Degree~~Programs

Revised February 6, 2025 (MO – 2025)
~~Revised February 9, 2023 (MO-017-2023)~~
Next Scheduled Review: February ~~9, 2028~~6, 2030
Click to view Revision History.

## Policy Summary

This policy provides that the universities (academic institutions) of The Texas A&M University System (system) must report~~,~~ on a biennial basis, the status of each low-producing degree program, minor, and certificate program to the chancellor and the Board of Regents (~~system~~ board).

## Policy

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (coordinating board) conducts an annual review of degree programs at institutions of higher education to identify low-producing degree programs that do not meet coordinating board minimum standards for the number of degrees awarded.

In addition, academic institutions of the system must conduct an annual review of minors and certificate programs to identify programs that do not meet standards established by the institution for the number of degrees, minors, or certificates awarded.

Biennially, ~~A~~academic institutions must submit~~prepare~~ a ~~biennial~~ report to the chancellor and board of degree programs, minors and certificates that have not met minimum standards established by the THECB or the institution for the number of credentials awarded~~of the coordinating board's review to the chancellor and system board~~. The biennial report, submitted in even-numbered years, must include supporting documentation for requests to phase ~~-~~out, consolidate, or temporarily exempt degree programs, minors, and certificate programs identified as low-producing as determined by the institution's standards and processes. The chancellor biennially reports to the ~~system~~ board's committee on academic and student affairs on the disposition of programs identified as low-producing.

## Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

19 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 4, Subch. R, *Review of Low-Producing Degree Programs*

## Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

## Contact Office

Academic Affairs
(979) 458-6072

# 11.09 Low-Producing Academic Programs

Revised February 6, 2025 (MO – 2025)
Next Scheduled Review: February 6, 2030
Click to view Revision History.

## Policy Summary

This policy provides that the universities (academic institutions) of The Texas A&M University System (system) must report on a biennial basis, the status of each low-producing degree program, minor, and certificate program to the chancellor and the Board of Regents (board).

## Policy

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (coordinating board) conducts an annual review of degree programs at institutions of higher education to identify low-producing degree programs that do not meet coordinating board minimum standards for the number of degrees awarded.

In addition, academic institutions of the system must conduct an annual review of minors and certificate programs to identify programs that do not meet standards established by the institution for the number of degrees, minors, or certificates awarded.

Biennially, academic institutions must submit a report to the chancellor and board of degree programs, minors and certificates that have not met minimum standards established by the THECB or the institution for the number of credentials awarded. The biennial report, submitted in even-numbered years, must include supporting documentation for requests to phase out, consolidate, or temporarily exempt degree programs, minors, and certificate programs identified as low-producing as determined by the institution's standards and processes. The chancellor biennially reports to the board's committee on academic and student affairs on the disposition of programs identified as low-producing.

## Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

19 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 4, Subch. R, *Review of Low-Producing Degree Programs*

## Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

## Contact Office

Academic Affairs
(979) 458-6072

Agenda Item No. 6.4

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Billy Hamilton, Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Confirmation of New and Amended Field Trip and Study Abroad Fees for The Texas A&M University System

**Proposed Board Action:**

Confirmation of field trip and study abroad fees for The Texas A&M University System.

**Background Information:**

System Policy *26.01, Tuition and Fees,* authorizes the presidents of the academic universities and the health science center to establish and collect student fees for field trips and study abroad programs, and to amend such fees as necessary, provided that fees so established or amended (during the previous fiscal year) are submitted annually for confirmation by the Board.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

Attached.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

This agenda item is relevant to the advancement of all the imperatives of the Strategic Plan.

Agenda Item No. 6.4

**THE TEXAS A &M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICES**
Office of the Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
December 10, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Confirmation of New and Amended Field Trip and Study Abroad Fees for The Texas A&M University System

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

**"The request for new and amended field trip and study abroad fees for The Texas A&M University System as shown on the attached exhibit is hereby confirmed."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
John Sharp
Chancellor

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.4
EXHIBIT

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

# NEW & AMENDED FIELD TRIP/STUDY ABROAD FEES FOR FY 2024

## BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
## February 2025

**EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**
Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees
FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | | | |
| Political Science | PSCI | 497/597 | Argentina | $4,305.00 | | |
| Social Work | SWK | 492/592 | Costa Rica | | $1,443.00 | $1,316.00 |
| Educational Leadership | | | Japan | $3,500.00 | | |
| Elementary Education | ELED | 497 | Mexico | | $2,000.00 | $2,700.00 |
| Honors College | HC | 497 | Europe | $2,200.00 | | |
| Health & Human Performance | HHPK | Various | Germany | | $3,050.00 | $5,000.00 |

**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**

Study Abroad Program Fees

FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | | | |
| Arts & Sciences | COMM | 2355 | Colombia | $2,300.00 | | |
| | BIOL | 4401 | Costa Rica | $2,063.00 | | |
| College of Juvenile Justice | CRIJ | 4391 | Dubai | $300.00 | | |
| College of Education | CURR | 1300 | Dominican Republic | $2,478.00 | | |
| | CURR | 4101 | Panama | $1,520.00 | | |
| Agriculture | AGRI | 1301 | Ecuador (Galapagos) | $500.00 | | |
| Architecture | ARCH | 433 | Spain | $746.00 | | |
| Division of Social Sciences | HIST | 3317 | Germany | $2,722.00 | | |
| College of Business | ENTR | 3093/4399 | South Africa | $1,840.00 | | |
| | ECON | 3093/4399 | South Africa | $1,840.00 | | |
| School of Public & Allied Health | HLTH | 3304 | Kenya | $2,880.00 | | |
| College of Education | SPED | 3300 | Kenya | $2,866.00 | | |

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees
FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Field Trip Fees** | | | | | | |
| Education Administration | EDAD | 6330 | Washington DC | | $1,000.00 | $2,100.00 |
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | | | |
| Agricultural & Consumer Sciences | ACOM | 4390 | Scotland, United Kingdom / London, United Kingdom | $6,400.00 | | |
| | AGSD | 4390 & 5390 | Scotland, United Kingdom / London, United Kingdom | $6,400.00 | | |
| Criminal Justice | CRIJ | 4387, 5315 & 6350 | Prague, Czech Republic | | $1,959.90 | $3,300.00 |
| Curriculum & Instruction | CHFS | 4317 | Florence, Italy / Reggio Emilia, Italy / Urbino, Italy | $4,400.00 | | |
| | EDUC | 2330 | Florence, Italy / Reggio Emilia, Italy / Urbino, Italy | $4,400.00 | | |
| Educational Leadership & Technology | EDAD | 5389/6389 | Dublin, Ireland | $5,300.00 | | |
| School of Behavioral Sciences | PSYC | 3303 & 4390 | Warsaw, Poland / Berlin, Germany | $3,596.00 | | |
| Honors College | PHIL | 1301 | Urbino, Italy | | $2,600.00 | $4,000.00 |
| | ARTS | 1301 | Urbino, Italy | | $2,600.00 | $4,000.00 |
| | ENGL | 2350 | Urbino, Italy | | $2,600.00 | $4,000.00 |
| | HNRS | 2385 & 3385 | Urbino, Italy | | $2,600.00 | $4,000.00 |
| | ENGL | 3341 | Urbino, Italy | | $2,600.00 | $4,000.00 |
| | ARTS | 4385 | Urbino, Italy | | $2,600.00 | $4,000.00 |
| | HIST | 4350 | Urbino, Italy | | $2,600.00 | $4,000.00 |
| Communication Studies | COMM | 3304 | England, United Kingdom / Wales, United Kingdom | $4,525.00 | | |
| Engineering Technology | ENGT | 3318 | Madrid, Spain / Seville, Spain / Cadiz, Spain / Barcelona, Spain | $6,000.00 | | |
| | ENGT | 3395 | Madrid, Spain / Seville, Spain / Cadiz, Spain / Barcelona, Spain | $6,000.00 | | |
| Agricultural Services & Development | AGSD | 4390 & 5390 | Czech Republic | $4,505.00 | | |
| Agribusiness | WSES | 3304 & 3409 | Kasane, South Africa / Batswana, South Africa / Zimbabwe, South Africa | $9,700.00 | | |
| Wildlife, Sustainability & Ecosystems Sciences | WSES | 4342 | Komodo Island, Indonesia / Bali, Indonesia / Java, Indonesia / Sumatra, Indonesia | $2,950.00 | | |
| | WSES | 5342 & 6342 | Komodo Island, Indonesia / Bali, Indonesia / Java, Indonesia / Sumatra, Indonesia | $2,950.00 | | |
| Mathematics | MATH | 4370 & 5370 | London, United Kingdom / Cambridge, United Kingdom / Edinburgh, United Kingdom | $2,875.00 | | |

**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**
Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees
FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Study Abroad Fees - Continued** | | | | | | |
| Agricultural Management | WSES | 4342 & 5352 | Himalayas Shammai, Nepal | $2,700.00 | | |
| Management | BUSI | 3312, 4344, 4389, 5354 & 5389 | Lima, Peru | $1,600.00 | | |
| | MGMT | 3350, 4354, 4389, 5301 | Lima, Peru | $1,600.00 | | |
| | HRMT | 4389 & 5389 | Lima, Peru | $1,600.00 | | |
| Health and Rehabilitation Sciences | ATRN | 5362 | Athens, Greece / Olympia, Greece | $2,980.00 | | |
| Sports Management | KINE | 4085, 5307, 4350 & 5326 | London, United Kingdom / Liverpool, United Kingdom / Chelsea, United Kingdom | $3,100.00 | | |
| Biology | BIOL | 3363, 4086 & 5086 | Sandy Bay, Honduras | $3,550.00 | | |

# TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees

FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | | | |
| College of Arts & Sciences | ITAL | 1620 | Italy | $4,595.00 | | |
| | ITAL | 2620 | Italy | $4,595.00 | | |
| | COMM | 4311 | Japan | $6,153.00 | | |
| | COMM | 4330 | Japan | $6,153.00 | | |
| | COMM | 5333 | Japan | $6,153.00 | | |
| | LEDR | 4334 | Argentina | $4,611.00 | | |
| | SOCI | 4375 | Argentina | $4,611.00 | | |
| | SPAN | 4330 | Spain | $4,935.00 | | |
| | SPAN | 5349 | Spain | $4,935.00 | | |
| | CRIJ | 4340 | South Korea | $1,955.00 | | |
| | CRIJ | 5315 | South Korea | $1,955.00 | | |
| | ENGL | 4320 | United Kingdom | $5,865.00 | | |
| | MGT | 4399 | China | $5,359.00 | | |
| | BA | 4399 | China | $5,359.00 | | |

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees
FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Field Trip Fees** | | | | | | |
| Bush School of Government & | BUSH | 489-501 | Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece | $2,500.00 | | |
| Public Service | POLS | 231-405 | Galapagos, Ecuador | | $2,600.00 | $4,260.00 |
| | PSAA | 689-601 | Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece | $2,500.00 | | |
| College of Agriculture & Life | AGLS | 225-501 | Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece | $2,500.00 | | |
| Sciences | ECCB | 405-All Sections | East Texas | $25.00 | | |
| | NUTR | 489-100 | Rome, Italy; Nuoro, Sardinia, Italy; Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy | $6,332.47 | | |
| | RPTS | 489-All Sections | Walt Disney World- Orlando, FL | $2,151.80 | | |
| | RWFM | 422-All Sections | Coon Creek Club, Athens, Caldwell TX | $70.65 | | |
| | RWFM | 489-All Sections | Lice Creek Park and Entra Facility College Station TX | $38.00 | | |
| | SCSC | 305-All Sections | Bus trip with stops at Eagle Lake, Corpus Christi, Weslaco | $900.00 | | |
| | SCSC | 689-501 | Blacksburg, VA | $780.00 | | |
| College of Arts & Sciences | ATMO | 370-550 | Barbados, West Indies | $1,700.00 | | |
| | COMM | 335-550 | Doha, Qatar | $297.00 | | |
| | JWST | 285-527 | Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary | $3,851.71 | | |
| College of Engineering | CVEN | 349-503 | Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece | $2,500.00 | | |
| | CVEN | 400-503 | Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece | $2,500.00 | | |
| | MTDE | 333-501 | Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece | $2,500.00 | | |
| | MTDE | 380-501 | Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece | $2,500.00 | | |
| Mays Business School | BUSN | 489-500 | San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA | $3,202.00 | | |
| | FINC | 485-501 | UK, Belgium, France, Germany & Switzerland | | $8,000.00 | $10,500.00 |
| | FINC | 485-501 | Washington D.C., UK, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and France | $10,500.00 | | |
| | FINC | 485-502 | Israel | $6,000.00 | | |
| | IBUS | 320-503 | Argentina & Antarctica | $14,700.00 | | |
| | IBUS | 440-500 | Europe (various countries) | | $5,150.00 | $5,130.00 |
| | IBUS | 457-501 | Doha, Qatar (2 nights), Mozambique, South Africa, Eswatini | $4,500.00 | | |
| | IBUS | 685-603 | Argentina & Antarctica | $14,700.00 | | |
| | ISTM | 440-500 | Europe (various countries) | | $5,150.00 | $5,130.00 |
| | MGMT | 457-501 | Doha, Qatar (2 nights), Mozambique, South Africa, Eswatini | $4,500.00 | | |
| | MGMT | 689-601 | Doha, Qatar (2 nights), Mozambique, South Africa, Eswatini | $4,500.00 | | |
| School of Architecture | ARCH | 206-All Sections | - | $200.00 | | |
| | ARCH | 305-931 | Dallas/Ft. Worth & Houston | $600.00 | | |
| | ARCH | 305-971 | Dallas/Ft. Worth & Houston | $600.00 | | |
| | ARCH | 406-202 | Los Angeles, CA | $1,875.00 | | |
| | ARCH | 406-502 | Los Angeles, CA | $1,875.00 | | |
| | ARCH | 406-All Sections | East Texas | $300.00 | | |
| | COSC | 222-All Sections | Texas: Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso | $2,000.00 | | |
| | LAND | 112-All Sections | Houston, TX | $90.00 | | |
| | LAND | 211-All Sections | Dallas, Texas | $80.00 | | |
| | LAND | 311-All Sections | Deer Park, Texas | $80.00 | | |
| | LAND | 312-All Sections | Austin, Texas - San Antonio, Texas | $80.00 | | |
| | LAND | 601-All Sections | Dallas, Texas | $80.00 | | |
| | LAND | 620-All Sections | San Antonio, Texas | $80.00 | | |
| | PLAN | 661-All Sections | Cleveland, Texas | $80.00 | | |
| | URPN | 483-All Sections | Waco, Texas | $80.00 | | |
| School of Education & Human | EDCI | 645-700 | Buenos Aires, Argentina | $3,713.77 | | |
| Development | EHRD | 485-All Sections | Mexico - Yucatan | $3,680.00 | | |
| | EPSY | 321-500 | New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India | $6,998.22 | | |
| | EPSY | 431-700 | Hacienda Santa Clara, Mexico | $2,409.99 | | |
| | EPSY | 435-700 | Hacienda Santa Clara, Mexico | $2,409.99 | | |
| | INST | 222-All Sections | New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India | $6,998.22 | | |
| | INST | 301-500 | New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India | $6,998.22 | | |
| | INST | 301-700 | Hacienda Santa Clara, Mexico | $2,409.99 | | |

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees
FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | INST | 363-700 | Hacienda Santa Clara, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico - ESL Methods II Int. Perspectives | $2,837.01 | | |
| | LDTC | 613-600 | New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India | $6,998.22 | | |
| | SEFB | 425-tbd | New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India | $6,998.22 | | |
| | SPED | 310-TBD | New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India | $6,998.22 | | |
| | SPED | 414-TBD | New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India | $6,998.22 | | |
| | SPED | 605-TBD | New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India | $6,998.22 | | |
| School of Law | LAW | 7830-601 | Scotland | $4,000.00 | | |
| School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences | VIBS | 489-199 | Rome, Italy; Nuoro, Sardinia, Italy; Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy | $6,332.47 | | |
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | | | |
| Agriculture | RPTS | 489 | Qatar | $10,500.00 | | |
| | RPTS | 689 | Qatar | $10,500.00 | | |
| Architecture | CARC | 311 | Germany | | $7,255.00 | $11,500.00 |
| | LAND | 485 | Germany | | $7,255.00 | $11,500.00 |
| | URPN | 460 | Germany | | $7,255.00 | $11,500.00 |
| | | | Germany, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Spain, United Kingdom | | $17,000.00 | $25,000.00 |
| Arts & Sciences | AFST | 425 | France | $12,500.00 | | |
| | ANTH | 435 | Italy | $12,500.00 | | |
| | ANTH | 489 | Italy | $12,500.00 | | |
| | ANTH | 491 | Italy | $12,500.00 | | |
| | BIMS | 481 | Costa Rica | | $13,240.00 | $25,000.00 |
| | COMM | 425 | France | $12,500.00 | | |
| | COMM | 485 | France | $12,500.00 | | |
| | GEOG | 380 | Costa Rica | $10,500.00 | | |
| | GEOG | 450 | Costa Rica | $10,500.00 | | |
| | MATH | 489 | Mexico | $10,500.00 | | |
| | VIBS | 489 | Italy | $12,500.00 | | |
| Education & Human Development | EDAD | 654 | Qatar | $12,500.00 | | |
| | SPMT | 485 | South Korea | $10,500.00 | | |
| | SPMT | 685 | South Korea | $10,500.00 | | |
| Engineering | CSCE | 411 | Greece | $12,500.00 | | |
| | ENGR | 410 | Greece | $12,500.00 | | |
| | ISEN | 302 | Hungary & Austria | $10,500.00 | | |
| | MEEN | 315 | Greece | $12,500.00 | | |
| Mays | IBUS | 310 | South Africa | $21,000.00 | | |
| | IBUS | 456 | Germany | $12,500.00 | | |
| | IBUS | 459 | Costa Rica | $10,500.00 | | |
| | IBUS | 484 | South Africa | $21,000.00 | | |
| | MGMT | 311 | Germany | $12,500.00 | | |
| | MGMT | 466 | Spain | $12,500.00 | | |
| | MGMT | 485 | Germany | $12,500.00 | | |
| | TRNS | XXX | Costa Rica | $10,500.00 | | |
| | TRNS | XXX | Spain | $12,500.00 | | |
| Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences | VTPB | 405 | Costa Rica | | $13,240.00 | $25,000.00 |
| | VTPB | 409 | Costa Rica | | $13,240.00 | $25,000.00 |
| | VTPB | 489 | Costa Rica | | $13,240.00 | $25,000.00 |

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY- GALVESTON

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees
FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | Increased (Decreased) Fee To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Field Trip Fees** | | | | | | |
| Galveston Campus | DIVE | 489-101 | TAMUG - Pensacola, FL | $2,053.00 | | |
| | DIVE | 489-415 | Freeport, Texas (offshore) | $270.00 | | |
| | MARB | 430-All Sections | Various Coastal Wetlands Sites on Galveston Island | | $98.00 | $61.00 |
| | MARB | 489-401 | Puerto Rico | $2,270.50 | | |
| | MARB | 489-402 | Puerto Rico | $2,270.50 | | |
| | MARB | 489-420 | Moody Gardens, Galveston | $20.00 | | |
| | MARB | 689-001 | Galveston Bay | $100.00 | | |
| | MARS | 342-All Sections | Houston Museum of Natural Science | $25.00 | | |

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY- HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees

FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | Increased (Decreased) Fee To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Field Trip Fees** | | | | | | |
| School of Public Health | HLTH | 609-All Sections | Australia | $4,851.00 | | |
| | HLTH | 685-All Sections | Australia | $4,851.00 | | |

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - CORPUS CHRISTI**

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees

FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | Increased (Decreased) Fee To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Field Trip Fees** | | | | | | |
| College of Science | BIOL | 4319 | Various | | $63.16 | $29.47 |
| | BIOL | 5319 | Various | | $63.16 | $29.47 |
| | BIOL | 3425 | Various | $9.07 | | |
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | | | |
| College of Nursing & Health Sciences | NURS | 4660 | Costa Rica | | $3,574.00 | $1,962.00 |
| College of Science | GEOL | 4650 | Merida, Mexico | | $1,435.00 | $1,650.00 |

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE**
Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees
FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Field Trip Fees** | | | | | | |
| Geography - Geomorphology | GEOG | 3421 | Various | | $40.00 | $45.00 |
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | | | |
| Education | EDED | 4328 | Taiwan | | $3,775.00 | eliminate |
| Engineering | EEEN | 4336 | Switzerland | | $3,995.00 | eliminate |
| Kinesiology | EDKN | 5333 | Ireland | | $3,485.00 | eliminate |
| Marketing | MKTG | 4395 | Germany | | $2,790.00 | $3,255.00 |
| Music | MUSI | 4309 | Austria | | $2,750.00 | $3,165.00 |
| Pre-Veterinary | VETT | 4291 | Belize | | $3,800.00 | eliminate |
| Global Engagement | INTS | 4000 | South Korea | | $2,960.00 | eliminate |
| Educational Leadership | EDLD | 6315 | Greece | $3,380.00 | | |
| Communications Sciences & Disorders | CSDO | 5330 | Puerto Rico | $3,965.00 | | |
| History | HIST | 4392 | Mexico | $2,265.00 | | |
| | HIST | 5365 | Mexico | $2,265.00 | | |

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - SAN ANTONIO

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees

FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | |
| College of Business | MBA | 5358_001 | Italy/Slovania | included in the 11 - month MBA Program Fee |
| | MBA | 5358_002 | Spain/Morocco | included in the 11 - month MBA Program Fee |

# WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees

FY 2024

| Department | Course | Course # | Destination | New Fee | Increased (Decreased) Fee From | Increased (Decreased) Fee To |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Field Trip Fees** | | | | | | |
| School of Music | MUEN | 1029 | Costa Rica | $3,140.00 | | |
| | MUEN | 3029 | Costa Rica | $3,140.00 | | |
| | MUEN | 6140 | Costa Rica | $3,140.00 | | |
| | MUEN | 1041 | Costa Rica | $3,140.00 | | |
| | MUEN | 3041 | Costa Rica | $3,140.00 | | |
| | MUEN | 1042 | Costa Rica | $3,140.00 | | |
| | MUEN | 3042 | Costa Rica | $3,140.00 | | |
| **Study Abroad Fees** | | | | | | |
| College of Engineering | EVEG | 4392 | Kenya | $6,054.65 | | |
| English, Philosophy & Modern Languages | SPAN | 3306 | Spain | | $2,998.46 | $3,822.46 |
| | ENGL | 2321 | England, Wales | $9,450.00 | | |
| | ENGL | 4392 | England, Wales | $9,450.00 | | |
| | ENGL | 5392 | England, Wales | $9,450.00 | | |

# THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees
FY 2024

**The following System Members submitted no new or amended Field Trip/Study Abroad Program Fees:**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas
Texas A&M University - Texarkana

Agenda Item No. 6.5

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** Dr. Keith Jemison, Associate Vice Chancellor for Law Enforcement and Security and Chief Law Enforcement Officer
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Confirmation of Appointment and Commissioning of Peace Officers

**Proposed Board Action:**

In accordance with System Policy *34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers*, the Board of Regents may confirm the appointment and commissioning of peace officers by the presidents of their respective members of The Texas A&M University System, as shown in the exhibit.

**Background Information:**

Presidents of member universities are authorized by system policy to appoint and commission campus police as peace officers, subject to confirmation by the Board of Regents.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

None.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

5. The A&M System will provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas by providing a safe place to learn, work and visit. Peace officers are an imperative part of providing these services to Texans.

Agenda Item No. 6.5

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
System Office of Law Enforcement and Security
January 6, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Confirmation of Appointment and Commissioning of Peace Officers

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"In accordance with System Policy *34.06, Appointment, Commissioning and Authority of Peace Officers,* the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System confirms the appointment and commissioning of campus peace officers by the presidents of their respective system member universities, in accordance with the requirements of the law, and as shown in the exhibit, attached to the official minutes, subject to their taking the oath required of peace officers."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Keith Jemison
Associate Vice Chancellor for
Law Enforcement and Security and
Chief Law Enforcement Officer

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark A. Welsh III, President
Texas A&M University

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

ITEM 6.5
EXHIBIT

The Texas A&M University System
Appointed and Commissioned Peace Officers

| University Officer's Name | Title | Hire Date |
|---|---|---|
| **TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY** | | |
| Bennett, Jerrick | Peace Officer | 11/19/2024 |
| **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** | | |
| Cross, Jack | Peace Officer | 12/10/2024 |
| Edwards, Joshua | Peace Officer | 12/05/2024 |
| Houston, Chad | Peace Officer | 10/28/2024 |
| Standfield, Nathan | Peace Officer | 12/10/2024 |
| Zurek, Ian | Peace Officer | 12/10/2024 |
| **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA** | | |
| Mann, Peter | Peace Officer | 11/01/2024 |

Agenda Item No. 6.6

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
December 6, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Granting of the Title of Emeritus, February 2025, The Texas A&M University System

In accordance with System Policy *31.08, Emeritus*, the designation of "Emeritus," to be added to the rank or position upon retirement of a person, may be granted by the board upon the recommendation of the chancellor.

The chief executive officers of The Texas A&M University System recognize individuals from their respective institutions and agencies, as shown on the attached Emeritus list, who have made outstanding contributions through their dedicated and loyal service.

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"In recognition of long and distinguished service to The Texas A&M University System, the Board of Regents hereby confirms the recommendation of the chancellor and confers the title of "Emeritus" upon the individuals as shown in the attached exhibit, Emeritus Title List No. 25-02, and grants all rights and privileges of this title."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.6
EXHIBIT

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
**CONFIRMATION OF EMERITUS TITLES**
**EMERITUS TITLE LIST NO. 25-02**

| System Member Honoree | Years of Service | Current Rank | Title Conferred | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** | | | | |
| Dr. Carole Walker | 19 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Curriculum & Instruction | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY** | | | | |
| Dr. John O. Attia | 39 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| **TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY** | | | | |
| Dr. Robert Newby | 47 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Psychology | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Marilyn Robitaille | 40 | Associate Professor | Associate Professor Emeritus of English and Languages | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** | | | | |
| Dr. Kenneth A. Bolin | 13 | Associate Professor | Associate Professor Emeritus of Public Health Sciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Robert W. Burch | 49 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Philosophy | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Robert C. Burghardt | 46 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Patrick Burkart | 21 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Communication & Journalism | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |

| System Member Honoree | Years of Service | Current Rank | Title Conferred | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. David Byrne | 42 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Horticultural Sciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Don T. Conlee | 16 | Instructional Professor | Instructional Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Sciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Mr. William R. "Rick" Harwell | 9 | Associate Professor of Practice | Associate Professor of Practice Emeritus of Hospitality, Hotel Management & Tourism | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. April Lee Hatfield | 26 | Associate Professor | Associate Professor Emerita of History | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Bernard J. Hennessy | 11 | Clinical Associate Professor | Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of Comprehensive Dentistry | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Juan J. Horrillo | 16 | Associate Professor | Associate Professor Emeritus of Ocean Engineering | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Kris J. Knox | 40 | Instructional Professor | Instructional Professor Emeritus of Maritime Business Administration | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Urs P. Kreuter | 27 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Ecology & Conservation Biology | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Jenn-Tai Liang | 10 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Petroleum Engineering | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Brian McAllister Linn | 35 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of History | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |

| System Member Honoree | Years of Service | Current Rank | Title Conferred | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Eyad Masad | 22 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Civil & Environmental Engineering | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Mr. William J. McKinley Jr. | 13 | Instructional Professor | Instructional Professor Emeritus of Horticultural Sciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Mary W. Meagher | 36 | Professor | Professor Emerita of Psychological & Brain Sciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Elizabeth Ann Pierson | 15 | Senior Professor | Professor Emerita of Horticultural Sciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. William M. Pride | 51 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Marketing | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Victoria S. Salin | 28 | Professor | Professor Emerita of Agricultural Economics | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Dorothy Elaine Shippen | 33 | Regents Professor | Regents Professor Emerita and University Distinguished Professor Emerita of Biochemistry & Biophysics | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Mr. Gregory L. Stark | 31 | Associate Professor of Practice | Associate Professor of Practice Emeritus of Biological & Agricultural Engineering | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Robert J. Taylor | 11 | Research Professor | Research Professor Emeritus of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |

| System Member Honoree | Years of Service | Current Rank | Title Conferred | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Yanan Tian | 23 | Associate Professor | Associate Professor Emeritus of Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Edward L. Vargo | 10 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Entomology | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Paul J. Wellman | 44 | Professor | Professor Emeritus of Psychological & Brain Sciences | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| **TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE** | | | | |
| Mr. Michael Clawson | 34 | District Extension Administrator | District Extension Administrator – Emeritus | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |
| Dr. Russell Wallace | 22 | Professor and Extension Specialist | Professor and Extension Specialist - Emeritus | Upon Approval by the Board and the Honoree's Retirement |

Agenda Item No. 6.7

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Joe Elabd, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Approval for Dr. Amir Asadi and Dr. Dorrin Jarrahbashi, System Employees, to Serve as Members of the Board of Directors, and Employees of Advanced Micro Spray, LLC, a Business Entity that has Licensed Technology from The Texas A&M University System

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve Dr. Amir Asadi, a faculty member in Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution, Manufacturing & Mechanical Engineering Technology at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M), and Dr. Dorrin Jarrahbashi, a faculty member in Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M, to serve in their individual capacities as members of the board of directors, and employees of Advanced Micro Spray, LLC, a business entity that has entered into a license agreement with The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) for technology developed by Dr. Asadi and Dr. Jarrahbashi.

## Background Information:

Dr. Asadi received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba, Canada in 2013 and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Mechanical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in 2017. He joined Texas A&M as an assistant professor in the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution in 2017. Dr. Asadi has extensive expertise in manufacturing, modeling, and identifying process-structure-property relationships in composite materials. Dr. Asadi has received multiple grants and awards from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and industry, including an NSF CAREER award. His current research focuses on the scalable manufacturing of lightweight multifunctional structural composites. He developed a novel scalable coating technique to create the desired multi-functionality on the surfaces by engineering the chemistry and hydrophobicity of the multi-material systems.

Dr. Jarrahbashi received her Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from the University of California, Irvine in 2014 and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech in 2017. She joined Texas A&M as an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 2017. Dr. Jarrahbashi has extensive experience and expertise in multiphase flow and thermal-fluid behavior of supercritical fluids. Her current research focuses on multiscale modeling of supercritical flows and modeling and experimental characterization of supercritical CO2-assisted atomization (spray). Dr. Jarrahbashi has received multiple grants and awards from NSF and industry for her current research at Texas A&M.

Advanced Micro Spray was formed as a collaboration between Drs. Asadi and Jarrahbashi and the Spraying Systems Company (SSC, spray.com), to develop spray systems for manufacturing tailored nanomaterials. The company plans to develop and deliver products utilizing advanced materials enabled by the company's proprietary spray technology.

During their tenure at Texas A&M, Drs. Asadi and Jarrahbashi developed a novel high-throughput and high-precision spray-deposition method for manufacturing 3D nanostructured surfaces with multiple materials. They are working with Texas A&M Innovation to protect the A&M System's intellectual property rights based on their invention contained in TAMUS 5802, entitled "High Precision and Controlled Bottom-Up Manufacturing of Two and Three-Dimensional Multifunctional Nanostructures with Single/Multiple Material(s) Through Evaporation of Colloidal Droplets." Advanced Micro Spray LLC has entered into an exclusive license agreement with the A&M System to commercialize this technology and has the right to make, have made, sell, and use licensed products for commercial purposes.

Pursuant to Texas Education Code §51.912 and Section 2 of System Regulation *17.01.08, Outside Activities – Business Entities Having an Intellectual Property Agreement with the System*, Board of Regents approval is required for Dr. Asadi and Dr. Jarrahbashi to serve in their individual capacities as members of the board of directors and employees of Advanced Micro Spray, LLC.

Financial conflicts of interest have been evaluated under System Regulation *15.01.03, Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research*. A financial conflict of interest management plan has been issued by the A&M System Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Research Compliance Officer, in cooperation with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEES) and the Texas A&M Division of Research, to mitigate those financial conflicts of interest that may arise given Drs. Asadi and Jarrahbashi's financial interests with Advanced Micro Spray, LLC and their roles as employees of Texas A&M. Any financial conflicts of interest in research that may arise in the future will be managed by TEES and/or the Texas A&M Division of Research.

Drs. Asadi and Jarrahbashi's requests for permission for faculty consulting and external professional employment under System Regulation *31.05.01, Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment* have been approved.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications**:

None.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

Approval of this agenda item will advance the A&M System strategic imperative of enabling the A&M System to provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy. In particular, approval will enable Dr. Asadi and Dr. Jarrahbashi to work with Advanced Micro Spray, LLC to contribute to the development of services and products that incorporate the intellectual property. As a result, novel materials and material production technologies will be introduced to the marketplace, contributing to the strength of the state's manufacturing industry and reduction of energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions.

Agenda Item No. 6.7

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
January 16, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval for Dr. Amir Asadi and Dr. Dorrin Jarrahbashi, System Employees, to Serve as Members of the Board of Directors, and Employees of Advanced Micro Spray, LLC, a Business Entity that has Licensed Technology from The Texas A&M University System

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves for Dr. Asadi and Dr. Jarrahbashi, employees of Texas A&M University, to serve, in their individual capacities, as members of the board of directors, and employees of Advanced Micro Spray, LLC, a business entity that has licensed technology from The Texas A&M University System relating to the research, development, licensing, or exploitation of intellectual property conceived, created, discovered, invented or developed by Dr. Asadi and Dr. Jarrahbashi."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Joe Elabd, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Research

**Approval Recommended**:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Agenda Item No. 6.8

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Joe Elabd, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Approval for Dr. Cédric Geoffroy and Dr. Arthur Sefiani, System Employees, to Serve as Officers, Members of the Board of Directors, and Employees of NeuroCreis, Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve Dr. Cédric Geoffroy, assistant professor, Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) School of Medicine, and Dr. Arthur Sefiani, a postdoctoral research associate who works in Dr. Geoffroy's lab, to serve in their individual capacities as officers, members of the board of directors and employees of NeuroCreis, Inc., a business entity that proposes to enter into a license agreement with The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) for technology developed by Dr. Geoffroy and Dr. Sefiani.

## Background Information:

Dr. Geoffroy received his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Cellular Biology and animal physiology at the University of Sciences of Montpellier, France, his Master of Science (M.S.) in Engineering in Biotechnology at the College of Engineering Applied Biology and Microbiology at Luminy, Marseille, France, and his Ph.D. in Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge, UK. His research focuses on understanding how aging negatively reduces functional recovery after neurotrauma, investigating the pathophysiology of neurotrauma, and learning how injuries to the nervous system can impact hepatic, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal functions. His group also investigates new compounds that can potentially promote functional recovery or reduce adverse pathophysiology after spinal cord injuries.

Dr. Sefiani earned his B.S. in Neurobiology from the University of California, Davis, his M.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine from the University of Southern California, and his Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics from Texas A&M School of Medicine. Dr. Sefiani studies the impact of aging on neural responses to treatment and has found new targets specific to adults, which he used to develop novel therapeutic strategies for neurotrauma.

Drs. Geoffroy and Sefiani developed a proprietary method for direct screening in primary adult neurons and other neural cells, designed to expedite and increase the translation of preliminary findings to the clinic. Using this tool, they collaborated with Kevin Burgess, Ph.D., professor and Rachal Chair in the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M, to screen novel compounds that Dr. Burgess had synthesized. Through this research, they identified the peptide sequence DIRG to have slight efficacy in increasing neuron survival and neurite growth. Since no FDA-approved drugs or treatments exist that can reverse paralysis or significantly improve cognitive function in patients with neurodegenerative disease, Drs. Geoffroy and Sefiani formed NeuroCreis, Inc. to further the development of a therapeutic. NeuroCreis, Inc. is a company registered in Delaware and located in College Station, Texas.

Drs. Geoffroy and Sefiani are working with Texas A&M Innovation to protect the A&M System's intellectual property rights based on their inventions contained in TAMUS 5851 titled "Selective Small Molecule Agonists and Partial Agonists of Trk Receptors," and TAMUS 6054 titled "Use of 5c(i) for Neuroprotection, Glial Scar Modulation, and Treating Neurotrauma." NeuroCreis, Inc. desires to proceed with a license agreement with the A&M System to commercialize these technologies.

Pursuant to Texas Education Code §51.912 and Section 2 of System Regulation *17.01.08, Outside Activities – Business Entities Having an Intellectual Property Agreement with the System*, Board of Regents approval is required for Dr. Geoffroy and Dr. Sefiani to serve in their individual capacities as officers, members of the board of directors, and employees of NeuroCreis, Inc.

Financial conflicts of interest have been evaluated under System Regulation *15.01.03, Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research*. A financial conflict of interest management plan has been issued by the A&M System Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Research Compliance Officer, in cooperation with the Texas A&M Division of Research, to mitigate those conflicts of interest that may arise given Drs. Geoffroy and Sefiani's financial interests with NeuroCreis, Inc. and their roles as employees of Texas A&M. Any financial conflicts of interest in research that may arise in the future will be managed by the Texas A&M Division of Research.

Dr. Goeffroy and Dr. Sefiani's requests for permission for faculty consulting and external professional employment under System Regulation *31.05.01, Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment* have been approved.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications**:

None.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

Approval of this agenda item will advance the A&M System strategic imperative of enabling the A&M System to provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy. In particular, approval will enable the A&M System to license intellectual property developed by Dr. Geoffroy and Dr. Sefiani to NeuroCreis, Inc., which will enable NeuroCreis, Inc. to offer services and products that incorporate the intellectual property. As a result, novel technologies to treat neurodegenerative disease will be introduced to the marketplace, contributing to the strength of the state's pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry.

Agenda Item No. 6.8

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
January 16, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval for Dr. Cédric Geoffroy and Dr. Arthur Sefiani, System Employees, to Serve as Officers, Members of the Board of Directors, and Employees of NeuroCreis, Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves for Dr. Cédric Geoffroy and Dr. Arthur Sefiani, employees of Texas A&M University, to serve, in their individual capacities, as officers, members of the board of directors, and employees of NeuroCreis, Inc., a business entity that proposes to license technology from The Texas A&M University System relating to the research, development, licensing, or exploitation of intellectual property conceived, created, discovered, invented, or developed by Dr. Geoffroy and Dr. Sefiani."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Joe Elabd, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Research

**Approval Recommended**:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Agenda Item No. 6.9

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Joe Elabd, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Approval for Dr. Dinakar Sagapuram and Dr. Prabhakar Pagilla, System Employees, to Serve as Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Employees of MetPeel, Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve Dr. Dinakar Sagapuram, Associate Professor of Industrial & Systems Engineering, College of Engineering at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M), and Dr. Prabhakar Pagilla, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering at Texas A&M, to serve in their individual capacities as officers, members of the board of directors, and employees of MetPeel, Inc., a business entity that proposes to enter into a license agreement with The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) for technology developed by Dr. Sagapuram and Dr. Pagilla.

## Background Information:

Dr. Sagapuram earned his Ph.D. in Materials Science from Purdue University (Purdue) in 2013 and was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Center for Materials Processing and Tribology at Purdue before joining Texas A&M in 2016 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering. Dr. Sagapuram received the Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (2021) and a recipient of the Breakthrough Energy Fellowship (2021). Dr. Sagapuram's research broadly focuses on innovative deformation-based processing technologies for metals and developing a fundamental understanding of the underlying mechanics and tribological phenomena using sophisticated in-situ experimental techniques. Research in his laboratory is currently exploring novel energy-efficient and decarbonization technologies for processing metals and minerals.

Dr. Pagilla earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 1996. In Dr. Pailla's 27-year academic career, he spent the last eight years at Texas A&M and the first 19 years as a professor in the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Oklahoma State University, where he was the Centennial Professor in Engineering from 2010 through 2015. He is currently the James J. Cain '51 Professor II in the J. Mike Walker '66 Department of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M. His formal background and expertise are in the dynamic systems and control area with applications in manufacturing and robotics. In particular, he has made significant contributions in the areas of web handling, roll-to-roll manufacturing, robotics for manufacturing environments, autonomous and connected vehicles, and nonlinear and adaptive control systems.

Dr. Sagapuram and Dr. Pagilla have developed several materials and manufacturing technologies at Texas A&M and are working with Texas A&M Innovation to protect the A&M System's intellectual property rights based on their inventions in TAMUS 5757 titled "Systems and Methods for Determining Material Constitutive Model Parameters," and TAMUS 5804 titled "METPEEL: An Integrated Peeling and Roll-to-Roll System for Continuous Production of Metal Sheet, Foil,

and Wire." MetPeel, Inc. desires to enter into an exclusive license agreement with the A&M System for these technologies.

MetPeel, Inc. will utilize the technologies developed by Dr. Sagapuram and Dr. Pagilla to further develop and commercialize new technologies, associated systems, and methods for making metal sheet, foil, and wire for various applications at reduced energy and carbon footprint when compared to existing commercial processes. Dr. Sagapuram and Dr. Pagilla are requesting approval to work with MetPeel, Inc. to continue development and refinement of the technologies.

Pursuant to Texas Education Code §51.912 and Section 2 of System Regulation *17.01.08, Outside Activities – Business Entities Having an Intellectual Property Agreement with the System*, Board of Regents approval is required for Dr. Sagapuram and Dr. Pagilla to serve in their individual capacities as officers, members of the board of directors, and employees of MetPeel, Inc.

Financial conflicts of interest have been evaluated under System Regulation *15.01.03, Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research*. A financial conflict of interest management plan has been issued by the A&M System Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Research Compliance Officer, in cooperation with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEES) and the Texas A&M Division of Research, to mitigate those conflicts of interest that might arise given Drs. Sagapuram and Pagilla's financial interests with MetPeel, Inc., and their roles as employees of Texas A&M. Any financial conflicts of interest in research that may arise in the future will be managed by TEES and/or the Texas A&M Division of Research.

Drs. Sagapuram and Pagilla's requests for permission for faculty consulting and external professional employment under System Regulation *31.05.01, Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment* have been approved.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications**:

None.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

Approval of this agenda item will advance the A&M System strategic imperative of enabling the A&M System to provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy. In particular, approval will enable the A&M System to license intellectual property developed by Dr. Sagapuram and Dr. Pagilla to MetPeel, Inc., which will enable MetPeel, Inc. to offer services and products that incorporate the intellectual property. As a result, novel, low-cost and energy-efficient manufacturing technologies will be introduced to the marketplace, contributing to the strength of the state's manufacturing industry and reduction of energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions.

Agenda Item No. 6.9

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
January 16, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval for Dr. Dinakar Sagapuram and Dr. Prabhakar Pagilla, System Employees, to Serve as Officers, Members of the Board of Directors, and Employees of MetPeel, Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves for Dr. Dinakar Sagapuram and Dr. Prabhakar Pagilla, employees of Texas A&M University, to serve, in their individual capacities, as officers, members of the board of directors, and employees of MetPeel, Inc., a business entity that proposes to license technology from The Texas A&M University System relating to the research, development, licensing, or exploitation of intellectual property conceived, created, discovered, invented, or developed by Dr. Sagapuram and Dr. Pagilla."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Joe Elabd, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Research

**Approval Recommended**:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Billy Hamilton FOR]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Agenda Item No. 6.10

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** Joe Elabd, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research
The Texas A&M University System

**Subject:** Approval for Dr. Charles Aubeny, a System Employee, to Serve as Chief Technology Officer, Member of the Board of Directors, and Employee of Deep Anchor Solutions Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System

**Proposed Board Action:**

Approve Dr. Charles Aubeny, a Professor within the Zachry Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M), to serve in his individual capacity as chief technology officer, member of the board of directors, and employee of Deep Anchor Solutions Inc., a business entity that proposes to enter into a license agreement with The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) for technology developed by Dr. Aubeny.

**Background Information:**

Dr. Aubeny received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research focuses on foundations and anchors for offshore structures, offshore risers and pipelines, dams and levees, and geotechnical engineering.

Dr. Aubeny, along with a collaborator, a former Texas A&M employee who currently maintains no relationship with Texas A&M, developed Deep Anchor Solutions Inc. out of several National Science Foundation and Department of Energy projects. Deep Anchor Solutions Inc. was founded in 2024 with Dr. Aubeny as the majority owner and focuses on reducing the costs of the floating offshore renewable energy industry by lowering both mooring system costs and the necessary infrastructure investment using innovative, cost-effective, and locally fabricable anchor systems.

Deep Anchor Solutions Inc. is developing its first product, the Deeply Embedded Ring Anchor, a compact anchor system that significantly reduces material, fabrication, and installation costs by up to seventy-five percent. Its simplicity and small dimensions allow for fabrication in existing local small facilities, inland transport, minimal port staging upgrades, and substantial reductions in marine transport and handling vessels. This dramatically lowers mooring system costs and the necessary infrastructure investment for floating wind construction.

Dr. Aubeny is working with Texas A&M Innovation to protect the A&M System's intellectual property rights based on his inventions contained in TAMUS 4846 titled "Multiline Ring Anchor," TAMUS 5841 titled "Y-Flap Keying System for Marine Anchors," and TAMUS 6251 titled "Keying, Installation, and Proof-Loading System for Deeply Embedded Ring Anchor." Deep Anchor Solutions Inc. desires to proceed with a license agreement with the A&M System to commercialize these technologies.

Pursuant to Texas Education Code §51.912 and Section 2 of System Regulation *17.01.08, Outside Activities – Business Entities Having an Intellectual Property Agreement with the System*, Board of Regents approval is required for Dr. Aubeny to serve in his individual capacity as chief technology officer, member of the board of directors, and employee of Deep Anchor Solutions Inc.

Financial conflicts of interest have been evaluated under System Regulation *15.01.03, Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research*. A financial conflict of interest management plan has been issued by the A&M System Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Research Compliance Officer, in cooperation with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEES) and the Texas A&M Division of Research, to mitigate those financial conflicts of interest that may arise given Dr. Aubeny's financial interests with Deep Anchor Solutions Inc. and his role as an employee of Texas A&M. Any financial conflicts of interest in research that may arise in the future will be managed by TEES and/or the Texas A&M Division of Research.

Dr. Aubeny's request for permission for faculty consulting and external professional employment under System Regulation *31.05.01, Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment* has been approved.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications**:

None.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

Approval of this agenda item will advance the A&M System's strategic imperative of enabling the A&M System to provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy. In particular, approval will enable the A&M System to license intellectual property developed by Dr. Aubeny to Deep Anchor Solutions Inc., which will enable Deep Anchor Solutions Inc. to offer services and products that incorporate the intellectual property. As a result, novel and cost-efficient anchoring technologies will be introduced to the marketplace, contributing to the strength of the state's maritime and manufacturing industries, as well as the continued growth of the sustainable energy industry.

Agenda Item No. 6.10

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
January 16, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval for Dr. Charles Aubeny, a System Employee, to Serve as Chief Technology Officer, Member of the Board of Directors, and Employee of Deep Anchor Solutions Inc., a Business Entity that Proposes to License Technology from The Texas A&M University System

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves for Dr. Charles Aubeny, an employee of Texas A&M University, to serve, in his individual capacity, as chief technology officer, member of the board of directors, and employee of Deep Anchor Solutions Inc., a business entity that proposes to license technology from The Texas A&M University System relating to the research, development, licensing, or exploitation of intellectual property conceived, created, discovered, invented, or developed by Dr. Aubeny."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Joe Elabd, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Research

**Approval Recommended**:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Agenda Item No. 6.12

**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
November 20, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, February 2025
Prairie View A&M University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at Prairie View A&M University as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 25-02."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Tomikia P. LeGrande
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.12
EXHIBIT

**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**
**BACKGROUND OF FACULTY**
**RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE**
**TENURE LIST NO. 25-02**

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

| Name | Present Rank<br>Department | Yrs. Towards Tenure*<br>Univ. | <br>Other Inst. | Effective Date<br>Tenure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Aneika L. Simmons | Professor<br>Management and Marketing | 0 | 18 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board and<br>Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2006) | Texas A&M University | | | |
| Fa 2006 – Sp 2013<br>Fa 2013 – Sp 2019<br>Fa 2019 – Sp 2024<br>Fa 2024 – Present | Sam Houston State University<br>Sam Houston State University<br>Sam Houston State University<br>Prairie View A&M University | | | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor<br>Professor<br>Professor |

Dr. Aneika Simmons' research appears in top-tier journals like the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, and *Academy of Management Perspectives*. She has collaborated with colleagues from several universities to publish 20 peer-reviewed articles and one book chapter and has over 40 conference presentations at domestic and international conferences. Her work has advanced knowledge related to justice, diversity management, creativity, and burnout. She enjoys teaching and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses, for which she received good teaching evaluations. She has developed courses and taught large lectures and small interactive courses online and face-to-face. Some courses were designated as writing enhanced and academic community engagement. She served as the interim associate vice provost for Faculty Success and as a faculty administrative fellow with the Office of the Provost at Sam Houston State University. She led university-level efforts like burnout resistance efforts (e.g., campus-wide surveys, focus groups), artificial intelligence, and moderated public conversations with administration leaders. Within her college, she served as a Faculty Senator, co-chaired the Faculty Professional Development Committee, and participated as a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee. Also, she moderated several college events like the Alumni Career Panel, Center for Business Professionals Speaker Series, and student organization events. Within her department, she served as the Department Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee Chair, co-chaired the Teaching Effectiveness Task Force Committee, and worked on the Management Assessment Team. These efforts were before her move to Prairie View A&M University in fall 2024.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Simmons' file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy 12.01, Section 4.3.

Agenda Item No. 6.13

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

**Subject:** Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026,
Tarleton State University

**Proposed Board Action:**

Authorize faculty development leave for FY 2026 at Tarleton State University (Tarleton).

**Background Information:**

System Policy *31.03, Leaves of Absence*, and System Regulation *12.99.01, Faculty Development Leave*, require that a recommendation for faculty development leave be submitted by the university president to the chancellor for recommendation to the Board of Regents for approval. At Tarleton, the application is submitted with support of the academic department, college dean, university development leave committee (elected by the general faculty), provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, and president.

As shown in the exhibit, Tarleton requests approval for faculty development leave for six faculty members for FY 2026.

Tarleton is in compliance with the statutory requirement that no more than six percent of eligible faculty be on development leave at any time.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

No additional funding is required. Departmental faculty members are assuming the recommended faculty members' teaching loads by adjusting course offerings the next academic year.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

There are several Texas A&M University System Strategic Imperatives that are advanced by Tarleton's recommendations for Faculty Development Leave. For each faculty member recommended for Faculty Development Leave, their projects will contribute to the System's increased prominence by building a robust and targeted research portfolio, including cross-institution and cross-discipline collaborations (Strategic Imperative 4).

Mr. Hybinette's proposal to develop a VR/AR/video game that immerses players in the experiences of both foster children and foster parents further provides a service that responds to the needs of the people of Texas, utilizing technology to reach citizens in new ways (Strategic Imperative 5).

Lastly, the proposals from Schwertner, Ehrhart, Velasco, and Meik also align with the imperative to help students become responsible and engaged citizens who are prepared for successful careers in an increasingly global economy (Strategic Imperative 3).

Agenda Item No. 6.13

**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
November 12, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026,
Tarleton State University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *31.03*, System Regulation *12.99.01* and Sections 51.101-108 of the Texas Education Code, authorizes faculty development leave to the faculty members as shown in the attached exhibit, Faculty Development Leave List FY 2026, Tarleton State University."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.13
EXHIBIT

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE LIST**
**FY 2026**
**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**

| Name/ Title/ Department | Years of Tarleton Tenured, Tenure-Track Service | Semester of Leave | Location, Brief Description of Leave and Benefit to University |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES** | | | |
| Thomas Schwertner<br>Professor<br>Wildlife and Natural Resources | 13 | Fall 2025 | The project aims to enhance knowledge of the Kalahari ecosystem and its conservation through collaboration with experienced researchers in Botswana. Dr. Schwertner will examine critical ecological topics, including the impacts of elephants on the Okavango Delta's vegetation, lion ecology in the southern Kalahari, and the effects of herbivory on biodiversity. The initiative will also produce peer-reviewed publications, expand Dr. Schwerner's professional network in southern Africa, and improve mentoring skills for teaching students in the field. The region's unique wildlife, including the largest population of African bush elephants and diverse large carnivores, faces increasing threats from human activities, particularly agriculture. Dr. Schwertner will work with mentors on various projects, tracking lion movements and studying elephant impacts on vegetation, thereby contributing to vital conservation efforts in the area. |
| **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES** | | | |
| Andrew Wolfe<br>Associate Professor<br>Health & Human Performance | 10 | Fall 2025 | The purpose of Dr. Wolfe's Faculty Development Leave is threefold: to cultivate collaborative relationships with the Texas A&M Kinesiology & Sport Management Department, replicate processes from the Texas A&M Huffines Institute, and enhance professional capabilities using advanced exercise science technologies. Dr. Wolfe will travel to Texas A&M University for the fall 2025 semester, where he will work with Dr. Steve Riechman on projects related to human thermoregulation, which will involve partnerships with multiple institutions. Additionally, he plans to engage with Dr. James Carson and the various divisions of the Huffines |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Institute to explore the feasibility of replicating successful programs at Tarleton State University. A key focus will be on learning advanced laboratory techniques, particularly those related to thermoregulatory research, to establish a testing site that aligns with Texas A&M's standards. Ultimately, the goal is to foster a strong partnership between Texas A&M and Tarleton, contributing to research initiatives that enhance the reputation and capabilities of both institutions. |
| **COLLEGE OF LIBERAL & FINE ARTS** | | | |
| Megan Ehrhart<br>Professor<br>Visual Arts & Design | 11 | Fall 2025 | Ms. Ehrhart's proposal focuses on completing her stop-motion animated film, *"Obasuteyama Waits,"* inspired by Japanese folklore and Buddhist mythology. The project involves meticulously hand-crafting sets, props, and characters while blending traditional stop-motion techniques with advanced digital compositing for visual effects. Ms. Ehrhart aims to demonstrate to her students how both traditional and modern digital methods can be combined to create intricate, high-quality animation. The sabbatical will allow her to focus on production and editing, with plans to showcase the film internationally and at Tarleton. Ultimately, her goal is to enrich her teaching and contribute to the art of stop-motion. |
| Knut Hybinette<br>Professor<br>Visual Arts & Design | 10 | Spring 2026 | The project aims to create a VR/AR/video game that immerses players in the experiences of both foster children and foster parents, highlighting the complexities of the foster care system and the transformative power of adoption. With over 4,000 children waiting for homes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the game aims to educate players about the emotional and logistical challenges faced by all involved. Players will navigate scenarios that address abuse, neglect, and the responsibilities of foster care, developing essential skills like communication and emotional support. Designed for accessibility, the game will utilize simplified interactions to engage both gamers and non-gamers alike, fostering empathy and understanding. Ultimately, this project seeks to unite the community, promote awareness, and inspire action towards improving the foster care system. |
| Guillermo Velasca<br>Associate Professor<br>Governement, Legal Studies & Philopsophy | 14 | Fall 2025 | This project investigates how Mexico, as a weaker state, influences the stronger United States, focusing specifically on the relationship between the Mexican government and American intellectuals and think tanks. It analyzes how this engagement seeks to shape American public opinion and promote Mexican perspectives while also examining the interests of the intellectuals involved in forming an "intellectual lobby." To frame the |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | study, Dr. Velasco draws from two theoretical perspectives: the literature on asymmetric relations, which emphasizes the significance of smaller nations' interests and resources in international dynamics, and the framework of transnational relations, which explores interactions between state and non-state actors across borders. This dual approach clarifies how Mexico collaborates with American civil society to influence U.S. policy, going beyond traditional diplomatic channels. Ultimately, the work aims to fill gaps in understanding the role of intellectuals in advocating for small and middle-sized countries, highlighting their motivations and the dynamics of these transnational coalitions. |
| **COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS** | | | |
| Jesse Meik<br>Associate Professor<br>Biological Sciences | 12 | Fall 2025 | This leave is designed to enhance Dr. Meik's bioinformatics skills by studying genomic analysis under Dr. Jeff Streicher at the Natural History Museum in London. This training will enable him to analyze genome-wide single-nucleotide polymorphism data for their current research on hybridization and phylogenomics between two Texas-endemic map turtles, funded by a Texas Comptroller grant. The new skills will improve Dr. Meik's ability to complete the research project and final report, contribute to future high-dollar grants, and enhance his ability to mentor students and teach genomics-based courses. The leave aligns with the university's strategic goals by supporting grant deliverables, research excellence, and increasing Tarleton's prominence. |

Agenda Item No. 6.14

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

**Subject:** Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to O.H. "Bud" Frazier, M.D.

**Proposed Board Action:**

Authorize the president of Tarleton State University (Tarleton) to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to O.H. "Bud" Frazier, M.D.

**Background Information:**

In accordance with Section 1.2 of System Policy *11.07, Granting of Honorary Degrees*, Tarleton submits this request to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Dr. O. H. "Bud" Frazier. This recognition is in tribute to his distinguished medical career and for the positive and significant impact his lifetime of service has made on Tarleton, the state of Texas and the United States of America.

The nomination for this Honorary Doctor of Letters degree was verified by the vice president for Institutional Advancement, reviewed by the provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, and received the unanimous support of the University Honorary Degrees Selection Committee, before being approved by the president.

With the Board of Regents authorization, this honorary degree will be presented to Dr. Frazer at Tarleton's commencement ceremony on May 16-17, 2025.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

None.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

Approving an honorary degree for Dr. O.H. Frazier advances Texas A&M University System's Strategic Imperative 5: "The A&M System will provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy." Dr. Frazier's work in artificial heart research and his service to Texas healthcare inspires Tarleton's commitment to expanding healthcare education for rural communities.

Agenda Item No. 6.14

**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
October 31, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to O.H. "Bud" Frazier, M.D.

I recommend approval of the following minute order:

**"The president of Tarleton State University is authorized to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to O.H. 'Bud' Frazier, M.D."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Tarleton State University**
Honorary Degree Candidate Summary

Dr. O.H. “Bud” Frazier
Candidate for Honorary Doctor of Letters

O. H. "Bud" Frazier, M.D., originally from Stephenville, Texas, began his academic journey at Tarleton State University, later earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas and a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine.

For over 40 years, Dr. Frazier has been a leader in treating severe heart failure and advancing research in heart transplantation and artificial heart devices, designed to assist or replace the heart's pumping function. His fascination with mechanical circulatory support started in 1969 as a student at Baylor College of Medicine, where he wrote a research paper on the experimental total artificial heart, first implanted that same year by Dr. Denton Cooley. His surgical training was put on hold when he served as a U.S. Army flight surgeon from 1968 to 1970 during the Vietnam War, where he worked in an assault helicopter company. For his valor and exceptional service, he was awarded the Combat Flight Medal, the Vietnamese Navy Medal, and the Vietnamese Distinguished Service Medal.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Frazier engaged in experimental work that led to the development of an implantable left ventricular assist device (LVAD). This pioneering work established him as one of the world’s foremost experts in transplantation and mechanical circulatory support. In 2011, he achieved a major milestone by implanting the first successful continuous-flow total artificial heart, using two HeartMate II LVADs to replace a patient’s failing heart.

Throughout his career, Dr. Frazier has performed more than 1,200 heart transplants and implanted more than 900 LVADs—more than any other surgeon globally. He has served on the National Institutes of Health’s National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Advisory Committee and chaired the original committee that developed the first federal system for heart transplant allocation. He currently co-directs the Center for Preclinical Surgical & Interventional Research at the Texas Heart Institute.

Dr. Frazier is widely regarded as a living legend and celebrated for his lifelong commitment to improving patients' lives and advancing medical technology, his dedication to Tarleton State University, and his service to his country.

Agenda Item No. 6.15

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

**Subject:** Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Rehabilitation Science and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University (Tarleton) leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) with a major in Rehabilitation Science, authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

## Background Information:

The proposed M.S. in Rehabilitation Science (RHSC) program is a 36-semester credit hour program that will provide students with an integrated course of study that will provide a strong comprehension and application in rehabilitation science studies, education, and scholarly activities through interdisciplinary engagement. The program provides two tracks: Thesis and Capstone Project. Both tracks require students to complete core courses and provide students with the option to tailor their elective course selections to meet their needs and preferences. Course offerings reflect the focus of potential professional jobs or research lines related to the M.S. RHSC degree. The M.S. program will be offered in person on the Tarleton Fort Worth campus.

## A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Estimated new costs over the first five years are $1,070,745 and the estimated five-year funding is $1,134,012.

## Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:

The proposed M.S. aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.15

**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
October 29, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Rehabilitation Science and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University leading to a Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Rehabilitation Science.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Tarleton State University's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Tarleton State University**

Master of Science
with a major in Rehabilitation Science
(CIP 51.2314.00)

**Program Review Outline**

## BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Health Sciences, Department of Health and Human Performance

The proposed Master Science (M.S.) in Rehabilitation Science (RHSC) program is a 36-semester credit hour program that will provide students with an integrated course of study that will provide a strong comprehension and application in rehabilitation science studies, education, and scholarly activities through interdisciplinary engagement. The program provides two tracks: Thesis and Capstone Project. Students in both tracks will complete required core courses and students will have the option to select elective courses tailored to their needs and preferences. Course offerings reflect the focus of potential professional jobs or research related to the program. The M.S. program will be offered in person on the Tarleton Fort Worth campus.

Rehabilitation Science at the master's level provides students with an advanced program that emphasizes research methods, leadership development, application of evidence-based practices, and a detailed in-depth curriculum. Additionally, many professions and employers of rehabilitation have shifted toward requiring postgraduate degrees due to increasing complexity of care delivery and the need for advanced expertise. The proposed program will allow students to pursue careers as Rehabilitation Program Directors, Rehabilitation Research Scientists, Healthcare Policy Analysts, Biomechanics Specialists, Robotics and Assistive Technology Developers, as well as entering and continuing their education at the doctoral level. Each of these career paths requires or highly encourages, an education level of a master's degree or higher. Overall, a master's degree curriculum ensures graduates are better equipped to excel in complex, dynamic healthcare environments.

*Educational objectives:*

1. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the principles and theories underlying rehabilitation science, including physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects.
2. Students will be proficient in various research methodologies relevant to rehabilitation science, including experimental design, data collection, statistical analysis, and interpretation of findings.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate research literature, identify gaps in knowledge, and formulate research questions to address those gaps.
4. Students will practice ethical considerations in rehabilitation science research, including the responsible conduct of research, protection of human subjects, and dissemination of findings.
5. Students will communicate research findings or programmatic needs effectively to both academic and non-academic audiences through written reports, oral presentations, and other forms of dissemination.

6. Students will engage in interdisciplinary collaboration, working effectively with professionals from diverse backgrounds such as medicine, psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, athletic trainers, and social work.
7. Students will apply evidence-based practices in rehabilitation settings, translating research findings into practical interventions to improve client outcomes.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2025.

Tarleton State University (Tarleton) certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years are estimated at $1 million.

## I. NEED

### A. Employment Opportunities

Zippia, a national job search firm, projects more than 10,000 additional rehabilitation science-related positions will be available in the next decade, with nearly 30,000 current job openings (Zippia, 2021). In Texas, there are more than 1,100 rehabilitation research job openings, revealing a strong market for rehabilitation researchers outside the academic setting (LinkedIn, 2024). Additionally, more than 1,500 jobs in Texas are available for rehabilitation professionals in business settings (LinkedIn, 2024). In the area of rehabilitation programs, there are more than 8,000 job openings in Texas (LinkedIn, 2024). An expanded search to the United States revealed over 24,000 job openings in the rehabilitation business, over 13,000 in rehabilitation research, and over 107,000 job openings in rehabilitation programming (LinkedIn, 2024). The strong workforce demand will ensure that graduates will have a variety of positions available to them upon graduation.

### B. Projected Enrollment

It is anticipated that this program will begin with a cohort of 10 students in year one of the program. The program will have a projected cumulative headcount of 10 students in year one, 15 students in year two, 20 students in year three, 24 students in year four, and 24 students in year five.

### C. Existing State Programs

Four public Texas universities currently offer similar bachelor's level degrees and one public health sciences center that offers a doctoral degree program in the field of rehabilitation sciences with the CIP code 51.2314.00. The universities that offer bachelor's degree programs are Stephen F. Austin State University, University of Texas at El Paso, University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, and University of North Texas, and Texas Tech Health Sciences Center offers a doctoral degree There are currently no public universities in Texas that offer a similar program at the master's level. Of the universities that offer a bachelor's degree program, only the University of North Texas is within 100 miles of Tarleton's Fort Worth campus.

## II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

### A. Faculty

Eight current faculty members and two newly hired assistant professors will provide core and support roles in the proposed degree. The two new assistant professor faculty lines will be hired in year one of the program. The first faculty line will be $77,715 per year for the first five years of the program. The second faculty line will be $51,810 per year for the first five years of the program.

**B. Program Administration**

Current administration is sufficient for this program.

**C. Other Personnel**

There will be no other personnel hired for this program.

**D. Supplies, Materials**

Supplies and materials are requested in the amount of $5,000 per year for the first five years of the program. This will be a $25,000 total cost by the end of year five.

**E. Library**

Existing library resources will be sufficient. No additional library resources are anticipated.

**F. Equipment, Facilities**

Existing equipment and facilities will be sufficient. No additional equipment or facilities will be needed.

**G. Accreditation**

There will be no accreditation cost for this program.

## III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

| NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS | | | SOURCES OF FUNDING | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Faculty | $1,045,745 | | Formula Income | $197,110 |
| Program Administration | $0 | | Statutory Tuition | $159,750 |
| Teaching Assistants | $0 | | Reallocation | $0 |
| Supplies & Materials | $25,000 | | Designated Tuition | $617,402 |
| Library & IT Resources | $0 | | Other Funding: | |
| Equipment, Facilities | $0 | | Board Authorized Tuition | $159,750 |
| Accreditation | $0 | | Student Fees | $0 |
| **Estimated 5-Year Costs** | $1,070,745 | | **Estimated 5-Year Funding** | $1,134,012 |

Agenda Item No. 6.16

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

**Subject:** Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Speech-Language Pathology and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University (Tarleton) leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) with a major in Speech-Language Pathology, authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

## Background Information:

The proposed M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology program is a 54-semester credit hour program that will provide students with an integrated course of study and provide graduates with a strong comprehension and application of speech-language pathology services, with a focus on a rural practice. The proposed program will consist of didactic and clinical education, practicum opportunities and research experiences designed to meet the accreditation standards set by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

The proposed M.S. program will be offered in person on the Tarleton-Fort Worth campus. The campus is uniquely positioned in the rural portion of southwest Tarrant County and will provide students with a blend of rural and metropolitan experiences. The proposed program will offer an exceptional opportunity to learn and practice in nearby rural counties such as Somervell, Hood, Bosque, Johnson, Hill, and Erath—all within an hour's drive. These areas are among those with the greatest demand for healthcare providers in Texas.

## A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Estimated new costs over the first five years are $3,006,733, and estimated five-year funding is $4,094,776.

## Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:

The proposed M.S. aligns with the Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.16

**TARTLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
October 28, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Speech-Language Pathology and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University leading to a Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in Speech-Language Pathology.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Tarleton State University's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Tarleton State University**

Master of Science
with a major in Speech-Language Pathology
(CIP 51.0203.00)

**Program Review Outline**

## BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Health Sciences, Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

The proposed Master Science (M.S.) in Speech-Language Pathology program is a 54-semester credit hour program that will provide students with an integrated course of study and provide graduates with strong comprehension and application of speech-language pathology services, with a focus on a rural practice. The proposed program will consist of didactic and clinical education, practicum opportunities and research experiences designed to meet the accreditation standards set by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

The proposed M.S. program will be offered in person on the Tarleton-Fort Worth campus. The campus is uniquely positioned in the rural portion of southwest Tarrant County and will provide students with a blend of rural and metropolitan experiences. The proposed program will offer students an exceptional opportunity to learn and practice in nearby rural counties such as Somervell, Hood, Bosque, Johnson, Hill, and Erath—all within an hour's drive. These areas are among those with the greatest demand for healthcare providers in Texas.

*Educational objectives:*

1. Students will be able to demonstrate the skills needed to professionally practice as a speech-language pathologist in a variety of settings, with different populations, and with the resources available to practitioners.
2. Students will know and be able to apply knowledge needed for practice as a speech-language pathologist.
3. Students will demonstrate ethical and professional behavior in practice as a speech-language pathologist.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2027.

Tarleton State University (Tarleton) certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years are estimated at $3,006,733 million.

## I. NEED

### A. Employment Opportunities

Speech-language pathologists are needed in Texas, especially in rural areas, including those near the Tarleton-Fort Worth campus. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

(BLS), Texas is the state with the second highest level of employment for speech-language pathologists. Across the US, it is projected that there will be approximately 13,200 job openings per year (BLS). In addition, a search on Indeed.com resulted in 466 job openings for speech-language pathologies in the Fort Worth area. Graduates would enter a growing job market and be highly employable.

### B. Projected Enrollment

It is anticipated that the program will begin with a cohort of 35 students in year one. The program will have a projected cumulative headcount of 35 students in year one, 40 students in year two, 45 students in year three, 49 students in year four, and 54 students in year five.

### C. Existing State Programs

There are five public Texas universities and one health science center that offer a master's degree program in Speech Language Pathology. The universities are Lamar University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas Woman's University, University of Texas at Tyler, University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio, and University of North Texas. The enrollment for five of the six universities is shown in Table 1. The University of Texas at Tyler recently added this program and currently has no enrollment data. The only institution within 100 miles of Tarlton-Fort Worth is Texas Woman's University, located in Denton.

| **Table 1. Graduates Per Year – CIP 51.0203.00** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Institution** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| Lamar University | 64 | 65 | 51 | 45 |
| Stephen F. Austin State University | 63 | 70 | 67 | 59 |
| Texas Woman's University | 168 | 192 | 200 | 181 |
| University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio | 203 | 243 | 267 | 283 |
| University of Texas at Tyler | | | | |
| University of North Texas | 84 | 88 | 87 | 89 |
| **Grand Total** | **582** | **658** | **672** | **657** |

## II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

### A. Faculty

One current faculty member, three newly hired assistant professors and two newly hired clinical educators will provide core and support roles in the proposed degree. Two new assistant professor faculty lines will be hired by year one of the program at $103,620 each per year for the first five years of the program. One new assistant professor and one new clinical director faculty will be hired by year two at $103,620 each year. One new clinical director faculty will be hired by year three of the program at $103,620 per year. The current faculty line will be reallocated to the new program.

**B. Program Administration**

This program is planning to hire a Program Specialist to provide administrative support. The cost for this position will be $56,760 per year for the first five years of the program.

**C. Other Personnel**

There will be no personnel hired for this program.

**D. Supplies, Materials**

Supplies and materials are requested in the amount of $5,000 per year for the first five years of the program. This will be a $25,000 total cost by the end of year five.

**E. Library**

Existing library resources are sufficient. No additional library resources are anticipated.

**F. Equipment, Facilities**

Existing equipment and facilities are sufficient. No additional equipment or facilities will be needed.

**G. Accreditation**

The program will seek accreditation through the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

## III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

| NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS | | | SOURCES OF FUNDING | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Faculty | $2,666,155 | | Formula Income | $680,776 |
| Program Administration | $283,800 | | Statutory Tuition | $500,250 |
| Teaching Assistants | $0 | | Reallocation | $480,135 |
| Supplies & Materials | $25,000 | | Designated Tuition | $1,933,365 |
| Library & IT Resources | $0 | | Other Funding: | |
| Equipment, Facilities | $0 | | Board Authorized Tuition | $500,250 |
| Accreditation | $31,778 | | Student Fees | $0 |
| **Estimated 5-Year Costs** | $3,006,733 | | **Estimated 5-Year Funding** | $4,094,776 |

Agenda Item No. 6.17

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Dr. James Hurley, President
Tarleton State University

**Subject:** Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in School Mental Health Counseling and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University (Tarleton) leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) with a major in School Mental Health Counseling, authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

## Background Information:

The proposed M.S. in School Mental Health Counseling (SCMH) program is a 60-semester credit hour program that will provide students with an integrated course of study and provide graduates with a strong comprehension of and ability to apply mental health services and strategies in an educational setting. The program includes substantial coursework necessary for the understanding of family counseling, treatment planning, counseling methods, and human development. The M.S. program will be offered in person on the Tarleton Fort Worth and Waco campuses.

## A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Estimated new costs over the first five years are $1,344,900, and estimated five-year funding is $1,629,494.

## Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:

The proposed M.S. aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.17

**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
October 28, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in School Mental Health Counseling and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Tarleton State University leading to a Master of Science Degree Program with a Major in School Mental Health Counseling.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Tarleton State University's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Tarleton State University**

Master of Science
with a major in School Mental Health Counseling
(CIP 13.1101.00)

**Program Review Outline**

## BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Education, Department of Counseling

The proposed Master Science (M.S.) in School Mental Health Counseling (SCMH) program is a 60-semester credit hour program that will provide students with an integrated course of study that will provide a strong comprehension and application of mental health services and strategies within an educational setting. The program includes substantial coursework necessary for the understanding of family counseling, treatment planning, counseling methods, and human development. The M.S. program will be offered in person on the Tarleton Fort Worth and Waco campuses.

*Educational objectives:*

1. Students will acquire skills responsive to etiology, nomenclature, diagnosis, treatment, referral, and prevention of mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders.
2. Students will evaluate mental health service delivery modalities and networks within the continuum of care, such as primary care, outpatient, partial treatment, inpatient, integrated behavioral healthcare, aftercare, and particularly school mental health counseling environments.
3. Students will examine legislation, government policy, and regulatory processes relevant to school mental health counseling.
4. Students will apply clinical skills relevant to intake interviews, mental status evaluations, biopsychosocial histories, mental health histories, educational achievement histories, and psychological assessment for treatment planning and caseload management in a school mental health counseling setting.
5. Students will acquire techniques and interventions for prevention and treatment of a broad range of mental health issues relevant to school mental health counseling settings.
6. Students will integrate strategies for interfacing with the legal system regarding court-involved clients.
7. Students will construct strategies for interfacing with integrated behavioral healthcare professionals.
8. Students will facilitate strategies to advocate for people with mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental conditions within school systems.
9. Students will articulate third-party reimbursement and other practice and management issues in clinical and school mental health counseling.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2025.

Tarleton State University (Tarleton) certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and

faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years are estimated at $1,344,900 million.

## I. NEED

### A. Employment Opportunities

The proposed M.S. in School Mental Health Counseling degree offers a unique opportunity for students to receive the education and training that will prepare them both to pursue licensure and certification as a licensed professional counselor and a certified school counselor in Texas. Mental health occupations are positioned for significant growth. According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, mental health counselors make a median salary of $53,710 and currently occupy 449,800 jobs. For 2022-2023, it was estimated that the job growth would be 19% (or 84,500 jobs), which places it in the much faster than average growth category. Additionally, school and career counselors make a median salary of $61,710 according to the occupational outlook handbook. Currently, school counselors occupy 360,800 positions, and the growth for the job is 4% (or 16,200 jobs) which is considered as fast as average.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that the annual median wage for school-based counselors in Texas is $64,750. Currently, Texas employs 31,680 school counselors. According to the BLS, Texas is one of the top five states that employs the most school-based counselors, coming second only to New York. In Texas, mental health counselors have a total employment of 18,840, with an annual median wage of $52,190.

### B. Projected Enrollment

It is anticipated that the proposed program will begin with a cohort of five students in year one of the program. The program will have a projected cumulative headcount of five students in year one, nine students in year two, 15 students in year three, 17 students in year four, and 19 students in year five.

### C. Existing State Programs

There are 22 public Texas universities that currently offer a program at the master's level in School Counseling (13.1101.00 CIP code). Four universities are within 100 miles of Tarleton's Fort Worth location: East Texas A&M University, Texas Woman's University, University of North Texas, and University of North Texas at Dallas. Table 1 shows the number of graduates from Texas public universities for the last three years.

**Table 1. Texas Public Universities, Graduates (CIP code 13.1101.00)**

| Institution | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Angelo State University | 115 | 185 | 121 |
| East Texas A&M University | 34 | 56 | 72 |
| Sam Houston State University | 6 | 6 | 26 |
| Sul Ross State University | 19 | 12 | 16 |
| Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| Texas A&M International University | 31 | 1 | 23 |
| Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi | 20 | 8 | 1 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Texas A&M University-Kingsville | 2 | | 2 |
| Texas A&M University-San Antonio | 9 | 6 | 5 |
| Texas Southern University | 11 | 10 | 21 |
| Texas Tech University | 15 | 31 | 29 |
| Texas Woman's University | | | |
| The University of Texas at El Paso | 10 | 14 | 12 |
| The University of Texas at San Antonio | 27 | 22 | 14 |
| The University of Texas Permian Basin | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | 59 | 40 | 47 |
| University of Houston | 32 | 54 | 35 |
| University of Houston-Clear Lake | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| University of Houston-Victoria | 8 | 4 | |
| University of North Texas | 65 | 82 | 43 |
| University of North Texas at Dallas | 2 | | 2 |
| West Texas A&M University | 23 | 13 | 13 |

## II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

### A. Faculty

Twelve current faculty members and one newly hired assistant professor will provide core and support roles in the proposed degree. The new faculty will be hired in the first year and allocate 20% of their time to the new program, at a cost to the program of $17,688 each per year for the first five years.

### B. Program Administration

Current administration is sufficient for the proposed program.

### C. Other Personnel

There will be no other personnel hired for the program.

### D. Supplies, Materials

Supplies and materials are requested in the amount of $5,000 per year for the first five years of the program. This will be a $25,000 total cost by the end of year five.

### E. Library

Existing library resources will be sufficient. No additional library resources are anticipated.

### F. Equipment, Facilities

Existing equipment and facilities will be sufficient. No additional equipment or facilities will be needed.

### G. Accreditation

There will be no new accreditation costs for this program.

## III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

| NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS | | | SOURCES OF FUNDING | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Faculty | $1,319,900 | | Formula Income | $60,865 |
| Program Administration | $0 | | Statutory Tuition | $68,250 |
| Teaching Assistants | $0 | | Reallocation | $1,231,460 |
| Supplies & Materials | $25,000 | | Designated Tuition | $200,669 |
| Library & IT Resources | $0 | | Other Funding: | |
| Equipment, Facilities | $0 | | Board Authorized Tuition | $68,250 |
| Accreditation | $0 | | Student Fees | $0 |
| **Estimated 5-Year Costs** | $1,344,900 | | **Estimated 5-Year Funding** | $1,629,494 |

Agenda Item No. 6.18

**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
January 22, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Honoring the Members of the Tarleton State University Men's Rodeo Team

I respectfully request the Board of Regents' approval of the following resolution honoring the Tarleton Men's Rodeo Team for their achievements.

"WHEREAS, the Tarleton Men's Rodeo Team has a long history of championships in the arena; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2024 Tarleton Men's Rodeo Team are Gus Gaillard, Ira Dickinson, Roedy Farrell, Bailey Small, Landris White, Mason Spain, head coach Mr. Mark Eakin, and associate head coach Ms. Brittany Stewart; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 the Tarleton Men's Rodeo Team were champions of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's College National Finals Rodeo; and

WHEREAS, the Tarleton Men's Rodeo Team has been crowned national champions for the fifth time in program history; and

WHEREAS, Gus Gaillard's saddle bronc riding national title is the 30th individual championship for Tarleton State University; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, gratefully recognize the achievements of the Tarleton Men's Rodeo Team in 2024; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes, and copies thereof be signed by the chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System and be presented to the members of the Tarleton Men's Rodeo Team, Mr. Mark Eakin, Ms. Brittany Stewart, and to the Archives of Tarleton State University as an expression of congratulations for their excellence in the arena.

ADOPTED, this 6th day of February 2025."

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. James Hurley
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Billy Hamilton FOR]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

Agenda Item No. 6.19

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Juan J. Castillo, Interim President
Texas A&M International University

**Subject:** Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Civil Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M International University leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Civil Engineering**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

## Background Information:

The proposed B.S. in Civil Engineering program will offer students a comprehensive education in civil engineering principles, including specialized areas of study such as structural engineering, transportation engineering, geotechnical engineering, water resources engineering, and green buildings. The proposed curriculum is designed to prepare graduates to contribute to the development and resilience of infrastructure systems. The proposed program is vital for addressing job market growth driven by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and will strengthen the local workforce by reducing reliance on external recruitment amid local talent shortages.

## A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

The estimated cost of the program over the first five years is $3,822,650 with an estimated five-year funding of $3,835,756. The cost includes three new faculty hires, an Engineering Lab Technician staff position, supplies and materials, equipment (hardware and software), and facilities. The funding will include formula funding from projected enrollment, state funding, and tuition and fees.

## Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:

The proposed B.S. in Civil Engineering aligns with the Texas A&M University System's strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a global economy. Additionally, the program aligns with imperative 5 by producing graduates who can strengthen the state’s economy, particularly in addressing South Texas’s significant infrastructure needs, economic and environmental development initiatives, and the expansion of trade.

Agenda Item No. 6.19

**TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
January 6, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Civil Engineering, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M International University leading to a Bachelor of Science with a major in Civil Engineering.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M International University's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Juan J. Castillo
Interim President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Texas A&M International University**

Bachelor of Science
with a major in Civil Engineering
(CIP 14.0801.00)

**Program Review Outline**

## BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: School of Engineering within the College of Arts and Sciences

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Civil Engineering at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) will provide students with foundational civil engineering knowledge and allow students to explore specialized areas in structural engineering, transportation engineering, geotechnical engineering, water resources management, and green buildings in upper-division courses. This innovative approach will enhance students' exposure to various facets of civil engineering, thereby increasing their marketability. Notably, the program's increased emphasis on green buildings distinguishes it from other programs, aligning with the growing demand for sustainable design and construction practices in Texas and the nation.

*Educational Objectives:*

- Demonstrate professionalism in civil engineering or related areas
- Promote the values of ethics, integrity, and service to the community
- Exhibit a commitment to ongoing professional growth and development, via obtaining licensure and engineering certification

Students in the proposed program will complete a total of 131 semester credit hours (SCH) and will complete courses in the following areas: [1] structural engineering, [2] transportation engineering, [3] geotechnical engineering, [4] water resources engineering, and [5] green buildings. The program will consist of 42 SCH of Texas core curriculum, 80 SCH of required engineering courses, 3 SCH of a prescribed elective, and 6 SCH of senior design.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2026.

TAMIU certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards and costs. New costs during the first five years will exceed $3.8 million.

I. NEED

### A. Employment Opportunities

The civil engineering industry is projected for burgeoning growth at the national level, with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimating 21,200 jobs annually. However, this figure underrepresents demand, particularly due to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

(IIJA), a $1.2 trillion initiative to enhance essential infrastructure. The White House states that the IIJA will create an average of 1.5 million jobs per year over the next decade. With only 14,379 bachelor's graduates in civil engineering in 2020-21, there is insufficient talent to meet the industry's exponential growth, demonstrating the need for an additional civil engineering program.

In 2023, the BLS reported that Texas ranks second nationally in civil engineering employment. This is evidenced by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), which noted 6,736 civil engineering job ads in the third quarter of 2024. The TWC indicated that 28,320 civil engineers were employed in Texas in 2022 and projects an increase to 32,708 positions by 2032, a 15.49% rise. However, this projection may underestimate the increasing demand driven by the IIJA and population growth over the next decade. Considering there were only 1,918 civil engineering graduates from Texas institutions in 2023, there is a need for more civil engineering programs.

Laredo is an ideal location for the proposed program because its prolific trade produces a continuous need for the maintenance and creation of infrastructure. Laredo's transportation infrastructure is prone to experiencing rapid deterioration as 5.5 million trucks traverse through the city annually, thereby creating a need for civil engineers to restore and innovate infrastructure. Moreover, civil engineers are needed in the city to address the influx of real estate construction brought on by the increase of nearshoring, which has resulted in industrial real estate "grow[ing] by 10% over the past five years to 36 million sq. ft." (CoStar). Despite the numerous infrastructure projects, many local consulting firms are pressured to recruit civil engineers from outside the area due to insufficient local talent to meet the demand. This need for local civil engineers is reinforced by our industry survey data, in which 75% of respondents (18/24) expressed a strong likelihood of hiring graduates from the proposed program, indicating robust industry support for this initiative.

**B. Projected Enrollment**

The number of students enrolled in the program is expected to reach 27 students for the first year. Starting in year two, the projections include an assumption that the annual growth rate for cohorts would linearly increase by a constant 20% based on the first cohort – approximately five new students every year. Cohort attrition rate is projected to be approximately 15% per year. A maximum projected cumulative headcount of 115 students will be reached by year five of the program.

**C. Existing State Programs**

The University of Texas's civil engineering program requires students to complete foundational courses before specializing in one area, such as construction, environmental, or transportation engineering. Similarly, Texas A&M University offers a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with seven tracks, including coastal, geotechnical, and structural engineering. While these programs allow for specialization, they typically focus on one sub-discipline. In contrast, the proposed program integrates various sub-disciplines into its curriculum, offering five areas of study, preparing graduates for a wider range of positions in the industry.

## II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

### A. Faculty

Three new core faculty members will be hired to support the new program, each with a salary of $92,000 and $32,220 in benefits per year (totaling $124,220). There will be approximately a 2% salary and benefit increase per year. The new faculty will be hired in the following sequence, one in year one of the program (fall 2026), another in year two of the program (fall 2027), and the last one in year four of the program (fall 2029). These new hires, along with existing School of Engineering (SOEN) faculty members, will result in a total of three core faculty members and six support faculty members for the B.S. in Civil Engineering. The existing faculty members will have support roles in the program.

### B. Program Administration

The director of the SOEN will oversee the proposed program, with additional administrative support provided by existing SOEN personnel.

### C. Other Personnel

The SOEN will require one civil engineering technical laboratory coordinator to oversee the setup of lab facilities, including the purchasing, maintenance, and transportation of equipment.

### D. Supplies, Materials

Supplies and materials will cost approximately $75,000 for the first five years of the program.

### E. Library

Existing library resources will be sufficient to sustain the proposed BS CVEN program. No additional library resource costs are anticipated.

### F. Equipment, Facilities

The program requires new equipment and software packages to support research and instruction. The total five year cost is expected to be $1,043,451. A new laboratory annex will be needed and will cost $1,000,000.

### G. Accreditation

As per ABET guidelines, the program will seek accreditation upon its first graduating cohort. The timeline for seeking accreditation is tentative, as students from an existing engineering program may transfer, potentially allowing for accreditation to be pursued sooner.

## III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

| NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS | | | SOURCES OF FUNDING | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Faculty | $1,409,130 | | Formula Income | $124,482 |
| Program Administration | | | | |
| Graduate Assistants | | | Designated Tuition and Fees | $1,111,274 |
| Supplies & Materials | $75,000 | | Other Funding: | |
| Library & IT Resources | | | HEF State Funding | $2,600,000 |
| Equipment, Facilities | $2,043,451 | | | |
| Clerical/Staff | $295,069 | | | |
| Other | | | | |
| **Estimated 5-Year Costs** | $3,822,650 | | **Estimated 5-Year Funding** | $3,835,756 |

Agenda Item No. 6.20

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Juan J. Castillo, Interim President
Texas A&M International University

**Subject:** Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Computer Science, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M International University leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science, authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

## Background Information:

Computer science is a discipline focused on creating innovative solutions to complex challenges in today's digital landscape. The proposed B.S. in Computer Science program will offer students a comprehensive education in computer science, enabling them to apply their knowledge in areas such as digital logistics, autonomous mobile computing, and cyber forensics. The curriculum emphasizes software development and artificial intelligence, preparing graduates with the skills necessary to design and implement effective solutions across various sectors.

## A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

The estimated cost of the program over the first five years is $2,263,566 and includes four new faculty hires, an Office of Instructional Technology staff position, supplies and materials, and equipment (hardware and software). The funding includes formula funding from projected enrollment, with the five-year projected to be $2,377,480.

## Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:

The proposed B.S. in Computer Science aligns with The Texas A&M University System's strategic plan imperative 3 by equipping students for long-term careers in a global economy. Furthermore, the program supports imperative 5 by producing graduates who can strengthen the state's economy, particularly by meeting the increasing demand for technology solutions and fostering technological innovation across various sectors.

Agenda Item No. 6.20

**TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
January 6, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Computer Science, and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

**"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M International University leading to a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.**

**The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M International University's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Juan J. Castillo
Interim President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Texas A&M International University**

Bachelor of Science
with a major in Computer Science
(CIP 11.0701.00)

**Program Review Outline**

## BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: School of Engineering within the College of Arts and Sciences

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) will prepare graduates with expertise in three sectors: autonomous mobile computing, cyber forensics, and digital logistics. Unlike traditional programs that focus on a single specialization, the proposed program will provide students with a broad skill set across various unique application areas of computer science, enhancing their marketability. In autonomous mobile computing, students will learn to develop independent systems such as self-driving cars and drones. In cyber forensics, students will learn to investigate digital breaches, recover data, and strengthen cybersecurity. In digital logistics, students will implement computing technologies to optimize supply chains, thereby improving workflows. Unified by a core foundation in artificial intelligence (AI) and software development, the proposed program aligns with the university's mission to deliver high-quality education in critical fields.

*Educational Objectives:*

- Exhibit competence and professionalism in computer science or related fields
- Advocate for the principles of ethics, integrity, and community service
- Demonstrate a mindset of continuous professional development

Students in the proposed program will complete a total of 131 semester credit hours (SCH) and will complete courses in the following: [1] autonomous mobile computing, [2] cyber forensics, and [3] digital logistics. The program will consist of 42 SCH of Texas core curriculum, 80 SCH of required computer science courses, 3 SCH of a prescribed elective, and 6 SCH of senior design.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2026.

TAMIU certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards and costs. New costs for the proposed program are estimated to be $2,263,566 million for the first five years.

I. NEED

### A. Employment Opportunities

The proposed program responds to the urgent demand for skilled professionals in the expanding field of computer science. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the computer and mathematical field is the second fastest growing sector in the country, projected to increase by 12.9% by 2033. Notably, software developers are projected to see

303,700 positions by 2033, while roles such as data scientists and information security analysts are set to grow by 36% and 33%, respectively, creating 132,200 positions overall.

Texas serves as a technology employment hub, ranking second nationally for software developer employment and fifth for computer and information research scientist (BLS). As of 2023, 138,510 software developers were employed in Texas, with 9,216 job postings by September 2024 (Texas Workforce Commission). However, Texas universities produced only 2,801 computer science graduates in 2023, demonstrating the substantial gap between workforce needs and available candidates (Texas Workforce Commission).

The proposed program's areas of study are tailored to meet the pressing local needs for trade and security that impact both the state and the nation. Overall expenses from cybercrime are projected to reach $10.5 trillion by 2025, highlighting the urgent demand for qualified cybersecurity professionals, further evidenced by a nationwide workforce gap of four million (Esentire). The proposed program addresses that shortage by providing students with essential skills and knowledge, particularly in cyber forensics, to excel in the cybersecurity field. Additionally, the focus on digital logistics will enhance the city's port, which generated $320 billion in 2023, ensure efficient movement of goods nationwide, and stimulate economic activity across Texas. The program's emphasis on autonomous mobile computing will strengthen security along the Texas-Mexico border, safeguarding citizens and infrastructure. Our industry survey further demonstrates the proposed program's relevance, with 41% of industry leaders reporting difficulties in finding qualified candidates and 61% expressing a strong likelihood of hiring TAMIU graduates. Overall, the proposed program will position graduates as vital contributors to their local community, as well as to the state and nation.

### B. Projected Enrollment

The number of students enrolled in the program is expected to be 33 students in the first year. Starting in year two, the projections include an assumption that the annual growth rate for cohorts would linearly increase by a constant 20% based on the first cohort – approximately seven new students every year. Cohort attrition rate is projected to be approximately 12% per year. A maximum projected cumulative headcount of 161 students will be reached by year five of the program.

### C. Existing State Programs

Eight public universities currently offer a B.S. in Computer Science; however, none are located near TAMIU. The University of Texas's Computer Science program offers concentrations in areas like mobile computing, AI, game development, and cybersecurity. Texas A&M University's Computer Science program provides tracks in areas such as algorithms, computer systems, and information systems, while Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's program includes options in systems programming, cybersecurity, game programming, and information systems. Unlike these programs, which typically allow students to specialize in a single sub-discipline, the proposed program integrates multiple sub-disciplines through three unique areas of study.

## II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

### A. Faculty

Four new core faculty members will be hired in the first four years to support the B.S. in Computer Science program, each with a salary of $92,000 and $32,220 in benefits per year (totaling $124,220). There will be approximately a 2% salary and benefit increase per year. The new faculty will be hired in the following sequence, one in year one of the program (fall 2026), another in year two of the program (fall 2027), another in year three of the program (fall 2028) and the last one in year four of the program (fall 2029). These new hires, along with existing School of Engineering (SOEN) faculty members, will result in a total of four core faculty members and five support faculty members for the program. The existing faculty members will have support roles in the program.

**B. Program Administration**

The director of the SOEN will oversee the proposed program, with additional administrative support provided by existing personnel.

**C. Other Personnel**

A new Office of Information Technology staff member with expertise in Linux will be hired in the first year of the program launch. This position will assist in the setting up and continuous maintenance of various computer science labs, which will require Linux to run. The total five-year cost for this position is expected to be $351,273.

**D. Supplies, Materials**

Supplies and materials will cost approximately $75,000 for the first five years of the program.

**E. Library**

Existing library resources will be sufficient to establish and sustain the proposed program. No additional library resource costs are anticipated.

**F. Equipment, Facilities**

The program requires new equipment and software packages to support research and instruction. The total five-year cost is expected to be $48,062.

**G. Accreditation**

As per ABET guidelines, the program will seek accreditation upon its first graduating cohort. The timeline for seeking accreditation is tentative, as students from an existing engineering program may transfer, potentially allowing for accreditation to be pursued sooner.

## III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

| NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS | | | SOURCES OF FUNDING | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Faculty | $1,789,231 | | Formula Income | $232,932 |
| Program Administration | | | Designated Tuition | $2,144,548 |
| Graduate Assistants | | | Other Funding | |
| Supplies & Materials | $75,000 | | | |
| Library & IT Resources | | | | |
| Equipment, Facilities | $48,062 | | | |
| Clerical/Staff | $351,273 | | | |
| Other | | | | |
| **Estimated 5-Year Costs** | $2,263,566 | | **Estimated 5-Year Funding** | $2,377,480 |

Agenda Item No. 6.21

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
December 2, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, February 2025,
Texas A&M University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty members at Texas A&M University as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 25-02."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark A. Welsh III
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.21
EXHIBIT

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**
**BACKGROUND OF FACULTY**
**RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE**
**TENURE LIST NO. 25-02**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES**

| **Name** | **Present Rank**<br>**Department** | **Yrs. Towards Tenure***<br>**Univ.** | <br>**Other Inst.** | **Effective Date**<br>**Tenure** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Jinyang Deng | Associate Professor<br>Hospitality, Hotel Management & Tourism | 0 | >15 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2004) | University of Alberta, Canada | | | |
| Fa 2005 – Su 2011<br>Su 2011 – Su 2019<br>Su 2019 – Sp 2024<br>Su 2024 – Present | West Virginia University<br>West Virginia University<br>West Virginia University<br>Texas A&M University | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2011)<br>Professor<br>Associate Professor | | |

Dr. Jinyang Deng earned a Ph.D. in Physical Education and Recreation from the University of Alberta, Canada in 2004. Dr. Deng is an expert on rural tourism, ecotourism, tourism planning, and geographical information systems (GIS) with teaching and working experience in China, Australia, Canada, and the United States where he investigates topics such as environmental attitudes and behaviors, GIS applications in recreation and tourism, visitor profiles and tourism markets, tourism economic impacts, and stakeholders' attitudes towards rural tourism. Since 2005, he has published 76 articles in peer-reviewed journals and prepared 38 technical reports for destination marketing organizations (DMOs). Dr. Deng has been awarded over $3 million (as principal investigator and co-principal investigator) in research funding from various sources, including federal agencies, state governments, foundations, and DMOs. He has been equally committed to teaching and has taught courses in the fields of hospitality management, recreation resource management and evaluation, and sustainable tourism. His teaching philosophy emphasizes tireless dedication, enhancing positive learning, application of theory to practice, confidence building, and high expectations. He believes teaching and research complement each other and often involves students in real-world projects which are usually community-based. He sets up goals for students and meets regularly to listen to their needs and monitor their progress, which allows students to see tangible outcomes from their hard work while promoting academic rigor and productivity.

Dr. Deng's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Ashley M. Long | Associate Professor<br>Rangeland, Wildlife & Fisheries Management | 0 | 6 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2014) | Texas A&M University | | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sp 2018 – Su 2023 | Louisiana State University | Assistant Professor |
| Su 2023 – Su 2024 | Louisiana State University | Associate Professor (Tenured 2023) |
| Su 2024 – Present | Texas A&M University | Associate Professor |

Dr. Ashley M. Long earned a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in 2014. Dr. Long explores how variation in habitat conditions affects avian distributions, movements and population dynamics across different spatial and temporal scales. She is especially interested in how birds respond to disturbance, land use change and climate. Her grantsmanship exceeds $1.4 million and she has published more than 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts, extension publications and popular press articles. She has also developed technical documents, spatial layers and web-based mapping applications to help inform conservation, management and policy decisions. Dr. Long has mentored more than 30 undergraduate researchers, six master's students, two doctoral students, and two post-doctoral research associates who have acquired over $60,000 in competitive research support, presented their research at regional, national and international conferences, and received numerous student research awards. Most have pursued advanced degrees or jobs in natural resources immediately upon graduation and Dr. Long is extremely proud of their professional and personal accomplishments. She teaches courses in avian ecology and wildlife habitat management, among others, and provides her students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience whenever possible. She has received multiple awards for her contributions to research, teaching and service, and will continue to pursue opportunities that enhance the well-being of her institution, profession and community as a faculty member at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Long's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Shuyu Liu | Professor<br>Soil & Crop Sciences | 1 | 13 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2003) | University of Missouri-Columbia | | | |
| Su 2010 – Su 2016 | Texas A&M AgriLife Research | Assistant Professor (Non-Tenure Track) | | |
| Fa 2016 – Su 2021 | Texas A&M AgriLife Research | Associate Professor (Non-Tenure Track) | | |
| Fa 2021 – Fa 2023 | Texas A&M AgriLife Research | Professor (Non-Tenure Track) | | |
| Sp 2024 – Present | Texas A&M University | Professor | | |

Dr. Shuyu Liu earned a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2003. Dr. Liu is a professor in wheat breeding, genetics and genomics. His research focuses on wheat improvement. He has conducted studies to improve wheat drought and heat tolerance, resistance to diseases and pests, yield, and end-use quality. He has led projects from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture and USDA Scab Initiative. He and his collaborators have received $28 million in grant funding with $3.3 million directly supporting his program. Dr. Liu teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has trained 32 graduate and 21 undergraduate students in his research program. He has published 99 peer-reviewed articles with 2665 citations and presented his work at 288 venues. Dr. Liu currently serves as chair of the wheat committee for the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System. He has chaired six committees within the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America. He serves as the associate editor for five journals and has reviewed more than 250 articles. In 2019, he was a member of the Wheat Genomics team that received the Vice Chancellor's Award of Excellence in Research.

Dr. Liu's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

**COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE**

| Name | Present Rank<br>Department | Yrs. Towards Tenure*<br>Univ. | <br>Other Inst. | Effective Date<br>Tenure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Rifat Bulut | Professor<br>Construction Science | 0 | >15 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2001) | Texas A&M University | | | |
| Su 2006 – Su 2012<br>Su 2012 – Su 2018<br>Su 2018 – Su 2024<br>Su 2024 – Present | Oklahoma State University<br>Oklahoma State University<br>Oklahoma State University<br>Texas A&M University | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2012)<br>Professor<br>Professor | | |

Dr. Rifat Bulut earned a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in 2001. Dr. Bulut is an expert in geotechnical engineering specializing in soil-structure interaction problems involving expansive soils. He is the editor-in-chief of three books and co-editor-in-chief of one book by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and one book chapter by Springer. He has 31 peer-reviewed journal publications, four peer-reviewed Transportation Research Board (TRB) conference papers, 20 peer-reviewed Geotechnical Special Publication papers (from conference proceedings), and 26 peer-reviewed conference papers. Dr. Bulut has been awarded about $4.5 million in research funding from federal and state agencies and industry. He served on the national committees of ASCE, TRB, and Post-Tensioning Institute and as the session chair and moderator for international conferences. Dr. Bulut teaches courses on foundation soils and soil-structure interaction. Dr. Bulut's students consistently rated him high for teaching. Dr. Bulut served as chair and graduated 15 master's students and four doctoral students at Oklahoma State University. His excellence in service is documented by his continued engagement with multiple college and university-wide committees.

Dr. Bulut's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

| Name | Present Rank<br>Department | Yrs. Towards Tenure*<br>Univ. | <br>Other Inst. | Effective Date<br>Tenure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Jennifer L. Glanville | Professor<br>Sociology | 0 | >15 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (1997) | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fa 2001 – Su 2007 | University of Iowa | Assistant Professor |
| Fa 2007 – Su 2017 | University of Iowa | Associate Professor (Tenured 2007) |
| Fa 2017 – Fa 2024 | University of Iowa | Professor |
| Sp 2025 – Present | Texas A&M University | Professor |

Dr. Jennifer Glanville earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1997. She joined the faculty at the University of Iowa in 2001, where she was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in 2007 and full professor in 2017. Dr. Glanville teaches courses on research methods, social inequality, education and society, and social problems. Her scholarship focuses on the sources and consequences of interpersonal trust and the kinds of connections and institutions that enhance community well-being. Her research has been funded by the Templeton Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services and published in highly ranked Sociology and interdisciplinary journals, such as Criminology, Social Forces, Social Psychology Quarterly, Social Science Research, International Migration Review, and Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly. At the University of Iowa, Dr. Glanville served as director of graduate studies and department chair. During her term as department chair, she spearheaded the development and approval of a Ph.D. program in Criminology.

Dr. Glanville's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

**COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY**

| **Name** | **Present Rank**<br>**Department** | **Yrs. Towards Tenure***<br>**Univ.** | **Other Inst.** | **Effective Date**<br>**Tenure** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Likith V. Reddy | Professor<br>Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery | 11 | 0 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board |
| | | | | |
| M.D. (1992)<br>D.D.S. (1995) | University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center<br>Case Western Reserve University | | | |
| Fa 2013 – Su 2017<br><br>Fa 2017 – Su 2024<br>Fa 2024 – Present | Texas A&M University<br><br>Texas A&M University<br>Texas A&M University | Clinical Associate Professor (Non-Tenure Track)<br>Clinical Professor (Non-Tenure Track)<br>Professor | | |

Dr. Likith V. Reddy earned an M.D. in Medicine from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 1992 and a D.D.S in Dental Surgery from Case Western Reserve University in 1995 with certifications in hospital dentistry, general surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery. Dr. Reddy is a clinical professor and department head for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry. He also serves as chief of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Division at Baylor University Medical Center Dallas and chief of the Multidisciplinary Facial Trauma Service at Texas Health Harris Fort Worth. Dr. Reddy specializes in cranio-maxillofacial reconstruction, managing complex facial injuries across three level-one trauma hospitals in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. His research includes facial allotransplantation, custom reconstruction devices and tissue engineering. He has served as co-principal investigator on National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation projects and consulted for Stryker Corporation and Johnson & Johnson. Many of Dr. Reddy's trainees have become leaders and teachers in the oral and maxillofacial surgery specialty. He has also trained U.S. Navy oral and maxillofacial surgery surgeons who now hold leadership positions across all naval hospitals. Internationally, he has initiated training programs in

Hyderabad, India and Cairo, Egypt for advanced craniofacial procedures. Dr. Reddy developed the first face transplant team in the southern U.S. He led the team in developing COVID-19 protocols for the reopening of the dental school post-pandemic. Additionally, he has developed a minimally invasive transorbital technique, access through eyelid for brain tumors and aneurysms for neurosurgeons that improve recovery. He has held leadership positions at national organizations focused on continuing education and professional development. Dr. Reddy's ongoing research and dedication to education underscore his commitment to excellence in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Reddy has performed professionally and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Liang Hong | Professor<br>Public Health Sciences | 0 | >15 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| D.D.S. (1998)<br>Ph.D. (2004)<br>D.D.S. (2015) | West China University of Medical Sciences<br>University of Iowa<br>University of Tennessee | | | |
| Su 2005 – Su 2010 | University of Missouri-Kansas City | Assistant Professor | | |
| Su 2010 – Su 2017 | The University of Tennessee Health Science Center | Associate Professor | | |
| Su 2017 – Su 2024 | The University of Tennessee Health Science Center | Professor (Tenured 2017) | | |
| Su 2024 – Present | Texas A&M University | Professor | | |

Dr. Liang Hong earned a D.D.S. in Dental Surgery from West China University of Medical Sciences in 1998, a Ph.D. in Oral Science from the University of Iowa in 2004, and a D.D.S. in Dental Surgery from the University of Tennessee in 2015. Dr. Hong is a nationally recognized specialist in dental public health. He became certified by the American Board of Dental Public Health in 2010 and embarked on his academic career in dentistry in 2005, achieving the rank of full professor with tenure in 2017. From 2010 to 2021, he served as director of the Division of Community Oral Health at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Dentistry. Dr. Hong's primary focus has been on promoting oral health and preventing disease. His research centers on dental caries epidemiology, risk assessment, management, and prevention, particularly through the application of fluoride. Dr. Hong has authored 45 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 43 research abstracts and six other research reports. He has secured over $1.5 million in extramural funding and has received numerous honors for his research achievements. Dr. Hong has mentored and trained 27 pre-doctoral D.D.S. students in the UTHSC Dental Student Summer Scholar Research Program, eight graduate students/residents in master's/Ph.D. programs, and four post-doctoral fellows. He plays a pivotal role as faculty lead in community outreach efforts and is recognized for his service through extensive involvement in college and university committees, professional organizations and federal agencies such as National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation.

Dr. Hong’s file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

| Name | Present Rank<br>Department | Yrs. Towards Tenure*<br>Univ. | <br>Other Inst. | Effective Date<br>Tenure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. JoHyun Kim | Associate Professor<br>Educational Administration &<br>Human Resource Development | 0 | 12 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board and<br>Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2006) | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | | | |
| Su 2012 – Su 2018<br>Su 2018 – Su 2024<br>Su 2024 – Present | Texas A&M University-Commerce<br>Texas A&M University-Commerce<br>Texas A&M University | | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2018)*<br>Associate Professor | |

Dr. JoHyun Kim earned a Ph.D. in Human Resource Education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2006. She joined the faculty at Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2012, where she was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in 2018. She served as the chair of the American College Personnel Association Commission for Two-Year Colleges. Her recognitions in teaching and research include the university's highest distinction teaching award and the best article award from a leading journal in her field. She developed eight new courses and two graduate certificate programs in the department. Dr. Kim's primary research interests focus on the high school-to-college transition and community colleges as linkage institutions between high schools, adult education and the workforce. She has published her works in leading journals and served on several editorial boards. Additionally, she has actively pursued grants and successfully secured several projects. She taught an advanced-level statistics course, chaired 15 doctoral dissertations and served on about 30 dissertation committees as a committee member. She served as the master's program coordinator for over ten years, successfully managing a wide range of tasks and responsibilities. Due to Dr. Kim's outstanding service, she received the university's highest distinction service award in 2024.

* Dr. JoHyun Kim was approved for promotion to professor at Texas A&M University-Commerce, to be effective fall 2024. Dr. Kim resigned from Texas A&M University-Commerce prior to the promotion taking effect.

Dr. Kim's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. John R. Turner | Associate Professor<br>Educational Administration &<br>Human Resource Development | 0 | 9 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board and<br>Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2015) | University of North Texas | | | |
| Su 2015 – Su 2021<br>Fa 2021 – Su 2024<br>Su 2024 – Present | University of North Texas<br>University of North Texas<br>Texas A&M University | | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2021)<br>Associate Professor | |

Dr. John R. Turner earned a Ph.D. in Applied Technology & Performance Improvement from the University of North Texas in 2015. Dr. Turner's areas of research focus on the intersection between leadership, teams and complexity within organizational settings. He is the co-author of four books: "The Flow System

Playbook," "The Flow System: The Evolution of Agile and Lean Thinking in an Age of Complexity," "The Flow System Guide," and "The Flow System: Key Principles and Attributes." He has 81 publications (four in-progress, 25 refereed, four books, eight book chapters, eight non-refereed, 20 editorials, 12 other publications). He serves as the editor-in-chief for Performance Improvement Quarterly journal. He has 87 presentations (52 refereed, four non-refereed, 31 invited). He has been awarded internal funding, around $17,000, to continue and support his research. Dr. Turner is an active member of the Academy of Human Resource Development, the International Society for Performance Improvement (ISPI), the Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research, and the International Network for the Science of Team Science. Dr. Turner has served as an Assistant Professor and Associate Professor for the past nine years at the University of North Texas in the College of Information. He now serves as an Associate Professor at Texas A&M University for the School of Education and Human Development in the Department of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development.

Dr. Turner's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Adan (Adam) Julian Alvarez | Associate Professor<br>Teaching, Learning & Culture | 0 | 6 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2018) | University of Pittsburgh | | | |
| Fa 2018 – Su 2024<br>Su 2024 – Present | Rowan University<br>Texas A&M University | | Assistant Professor*<br>Associate Professor | |

Dr. Adan (Adam) Julian Alvarez earned a Ph.D. in Social and Comparative Analysis in Education from the University of Pittsburgh in 2018. Dr. Alvarez is a distinguished scholar in the field of urban education, with a robust research focus on issues related to race, violence, trauma, and healing. His scholarly work, deeply informed by six years as an elementary teacher at a psychiatric treatment facility, centers on the impacts of societal issues on teaching, learning and the state of educational environments. His authoritative voice in the field is solidified by significant publications in top-tier journals, where he elucidates trauma-informed practices and champions racial justice. Dr. Alvarez's research is propelled by notable grants, such as those from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, highlighting his role in evolving trauma-informed educational strategies. His academic expertise is recognized by the Distinguished Early Career Alumni Award from the University of Pittsburgh and the Review of Research Award from the American Educational Research Association, underlining his commitment to advancing equity and healing through education.

* Dr. Adan (Adam) Julian Alvarez was approved for promotion to associate professor with tenure at Rowan University, to be effective fall 2024. Dr. Rowan resigned from Rowan University prior to the promotion and tenure taking effect.

Dr. Alvarez's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Ali Bicer | Associate Professor<br>Teaching, Learning & Culture | 0 | 6 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2016) | Texas A&M University | | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fa 2018 – Su 2023 | University of Wyoming | Assistant Professor |
| Fa 2023 – Su 2024 | University of Wyoming | Associate Professor (Tenured 2023) |
| Su 2024 – Present | Texas A&M University | Associate Professor |

Dr. Ali Bicer earned a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Texas A&M University in 2016. Dr. Bicer is a distinguished expert in mathematical creativity, with a remarkable portfolio of contributions to the field. He has authored three books and six book chapters, 47 peer-reviewed journal publications, and nearly 100 conference presentations. Dr. Bicer has been awarded eight grants at the college, state and national levels to foster students' mathematical creative thinking skills and support teachers in implementing creativity-driven practices in their classrooms. He initiated the Gold STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Summer Camp for K-12 students with the goal of developing students' STEM competencies. Additionally, he provides professional development to teachers, enhancing their content knowledge and pedagogical skills through creativity-focused tasks and practices. He has served as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation Noyce-Scholar program and has chaired the Math Ed related Special Interest Groups at the American Educational Research Association for several years. At the University of Wyoming, his students consistently rated him above the college and department averages, reflecting his dedication to teaching excellence. He has served as chair, co-chair and member on numerous Ph.D. and master's student committees. His commitment to service is evident through his active participation in various national, university and community-wide committees, making a lasting impact on the field of mathematics education.

Dr. Bicer's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

| **Name** | **Present Rank**<br>**Department** | **Yrs. Towards Tenure***<br>**Univ.** | <br>**Other Inst.** | **Effective Date**<br>**Tenure** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Rouzbeh Abbassi | Professor<br>Chemical Engineering | 0 | 10 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2010) | Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada | | | |
| Su 2014 – Sp 2018 | University of Tasmania, Australia | | Lecturer | |
| Sp 2018 – Fa 2020 | Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia | | Senior Lecturer | |
| Sp 2021 – Fa 2023 | Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia | | Associate Professor (Tenured 2021) | |
| Sp 2024 – Fa 2024 | Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW, Australia | | Professor | |
| Sp 2025 – Present | Texas A&M University | | Professor | |

Dr. Rouzbeh Abbassi earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada in 2010. Dr. Abbassi served as a professor and director of research at Macquarie University's School of Engineering, where he combined his extensive expertise in risk, safety and environmental management with a passion for fostering the next generation of innovative engineers. His research spans multidisciplinary fields, including asset integrity, human reliability engineering, and

sustainable engineering processes. Dr. Abbassi has published widely, including a book, two editorial books, 11 book chapters, and over 190 research papers, reflecting his commitment to advancing knowledge in his field. He has successfully supervised 27 graduate students, guiding them to completion through rigorous research and scholarship. His leadership extends to significant project initiatives, such as Macquarie University's role in the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre, a major government-funded endeavor. Beyond research, Dr. Abbassi is dedicated to teaching, where he encourages students to cultivate an innovative mindset and apply sustainable principles to their engineering careers. His editorial roles in leading safety and risk journals further underscore his influence in the academic community, where he contributes to shaping the future of engineering education and practice. Dr. Abbassi's approach to mentoring emphasizes the importance of original work, ensuring that his students are well-prepared to make meaningful contributions to the field.

Dr. Abbassi's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Ariful Azad | Associate Professor<br>Computer Science &<br>Engineering | 0 | 6 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board and<br>Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2014) | Purdue University | | | |
| Su 2018 – Su 2024<br>Su 2024 – Fa 2024<br>Sp 2025 – Present | Indiana University<br>Indiana University<br>Texas A&M University | | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2024)<br>Associate Professor | |

Dr. Ariful Azad earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Purdue University in 2014. Dr. Azad served as an associate professor of Intelligent Systems Engineering (ISE) at Indiana University (IU) School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering. Before joining IU, he was a research scientist in the Computational Research Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. His research interests are in parallel graph algorithms, high-performance computing, data-intensive computing, and bioinformatics. His interdisciplinary research group strives to solve large-scale problems in genomics, neuroscience, scientific computing, and quantum computing. His research has led to over $5.6 million (prorated) in external funding from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense. Dr. Azad has over 40 publications, including one collaborative project recently accepted at Nature. In addition to his skilled research, Dr. Azad has developed two new graduate-level courses and designed the curriculum for a data science undergraduate course while at IU. Additionally, he graduated 10 doctoral students and 15 master's of science students. Dr. Azad received the prestigious CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation in 2023 and the equally impressive Department of Energy Early Career Award in 2021.

Dr. Azad's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Yi Zhou | Associate Professor<br>Computer Science &<br>Engineering | 0 | 5 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board and<br>Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2018) | The Ohio State University | | | |
| Su 2019 – Su 2024<br>Su 2024 – Present | University of Utah<br>Texas A&M University | | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor | |

Dr. Yi Zhou earned a Ph.D. degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from The Ohio State University in 2018. Dr. Zhou was a post-doctoral fellow with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Duke University. Immediately before joining the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University, he served as an assistant professor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Utah. His research focuses on emerging topics at the intersection of machine learning, optimization, signal processing, and statistics. His research has been recognized with over $1.8 million in external funding from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. He has published one book chapter, 14 peer-reviewed journal publications and 54 peer-reviewed conference papers, many at top venues in his research field. His paper received an invitation for spotlight presentation in Neural Information Processing Systems 2018. He has served as a program committee member in the Workshop on Theoretical Foundations and Applications of Deep Generative Models in the International Conference on Machine Learning in 2018. Additionally, he has graduated three doctoral and one master's of science student. He is currently advising two doctoral students. Dr. Zhou received the prestigious CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation in 2023.

Dr. Zhou's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

**COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

| Name | Present Rank<br>Department | Yrs. Towards Tenure*<br>Univ. | <br>Other Inst. | Effective Date<br>Tenure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Glenn M. Toney | Professor<br>Medical Physiology | 0 | >15 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (1992) | University of Louisville | | | |
| Su 1998 – Su 2004 | The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio | | Assistant Professor | |
| Fa 2004 – Su 2009 | The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio | | Associate Professor (Tenured 2004) | |
| Fa 2009 – Sp 2024 | The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio | | Professor | |
| Sp 2024 – Present | Texas A&M University | | Professor | |

Dr. Glenn M. Toney earned a Ph.D. in Physiology and Biophysics from the University of Louisville in 1992. Dr. Toney joins the Texas A&M University College of Medicine as a professor and department head of Medical Physiology. During his career spanning more than 25 years as a faculty member and principal investigator, Dr. Toney has sustained a robust research portfolio, continually supported by National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 and P01 grants, augmented by substantial backing from the American Heart Association. He co-founded the Neurogenic Cardiovascular Diseases Consortium, an initiative to advance research into the neurological underpinnings of prevalent cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Toney's scholarly contributions extend to his service as chair of NIH study sections and serving on the editorial boards of prestigious journals such as the American Journal of Physiology (Heart & Circulation), Journal of Neurophysiology, and Frontiers in Physiology. Additionally, he fulfilled successive terms as an associate and senior editor for the Journal of Physiology (London). Dr. Toney's research endeavors encompass diverse domains, including synaptic physiology, neurogenic hypertension, anxiety/post-traumatic stress disorder and opioid-induced respiratory

depression. In conjunction with multiple collaborative NIH grants, Dr. Toney spearheads three NIH R01 grants through the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Dr. Toney's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Shashank M. Dravid | Professor<br>Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences | 1 | >15 | Upon Approval by the Board |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2003) | University of Georgia | | | |
| Fa 2006 – Su 2013<br>Su 2013 – Su 2021<br>Su 2021 – Fa 2023<br>Sp 2024 – Present | Creighton University<br>Creighton University<br>Creighton University<br>Texas A&M University | | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2013)<br>Professor<br>Professor | |

Dr. Shashank M. Dravid earned a Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of Georgia in 2003. Dr. Dravid joins the Texas A&M University College of Medicine as a professor with research interests in glutamate receptor physiology and pharmacology. Dr. Dravid is a neuropharmacologist trained in veterinary medicine and basic neuroscience and receptor pharmacology. He examines the roles of glutamate receptors in diseases such as schizophrenia, autism, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and chronic pain. His lab has been primarily on the orphan glutamate delta1 receptors and the lesser explored N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor subunits GluN2C and GluN2D. His research is supported by grants from several federal institutes (National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health) as well as foundations (Brain and Behavior Foundation, Epilepsy Foundation). Dr. Dravid is a professional member of the Society for Neuroscience and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. In 2022 he was the recipient of a Distinguished Research Award at Creighton University.

Dr. Shashank's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

**COLLEGE OF NURSING**

| **Name** | **Present Rank**<br>**Department** | **Yrs. Towards Tenure***<br>**Univ.** | <br>**Other Inst.** | **Effective Date**<br>**Tenure** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Maria Olenick | Associate Professor<br>Nursing | 1 | 5 | Upon Approval by the Board |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2012) | Widener University | | | |
| Su 2018 – Fa 2023<br>Sp 2024 – Present | Florida International University<br>Texas A&M University | | Associate Professor (Tenured 2021)<br>Associate Professor | |

Dr. Maria Olenick earned a Ph.D. in Nursing from Widener University in 2012. Dr. Olenick is a highly regarded nursing educator and researcher, currently serving at Texas A&M University after a successful tenure at Florida International University through 2023. With expertise in family nursing, Dr. Olenick focuses on improving healthcare practices and outcomes for diverse veteran populations. At Florida International

University, she played a pivotal role in integrating students into research initiatives, fostering their engagement in projects that addressed critical healthcare challenges. Her commitment to mentorship has guided countless students, empowering them to pursue their academic and professional goals with confidence. Dr. Olenick's teaching philosophy emphasizes active learning and evidence-based practice, inspiring students to become innovative leaders in nursing. Her work has garnered national recognition, including her election as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. At Texas A&M University Dr. Olenick remains dedicated to enhancing nursing education, continuing her research in veteran health and mentoring the next generation of nursing professionals. Her contributions to the field are marked by a deep commitment to student success and a passion for advancing the nursing profession.

Dr. Olenick's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

**COLLEGE OF PERFORMANCE, VISUALIZATION & FINE ARTS**

| Name | Present Rank<br>Department | Yrs. Towards Tenure*<br>Univ. | <br>Other Inst. | Effective Date<br>Tenure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Ms. Andee S. Scott | Associate Professor<br>Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts | 0 | >15 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| MFA (2001) | Texas Woman's University | | | |
| Su 2002 – Sp 2010<br>Su 2011 – Sp 2017<br>Su 2017 – Sp 2024<br>Su 2024 – Present | University of Texas at Austin<br>University of South Florida<br>University of South Florida<br>Texas A&M University | | Assistant Professor<br>Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2017)<br>Associate Professor | |

Ms. Andee Scott earned a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Dance from Texas Woman's University in 2001 and undergraduate degrees in Dance and German from The University of Texas at Austin. Her focus on dance as public art has led to her creating, curating and producing large-scale, site-specific dance performance events in and around St. Petersburg, Florida including Our Town and Our Trail, as well as Dance in the Time of Coronavirus, a socially distanced dance performance series featured in Dance Magazine. Ms. Scott is currently touring The Invitation Situation, by Alpert-award winning choreographer Jeanine Durning, as well as performing work by Robert Moses with Bliss Kohlmyer. She was a member of Sharir+Bustamante Danceworks and a founding member of Blue Lapis Light in Austin, Texas, and toured the work of Lenka Flory and Jeanine Durning throughout Italy as a member of Deja Donne. Ms. Scott has performed her own work at Harvest Chicago Dance Festival, Big Range Dance Festival, and Sarasolo Festival, among others, and internationally in Mexico, Sweden and China. Ms. Scott has been on faculty at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida and The University of Texas at Austin, and she has been invited to teach master classes and workshops at universities and festivals in the U.S. and abroad.

Ms. Scott's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Dinesh Yadav | Associate Professor<br>Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts | 0 | 10 | Upon Approval by the Board and Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2008)<br>Ph.D. (2018) | University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India<br>Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India | | | |
| Fa 2012 – Su 2016<br><br>Su 2018 – Su 2022<br>Su 2022 – Sp 2024<br>Su 2024 – Present | Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani, Rajasthan, India<br>University of Wisconsin-Green Bay<br>University of Wisconsin-Green Bay<br>Texas A&M University | | Assistant Professor<br><br>Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2022)<br>Associate Professor | |

Dr. Dinesh Yadav earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India in 2008 and a Ph.D. in Theatre Arts from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India in 2018. Dr. Yadav is an interdisciplinary researcher, educator and performance artist specializing in theatrical design. His expertise traverses various realms, including theatre, installations, events, museums, and media, merging arts, technology, humanities, and health to delve into the intricacies of performance politics. Dr. Yadav's creations adorn global theatres, galleries and public spaces and are featured prominently in festivals, exhibitions and events worldwide. He has created over twenty performances and designed for more than one hundred. He has curated for the Prague Quadrennial and World Stage Design, serving as a juror for the latter. He has authored a book alongside over 20 conference papers and has been invited as a workshop leader and masterclass instructor across India, the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom. Chairing the Performance Design Commission of International Organisation of Scenographers Theatre Architects and Technicians, leading the ASPIRE Program of Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 3, and holding the position of general editor for Theatre Quarterly Theatre Design & Technology reflect his leadership in the arts community. He co-founded the non-profit Swayambhu Foundation, led its repertory company, and enriched the arts landscape with original research and performance projects. Dr. Yadav is a fellow of the National School of Drama, University Grant Commission, Ministry of Culture of India, and a Wisconsin Teaching Scholar and Fellow.

Dr. Yadav's file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3.

* Each university determines, through a review process, the number of years each faculty member will be awarded towards tenure based on his/her dossier.

Agenda Item No. 6.22

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Mark A. Welsh III, President
Texas A&M University

**Subject:** Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026,
Texas A&M University

## Proposed Board Action:

Authorize faculty development leave for FY 2026 at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M).

## Background Information:

System Policy *31.03, Leaves of Absence*, and System Regulation *12.99.01, Faculty Development Leave*, require that a recommendation for faculty development leave be submitted by the university president to the chancellor for recommendation to the Board of Regents for approval. At Texas A&M, the application is submitted with support of the academic department, college dean, university development leave committee (elected by the general faculty), executive vice president and provost, and president.

As shown in the exhibit, Texas A&M requests approval for faculty development leave for 85 faculty members for FY 2026.

Texas A&M is in compliance with the statutory requirement that no more than six percent of eligible faculty be on development leave at any time.

## A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

No additional funding is required. Departmental faculty members are assuming the recommended faculty members' teaching loads by adjusting course offerings for the next academic year.

## Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:

Approval of this agenda item will advance The Texas A&M University System strategic imperatives 1, 3, 4 and 5. More specifically, it will: a) enable faculty to reinvent graduate and undergraduate education which will provide students with an array of pathways to pursue their ambitions and interests, in support of imperative 1; b) cultivate academic innovation, retain exceptional faculty and foster lifelong success of our graduates in support of imperative 3; c) increase the breadth and scope of our research portfolio, in support of imperative 4; and d) provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy in support of imperative 5 by extending our engagement in rural and urban communities, accelerating commercialization and entrepreneurship and graduating students who impact our communities and the world.

Agenda Item No. 6.22

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**
Office of the President
December 2, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026, Texas A&M University

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *31.03,* System Regulation *12.99.01* and Sections 51.101-108 of the Texas Education Code, authorizes faculty development leave to the faculty members as shown in the attached exhibit, Faculty Development Leave List FY 2026, Texas A&M University."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark A. Welsh III
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE LIST**
**FY 2026**
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

| Name/ Title/ Department | Years of Texas A&M Tenured, Tenure-Track Service | Semester of Leave | Location, Brief Description of Leave and Benefit to University |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES** | | | |
| Richard Woodward<br>Professor<br>Agricultural Economics | 27 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Woodward's leave will take place at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Washington D.C. During his leave he will analyze geolocation data to study the economic impact of marine recreational fishing. This research will refine methods developed in current work, expanding their application to fisheries management. The leave will enhance Dr. Woodward's research program by generating new insights for grant applications, academic publications and policy briefs. Students will benefit from Dr. Woodward's experience with cutting-edge data analysis techniques, while the department and university will gain recognition for contributions to fisheries economics and environmental policy. |
| Summer Felton Odom<br>Associate Professor<br>Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications | 13 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Odom's leave will take place at the University of Georgia in Tifton, Georgia, the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida and College Station, Texas. During her leave she will collaborate on design thinking in agricultural education, develop research projects and enhance teaching practices. This leave will advance her scholarship through grant proposal development and empirical studies on design thinking in higher education. Her students will benefit from enhanced skills in analytical thinking and problem-solving. The department and university will gain from alignment with strategic priorities and innovations in teaching that address emerging career needs. |

| COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Theresa Murphrey<br>Professor<br>Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications | 16 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Murphrey's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will attend conferences and meetings with colleagues across academia to investigate best practices for using artificial intelligence in the classroom to prepare students to use it in the workplace. She will also investigate how educators, administrators and students employ artificial intelligence to uncover positive applications. Her leave will result in strategies to positively impact teaching and learning at Texas A&M. |
| Jun Wang<br>Associate Professor<br>Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications | 6 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Wang's leave will take place at the University of Minnesota in St Paul, Minnesota, and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. During her leave she will research methods essential for her newly launched project on adolescents' social media use and mental health. She will learn how to collect high-intensity screenshot data from smartphones and machine learning in large-scale longitudinal data analysis. Her leave will benefit Texas A&M through collaboration efforts with other universities and manuscript publications. Dr. Wang's leave will impact her teaching on youth development in the digital age and her multi-disciplinary and multi-institute research collaboration on this topic. |
| Ky Pohler<br>Associate Professor<br>Animal Science | 6 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Pohler's leave will take place at STgenetics in Navasota, Texas. During his leave he will advance his work on reproductive efficiency in cattle and expand his knowledge in the area of cattle geonomics. He will use the comprehensive in vitro fertilization datasets at STgenetics, paired with the genotype and phenotype data in the field to address questions related to fertility in cattle. This research area is fully aligned with the strategic goals of the Department of Animal Science, the Area of Excellence in Pregnancy and Developmental Programming and the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at Texas A&M. |

| COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jean-Philippe Pellois<br>Professor<br>Biochemistry/Biophysics | 18 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Pellois' leave will take place at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and College Station, Texas. His leave will focus on expanding Dr. Pellois' expertise from cell cultures to live tissue by developing and testing novel protein delivery systems aimed at preventing death of tissue after traumatic injuries. The research performed during his leave will significantly enhance our understanding of tissue regeneration, benefiting the university research program and student training, and contributing to the strategic goals of the department. |
| Ingrid Tommos<br>Professor<br>Biochemistry/Biophysics | 5 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Tommos' leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave Dr. Tommos' research will delineate protein reactions involving the coupled transfer of electrons and protons. She will perform a series of technically challenging measurements and explore a promising new approach to further expand her experimental toolbox. Additionally, she will develop a much-needed graduate course in protein electrochemistry. These activities will provide new fundamental knowledge, reinforce the collaborative strength of the department both within and outside Texas A&M and expand our educational capacity. |
| Masami Fujiwara<br>Associate Professor<br>Ecology and Conservation Biology | 15 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Fujiwara's leave will take place at Rice University in Houston, Texas, the College of Marine Sciences & Maritime Studies in Galveston, Texas and College Station, Texas. He will work on grant proposals and collaborate on projects related to fish morphometrics, toxicant effects on fish populations and ecological community models. Additionally, he will develop a new undergraduate course in Marine Ecosystems. The leave will enhance his research program, provide students with enriched learning opportunities and align with the department's strategic goals by increasing research output, securing external funding and expanding course offerings in marine ecology at Texas A&M. |

| COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| William Rogers<br>Professor<br>Ecology and Conservation Biology | 19 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Rogers' leave will take place at Rice University in Houston, Texas and the University of Florida branch in Milton, Florida. During his leave he will collaborate on establishing a series of experimental research designs that will examine the causes and consequences of Chinese tallow tree invasions into grassland ecosystems. He will also collaborate on prescribed burning trials for plants under a variety of different life stages and resource conditions. His leave will reinvigorate his research program and elevate the reputation of problem-solving science fostered at Texas A&M. |
| Gary Voelker<br>Professor<br>Ecology and Conservation Biology | 16 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Voelker's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, and at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, Iceland. During his leave he will develop and work on a project involving avian malaria in Iceland. Avian malaria research is increasing globally, but Iceland has received very little attention in this area. His leave will allow for research in a far-northern island nation related to colonization, distribution and host-relationships of parasites. This leave will benefit Dr. Voelker's research program as well as the department, college and university by enhancing the visibility of his research program. |
| Kirk Winemiller<br>Regents Professor<br>Ecology and Conservation Biology | 32 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Winemiller's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, and at the Universidade Estadual de Maringa in Maringa, Brazil. During his leave he will collaborate on an ecological modeling project to create a platform for simulating environmental and management scenarios of complex ecological systems. The leave will allow progress on a book about convergent evolution that builds upon his published ideas concerning adaptation, life history strategies, widespread evidence of convergence, and the concept of a periodic table of niches. His leave will advance fundamental and applied science and benefit graduate and undergraduate students and courses at Texas A&M. |

| COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Patricia Pietrantonio<br>Professor<br>Entomology | 28 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Pietrantonio's leave will take place at the Institute of Parasitology in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic and in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will acquire new technical knowledge for her graduate courses in insect toxicology and insect physiology. She will collaborate with world leaders in the study of a key neuroendocrine organ in mosquitoes responsible for their reproductive success, which integrates the signals of the neuropeptide hormones and receptors that Dr. Pietrantonio studies in mosquitoes. The knowledge and insights gained from her leave will give her a competitive advantage in pursuing federal funding and enhance her research and teaching. |
| Juliana Rangel Posada<br>Professor<br>Entomology | 11 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Rangel Posada's leave will take place at the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia. During her leave she will enhance her molecular biology and bioinformatics skills and apply them to her research and teaching programs. She will evaluate the health status of managed honeybees by sampling apiaries and performing molecular analyses to uncover the genetic basis for phenotypic differences among colonies, ultimately exploring genes that modulate immunity/tolerance to pathogens. This international collaboration will enhance educational and research opportunities at Texas A&M. |
| James Petrick<br>Professor<br>Hospitality, Hotel Management and Tourism | 25 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Petrick's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will formulate a research team to study the psychophysiological benefits of travel. This team will work on completing two research articles from data that will be collected from September 2024 through July 2025. His research team will use these findings to seek external funding from sources including the National Institutes of Health. His leave will benefit Dr. Petrick's international reputation, the field and Texas A&M. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES (Continued)** | | | |
| Rebecca Seguin-Fowler<br>Professor<br>Nutrition | 5 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Seguin-Fowler's leave will take place in Austin, Texas. During her leave she will work with the World Health Organization, contributing to policy briefs, related projects and products in nutrition and public health. She will also begin writing a book to translate her health behavior research into accessible strategies for consumers. This leave will benefit the university through collaboration efforts, along with fulfilling goals set by the department. She will use the leave to further enhance her ability to train her students on her healthy living research team. |
| **COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE** | | | |
| Zachary Stewart<br>Associate Professor<br>Architecture | 7 | Fall 2025 – Spring 2026 | Dr. Stewart's leave will take place at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, France, the Duomo di Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Italy, the National Archives in London, England, the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria, and College Station, Texas. He will conduct research for his book, The Gothic Architect: The Medieval Origins of a Modern Professional which harnesses his expertise as a historian of medieval material culture in a professional architecture program to reexamine the emergence of contemporary design practice. His leave will benefit his research and teaching, aligning with strategic initiatives in the department and college. |
| Michelle Meyer<br>Associate Professor<br>Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning | 6 | Fall 2025 – Spring 2026 | Dr. Meyer's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, Palo Alto, California, Boulder, Colorado, Mayfield, Kentucky, New York, New York, Orlando, Florida, and O'Fallon, Illinois. During her leave she will conduct research examining the effects of nonprofit organizations in disaster recovery. Dr. Meyer will collect interviews, test and refine educational training modules, write journal articles, and gain the foundational knowledge base for a book. This research will benefit her students and courses at Texas A&M. Her leave aligns with the department and college's strategic goals to increase high impact research, increase industry relationships and implement professional development training. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deborah Carlson<br>Professor<br>Anthropology | 20 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Carlson's leave will take place at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology in Bodrum, Turkey. During her leave she will finalize the cataloging, sampling, illustration, and analysis of archaeological artifacts recovered from the only fifth-century B.C. classical Greek shipwreck excavated to completion. The final excavation report will be published by Texas A&M Press in the Institute of Nautical Archaeology – Ed Rachal Nautical Archaeology Series. Dr. Carlson's publication of this unique archaeological assemblage will benefit Texas A&M archaeologists, maritime historians, economic anthropologists, and her students in the Nautical Archaeology Program. |
| Shelley Wachsmann<br>Professor<br>Anthropology | 31 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Wachsmann's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will focus on writing a book manuscript. The book will explore both familiar and obscure biblical references to seafaring, aiming to illustrate instances of watercraft, seafaring practices and maritime trade while incorporating the latest nautical, textual and archaeological research. His book promises to be a unique and significant scholarly contribution to maritime history and biblical studies. The book will enhance Dr. Wachsmann's research, strengthen the department and Texas A&M, and enrich his teaching by shedding new light on a relatively little-known aspect of the Bible. |
| Michael Waters<br>Regents Professor<br>Anthropology | 38 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Waters' leave will take place in College Station, Texas. Dr. Waters will finalize a book on the Debra L. Friedkin site in Texas, which is one of the most important archaeological sites in North America with a continuous record of human occupation beginning 15,500 years ago. Finalizing this book will be a milestone in American archaeology that will enhance Dr. Waters' research profile. The research results will be discussed and analyzed in his classes. The book will spotlight the significant interdisciplinary research conducted by the Department of Anthropology, College of Arts & Sciences, and Texas A&M. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Heidi Campbell<br>Professor<br>Communication & Journalism | 19 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Campbell's leave will take place at Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, the University of Rome in Rome, Italy and in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will investigate religious leaders' beliefs about technologies by studying 15th to 21st-century Vatican documents and analyzing European press reports about artificial intelligence featuring religious voices. She will write two articles and a book proposal about the secular nature of technology and how a religious approach to technology can offer valuable perspectives when considering the human-technology relationship. Her leave will enhance her research and raise the scholarly and international profile of Texas A&M. |
| Bryce Henson<br>Assistant Professor<br>Communication & Journalism | 5 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Henson's leave will take place in Kingston, Jamaica, Sao Luis, Brazil, Salvador, Brazil, and Sao Paulo, Brazil. During his leave he will analyze Jamaican Black music and political movements, how they arrived in Brazil and how they influence Black politics and cultures in South America's largest nation. Dr. Henson will use archival, oral histories and ethnographic methods. The benefits and impacts from his leave are progress towards a university press book, an enhancement to his dossier and procuring primary documents and expertise to enhance his teaching. |
| Pedro Bento<br>Associate Professor<br>Economics | 9 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Bento's leave will take place at The University of Texas in Austin, Texas and the University of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario. During his leave he will construct a dataset on business expansion across sectors and countries, analyze the data and develop a theory to evaluate the importance of the data for understanding business expansion and worker income. He will incorporate the dataset from this project into the syllabus of his Advanced Macroeconomics course. His leave will benefit graduate students through access to new data and the department by widening the range of topics faculty are experts in. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Danila Serra<br>Associate Professor<br>Economics | 5 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Serra's leave will take place at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts. During her leave she will serve as a visiting scholar and make substantial progress in her research on post-secondary education choices and outcomes. She will focus on the impact of counseling, coaching and mentoring students' decisions to enroll in two versus four-year colleges and their choice of major. Dr. Serra will complete articles, participate in conferences and disseminate her research. The leave will advance Dr. Serra's scholarship, enrich her teaching and elevate Texas A&M's research profile. |
| Sarah LeMire<br>Professor<br>English | 9 | Fall 2025 | Professor LeMire's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave Professor LeMire will conduct a study on how undergraduate students are making decisions about completing reading assignments in the wake of the pandemic. This study will examine whether new models of improving access to course materials are influencing how students engage with reading assignments. This study will impact teaching practices and student success by identifying pedagogical strategies that faculty can use to encourage students to engage with course readings. This leave will benefit her research agenda focused on course materials and the potential impact on student success. |
| Vanita Reddy<br>Associate Professor<br>English | 15 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Reddy's leave will take place in Austin, Texas. During her leave she will finalize the structure for each of the body chapters of her book in-progress, Global Intimacies. She will also draft two sample chapters of the book for submission to university presses. Her research for the book will be used to build programming in the field of Asian American Studies. Her research will also help develop undergraduate and graduate courses at Texas A&M. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sally Robinson<br>Professor<br>English | 25 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Robinson's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will work on her fourth monograph, "Fictions of Neoliberal Motherhood: Women and Maternity in Post-Feminist Times." This research will produce two articles and a book and enhance Dr. Robinson's English courses on contemporary women's fiction and the Women's and Gender Studies Program's emphasis on women and health. The project supports the English department's goal for high visibility research. The book topic exemplifies cross-disciplinary research within the College of Arts & Sciences and will be of particular value to the graduate students under Dr. Robinson's supervision. |
| Benchun Duan<br>Professor<br>Geology & Geophysics | 17 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Duan's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will work on his in-house computer program for natural and induced seismicity simulations. He will also work on a geoinformatics program National Science Foundation proposal. His leave will provide him and his group focused time toward developing the simulator, including its parallelization on high-performance computing systems. Dr. Duan's leave will also allow other colleagues access to the simulator. His leave will support development, deployment and community-building for cyberinfrastructure resources that serve earth science research and education, augmenting the reputation of the department, college, and Texas A&M. |
| Lawrence MacNamara<br>Associate Professor<br>History | 7 | Fall 2025 | Dr. MacNamara's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will complete three chapters of his book project Open Sky: Higher Places and Higher Meaning in the United States. This book is a history of ordinary American's cosmological ideas, showing how astrophysics has reshaped metaphysics since 1800, among laypeople and not just intellectuals. His leave will help him develop new teaching materials based on his research, benefitting students in his classes. Dr. MacNamara's leave will also help him pursue an active scholarly research agenda, enrich his teaching and elevate Texas A&M's research profile. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sarah McNamara<br>Associate Professor<br>History | 8 | Fall 2025 | Dr. McNamara's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will write two chapters and complete the proposal for her next monograph, Swing: A History of Florida's Latino Vote, to secure a book contract and publish with Harvard University Press. This leave will enhance her research program through book publication and promotion to full professor, amplify the College of Arts & Sciences and Texas A&M's leadership in Latino, immigration and political histories. Her leave will offer opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to engage with innovative research consistent with the university's status as a Hispanic Serving Institution. |
| Irina Bobkova<br>Associate Professor<br>Mathematics | 5 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Bobkova's leave will take place at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in Urbana, Illinois, the University of Colorado, in Boulder, Colorado, the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, and in College Station, Texas. She will pursue research collaborations in algebraic topology and homotopy theory, give invited talks in topology seminars and devote time to related research. Expected benefits include strengthening of Dr. Bobkova's research program and increased visibility for Texas A&M in algebraic topology. Additionally, Dr. Bobkova's graduate and undergraduate students will benefit as she brings new research ideas into her mentoring and teaching. |
| Prabir Daripa<br>Professor<br>Mathematics | 37 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Daripa's leave will take place in College Station, Texas and at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California. During his leave he will write an interdisciplinary textbook on fluid dynamics, provide invited talks and attend professional conferences. His textbook will help both current and future students. He will also write three research monographs on his published research works. His leave will result in reflecting a positive image for the department, college and Texas A&M. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alan Demlow<br>Professor<br>Mathematics | 10 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Demlow's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, and at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He will pursue collaborative projects in numerical geometric partial differential equations and data-enabled partial differential equation solutions. Benefits include research outcomes at the forefront of numerical analysis, revitalization of his research program after extended administrative service and submission of an external grant proposal. His leave will help students by giving them experience in conducting research with cutting-edge tools. The university will benefit from an increased research footprint in cutting-edge areas of computational mathematics. |
| Matthias Maier<br>Associate Professor<br>Mathematics | 6 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Maier's leave will take place at the Ruhr University Bochum in Bochum, Germany and the University of Pisa in Pisa, Italy. During his leave he will advance his research profile by developing robust and efficient computational methods for simulating complex coupled flows and by modeling and simulation of electric charge transport on lower-dimensional interfaces. He will collaborate to apply an immersed interface method to a coupled system of electric charge transport on lower-dimensional interfaces. These research activities will enhance Dr. Maier's academic profile and improve his competitiveness for acquiring federal funding. |
| Eric Rowell<br>Professor<br>Mathematics | 18 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Rowell's leave will take place at the University of Leeds in Leeds, United Kingdom. During his leave he will perform collaborative research on statistical mechanics and topological physics. He will also complete a textbook on Quantum Computation that emphasizes topological methods, aimed at mathematics graduate students. The research performed during his leave and the completion of a textbook will elevate Dr. Rowell's international research profile and by association that of Texas A&M. His leave will yield new opportunities for students at Texas A&M at all levels. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tian Yang<br>Associate Professor<br>Mathematics | 7 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Yang's leave will take place at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. During his leave he will focus his research on hyperbolic geometric and quantum topology. He will collaborate with leading mathematicians in these two areas. The interactions with leading mathematicians will be very useful for his current research projects. This leave will provide direct contact with the strongest students at Michigan State University who may be interested in pursuing graduate studies or postdoctoral research at Texas A&M. Moreover, interacting with some of the best mathematicians will increase visibility of Texas A&M and build closer research ties. |
| Jose Bermúdez<br>Professor<br>Philosophy | 14 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Bermúdez's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. The leave will support two distinct academic projects. First, to co-edit a special issue of Locke Studies on Locke and Contemporary Philosophy, organized around a series of three online workshops. Second, to write two papers for leading journals laying the foundation for his next monograph, Rewriting the History of the Self, which will develop a new interpretation of selfhood in classical antiquity. Both projects will raise the visibility of Texas A&M in the humanities and directly benefit students in his graduate and undergraduate courses. |
| Daniel Conway<br>Professor<br>Philosophy | 18 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Conway's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. He will conduct research in support of producing a manuscript that is an original interpretation of Søren Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling (1843), which is widely regarded as a landmark work of 19th-century philosophy. Benefits of his leave will include the publication of a major book in his field and the development of teaching materials for his courses. Research impacts will include the elevation of his scholarly profile, positive attention to the university and an expanded slate of educational opportunities for his students. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Christopher Menzel<br>Professor<br>Philosophy | 38 | Fall 2025 -<br>Spring 2026 | Dr. Menzel's leave will take place at Stanford's Center for the Study of Language and Information in Palo Alto, California. During his leave he will complete and publish a book manuscript that integrates and extends his decades of research on logical and philosophical issues concerning modality. The impact of his leave will enhance his scholarly reputation and raise the department's research profile. His leave will also deepen his expertise and further increase his zest for teaching. Additionally, it will improve Texas A&M's scholarly reputation, increasing the ability to attract top-tier graduate students to the College of Arts & Sciences. |
| Hans Schuessler<br>Professor<br>Physics and Astronomy | 55 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Schuessler's leave will take place at the Tri-University Meson Facility in Vancouver, Canada, and the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics in Garching, Germany. During his leave he will develop a technique for ultra-sensitive and precise spectroscopy of elemental isotopes applicable for fundamental and applied research. He will also collaborate on a novel broadband laser source used for the detection of biomarkers in exhaled breath promising accurate medical diagnostics. This leave will help further his current research projects within his lab, enhance his courses for advanced students and elevate Texas A&M's research and reputation. |
| Ergin Sezgin<br>Professor<br>Physics and Astronomy | 35 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Sezgin's leave will take place at Istanbul Technical University in Istanbul, Turkey. His research will focus on string theory and supergravity and will include the construction of new couplings in supergravity theories in six dimensions and their compactification to four dimensions. He will collaborate on higher derivative supergravity theories, three-dimensional supergravities and exceptional field theories. The visit will foster ties with top ranked universities in Turkey, increase the visibility of Texas A&M and help with the recruitment of excellent graduate students. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Winfried Teizer<br>Professor<br>Physics and Astronomy | 23 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Teizer's leave will take place at the Technical University in Vienna, Austria, Kyoto University in Kyoto, Japan and in College Station, Texas. The international component will utilize Fulbright programs to focus on biomaterials research with two institutions, publishing results and pursuing additional project funding. It will apply motor proteins for disease detection and electronically trigger stem cell differentiation. He will also develop a proposal to establish a Master of Science degree in Applied Physics, which is a strategic department goal with significant student demand. His leave will advance his research and aligns with the goals of the department. |
| Jessica Bernard<br>Professor<br>Psychological & Brain Sciences | 9 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Bernard's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, and at McClean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts. During her leave she will be training in the clinical applications of non-invasive brain stimulation, which will serve as the foundation of a new grant. She will also process and publish data from an ongoing study using non-invasive brain stimulation in aging and mild cognitive impairment to serve as preliminary data for the new grant submission. These activities will strengthen her research program, enhance her training capabilities and make Dr. Bernard more competitive for external funding while advancing her understanding of brain aging. |
| Annmarie MacNamara<br>Associate Professor<br>Psychological & Brain Sciences | 8 | Fall 2025 | Dr. MacNamara's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will focus on increasing the clinical significance of her work. She will submit a grant proposal to the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. MacNamara will also develop and test a novel positive-emotion-focused treatment for anxiety. Finally, she will complete a project to increase expertise in multi-level statistical modeling. Her leave will position Dr. MacNamara to receive federal funding, increase the impact of her research program and create training and publication opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brandon Schmeichel<br>Professor<br>Psychological & Brain Sciences | 19 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Schmeichel's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will plan and initiate experiments on the psychological consequences of being in the presence of a gun. He will also submit a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation on the same topic. Additionally, he will find open-source materials to use in his large undergraduate course in Elementary Statistics for Psychology. This work will benefit students in his laboratory by involving them in cutting-edge research and the department and Texas A&M by illuminating a topic of societal interest and concern. |
| Jyotsna Vaid<br>Professor<br>Psychological & Brain Sciences | 38 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Vaid's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, and at The University of Texas in Austin, Texas. During her leave she will develop a conceptual framework and research methodology to study expressive language, focusing on humor perception and production in speakers of two languages. She will also prepare two scholarly articles, guest edit a journal on expressive language and give two invited talks. The presentations, publications and discussions with colleagues will benefit Dr. Vaid's professional development, foster collaborations, invigorate her teaching, and impact the training of the next generation of scholars in her field. |
| Ernesto De Lima Amaral<br>Associate Professor<br>Sociology | 7 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Amaral's leave will take place at the Federal University of Goiás, Brazil. During his leave he will investigate contemporary Brazilian metropolitan regions, considering processes, relationships and characteristics of surrounding areas, utilizing advanced spatial models and comparing them to other international contexts. This collaborative project will facilitate the exchange of expertise and knowledge among Brazilian, Italian and American institutions, benefiting his research program. Additionally, he will train graduate students in spatial methods and accomplishing goals set by the department by establishing interdisciplinary research networks and incentivizing faculty visits and student exchange programs. |

| COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pat Rubio Goldsmith<br>Professor<br>Sociology | 12 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Goldsmith's leave will take place in College Station,Texas. During his leave, he will finish a major book describing race, class and gender differences in sports performance among teenagers in the United States based on data on over a million high school sports contests. The data will also be incorporated into a new course module in his course on the Sociology of Education. His book will improve our understanding of the equality of opportunity for youth to develop performance in a cultural area. His leave will bring status to the Department of Sociology and Texas A&M and improve student learning. |
| Anirban Bhattacharya<br>Professor<br>Statistics | 11 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Bhattacharya's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, and at Purdue University in Indianapolis, Indiana and the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. During his leave he will advise research mentees, submit grant proposals and chair a local organizing committee for the premier international conference on Bayesian computational methods. The conference will be held in College Station, Texas and will help showcase the intellectually vibrant academic communities in the field of statistics and data science at Texas A&M. His leave will be beneficial to his personal research program, as well as those of the department and college. |
| Brani Vidakovic<br>Professor<br>Statistics | 4 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Vidakovic's leave will take place at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia and in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will focus his research on statistical problems related to medical diagnostics that utilize wavelets and other multiscale methods for classification tasks involving cases and controls. He will also collaborate with his graduate students on research involving wavelets, machine learning and quantum information. A National Science Foundation grant application will be developed and submitted from his research. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **MAYS BUSINESS SCHOOL** | | | |
| Xiaoding Liu<br>Associate Professor<br>Finance | 6 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Liu's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will focus on advancing ongoing research projects and developing several custom-made datasets, including a novel inventor-firm linked database integrating over 200 years of United States patent, census and corporate records. The benefits and impacts from her leave will not only further Dr. Liu's scholarship, but they will also enrich her teaching with the latest research findings, enhance the academic reputation of the department and the college, and contribute to the university's leadership in pioneering and impactful research. |
| **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** | | | |
| Glenda Musoba<br>Associate Professor<br>Educational Administration & Human Resource Development | 12 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Musoba's leave will take place at Buffalo State University in Buffalo, New York, and in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will collect data to research a student affairs mental health intervention based on the Danish principle of "hygge". She will analyze data, write and research grant opportunities between trips. This leave will benefit her scholarship as well as the department through peer-reviewed publications and national conference presentations. The leave will enhance both her own teaching methods and the methods used by student affairs officials to better serve Texas A&M students. |
| Eunkyeng Baek<br>Associate Professor<br>Educational Psychology | 7 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Baek's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will conduct a study and write journal articles based on a project to develop a new effect size measure for single-case designs. She will develop a new federal grant proposal to create a web-based effect size calculator for single-case data. She will also expand her knowledge of up-to-date technologies like artificial intelligence. The proposed projects will better position Dr. Baek for future funding, enrich her graduate students through research experience, and increase the visibilty of Texas A&M. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (Continued)** | | | |
| Paul Hernandez<br>Associate Professor<br>Teaching, Learning & Culture | 5 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Hernandez's leave will take place at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia and in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will collaborate and investigate the impact of mentored undergraduate research on self-regulated learning, motivation and professional development for aspiring science and engineering students. He will also advance research from six federally funded projects over the past five years. The work aims to influence nationally recognized practices promoting advancement in the scientific workforce, establish Dr. Hernandez as a leading expert in the science of mentorship and bring recognition to Texas A&M. |
| **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING** | | | |
| Ana Diaz Artiles<br>Associate Professor<br>Aerospace Engineering | 6 | Fall 2025 -<br>Spring 2026 | Dr. Diaz Artiles' leave will take place at the National Institute of Aerospace Technology and the Training Center of Aerospace Medicine in Madrid, Spain. She will focus on advancing research in gravitational physiology, specifically developing countermeasures for spaceflight-related deconditioning. Dr. Diaz Artiles will collaborate to further investigate human performance in extreme environments and develop spaceflight countermeasures. The leave will enhance her educational content for existing courses and will develop new curriculum towards the new "Space Engineering" program. The leave will significantly benefit the research program, students and the university's global standing in space engineering. |
| Dimitris Lagoudas<br>Professor<br>Aerospace Engineering | 32 | Fall 2025 -<br>Spring 2026 | Dr. Lagoudas' leave will take place at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Thessaloniki, Greece, Chalmers University in Gothenburg, Sweden, the National School Supérieure des Arts & Métiers in Metz, France, the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado, and the Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, New Mexico. During his leave he will interact with scholars from major universities on smart materials and energy storage systems. He will also collaborate on adaptive morphing structures for space applications. His leave will lead to successful proposals for funding and joint publications for the benefit of his students and enhance the university's prestige. |

| COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Daniel Selva Valero<br>Associate Professor<br>Aerospace Engineering | 6 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Selva's leave will take place at the Complutense University of Madrid in Madrid, Spain. During his leave, he will develop a proposal for a new space mission to demonstrate autonomous Earth-observing sensor webs and develop new models and datasets to train artificial intelligence agents to design spacecraft and other engineering systems. He will also create two new courses on satellite engineering and space communications, integrating artificial intelligence assistants to enhance student learning. This leave will strengthen Texas A&M's Aerospace Engineering Department through collaboration and increase Texas A&M's national exposure. |
| Limei Tian<br>Associate Professor<br>Biomedical Engineering | 6 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Tian's leave will take place at Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will enhance her research and skills in brain organoids on a chip, biomedical innovation and business development. These multidisciplinary collaborations will allow her to broaden the applications of her biosensing technologies and foster new research collaborations. Her leave will also further strengthen her research capability and elevate the impact of her research, which benefits her students, the department and Texas A&M. |
| Taylor Ware<br>Associate Professor<br>Biomedical Engineering | 5 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Ware's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, and at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison, Wisconsin. During his leave he will gain new technical skills related to microbiology to enhance ongoing funded research and enable new funded research projects. He will submit at least two additional funded research proposals. These proposals will significantly enhance collaboration with the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M, a key priority of the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Additionally, students will benefit from enhanced mentorship due to Dr. Ware's new skills. |

| COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vladislav Yakovlev<br>Professor<br>Biomedical Engineering | 12 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Yakovlev's leave will take place at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. During his leave he will research quantum optics, quantum spectroscopy, quantum microscopy, and quantum biophysics. His international and multidisciplinary collaborative research will allow him to broaden the application area of quantum optical methods he has been developing. His leave will strengthen his department and the university by generating new course content and increasing exposure through joint journal publications during his leave. Additionally, the students on his team will experience international collaboration and cross-disciplinary training. |
| M M Faruque Hasan<br>Associate Professor<br>Chemical Engineering | 10 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Hasan's leave will take place in College Station, Texas and at the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain. During his leave he will focus on collaborative research and the development of textbooks and teaching materials on energy systems design and optimization. The University of Salamanca will provide Dr. Hasan with a global perspective on his research on energy and sustainability and foster a new research direction. His leave will contribute to scholarship, students and teaching, and the strategic goals of the department, college, and the university at large. |
| Qingsheng Wang<br>Professor<br>Chemical Engineering | 6 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Wang's leave will take place at the University of California, in Berkeley, California. During his leave he will collaborate on advanced methods of fire testing and modeling, and explore theory of polymers. This leave will enhance Dr. Wang's ongoing research in flame retardant by deepening his understanding of polymer's complex behaviors under fires. The knowledge gained will be integrated into a chemical engineering course at Texas A&M. This leave will not only bolster his research program in the college, but also enhance Texas A&M's reputation. |

| COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ivan Damnjanovic<br>Professor<br>Civil and Environmental Engineering | 18 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Damnjanovic's leave will take place at the Project Production Institute in San Francisco, California and in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will develop research proposals and teaching materials for project production modeling, project risk and supply chains. He will also upgrade his current textbook on risk management. The benefits and impact of his leave include developing research proposals for the department, improving his textbook that will be used in his courses and contributing to workforce development. |
| Marcelo Sanchez<br>Professor<br>Civil and Environmental Engineering | 15 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Sanchez's leave will take place at São Paulo State University in Bauru, São Paulo, Brazil and in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will research and collaborate with colleagues on advanced numerical techniques. Specifically, he will extend his model work on concrete to models on soils and rocks, incorporating temperature and fluid pressure effects. This work will significantly enhance the modeling of geomechanical problems, benefiting both research and his courses. His leave will attract high-caliber graduate students to the university, further enhancing our research and academic community. |
| Juan Garay<br>Professor<br>Computer Science & Engineering | 7 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Garay's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. He will co-write a book entitled "Broadcast, Consensus and Other Consistency Primitives in Cryptography," which will present a comprehensive treatment and bridge the existing gap in language, models, methodology, and techniques between the disciplines of cryptography and fault-tolerant distributed computing. The book will become a worldwide reference for students, faculty and researchers in the fields of cryptography and distributed computing. This will elevate both his international standing as an expert on the subject and the department and college's presence in the foundational areas of computer science. |

| COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ricardo Gutierrez-Osuna<br>Professor<br>Computer Science & Engineering | 22 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Gutierrez-Osuna's leave will take place at Iridescent Sensors Incorporated in Champaign, Illinois and in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will acquire advanced skills in developing artificial intelligence models and participate in an intensive entrepreneurship program to commercialize a hand-held detector of hazardous materials for emergency responders. These activities will greatly enhance his ability to attract research funding for the department, guide graduate and undergraduate students, and better prepare them for careers and entrepreneurship in data science and digital health. His leave also aligns with Texas A&M's strengths in emergency response training in the Disaster City training facility. |
| Bobak Mortazavi<br>Associate Professor<br>Computer Science & Engineering | 7 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Mortazavi's leave will take place at Ensight-AI in Fairfield, California and New Haven, Connecticut. During his leave he will conduct research on wearable sensing healthcare applications, conduct clinical trials with patients and clinicians, and obtain federal regulatory approval for the engineering technologies based on the findings of the clinical studies. His leave will benefit the department and college by providing unique translational coursework. The leave will benefit his research program with invaluable clinical translation experience, inform future sensing research and students and the university through advanced teaching of end-to-end research from concept to regulatory approval and deployment. |
| Katherine Davis<br>Associate Professor<br>Electrical & Computer Engineering | 7 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Davis's leave will take place at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, the Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will visit with researchers in cyber-physical resilience synergistic to Dr. Davis's work, with power systems and engineering research partnerships being the focus. Her leave will benefit her research program, teaching, the department, and the college by enabling her to cultivate and adapt new perspectives to her research and course curriculum. The leave will also strengthen Texas A&M in leading cyber-informed engineering. |

| COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| I-Hong Hou<br>Professor<br>Electrical & Computer Engineering | 12 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Hou's leave will take place at Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan and the National Yang-Ming Chiao-Tung University in Hsinchu, Taiwan. During his leave he will study edge computing and intelligence, and learn ways to integrate artificial intelligence with sixth-generation wireless networks. These collaborations will result in new research papers and publications. Dr. Hou's leave will forge long-term collaborations with the two institutions, satisfying the goals of the department and university. His leave will also benefit his teaching by incorporating what he has learned into his courses. |
| Sunil Khatri<br>Professor<br>Electrical & Computer Engineering | 20 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Khatri's leave will take place at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado and the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York. His leave will forge long-term research and funding collaborations. He will also create new course content based on the research, which will address novel security chips, radar circuits and artificial intelligence chips that are significantly more efficient than existing approaches. The department, college and Texas A&M will benefit from the visibility of the high-quality research and the resulting funding. Dr. Khatri's students will benefit from the course material created during his leave. |
| Hamid Toliyat<br>Professor<br>Electrical & Computer Engineering | 29 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Toliyat's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will enhance his teaching and research activities and finish his textbook on electrical machines. He will build a team across several departments within Texas A&M to explore new grant opportunities on humanoids and robotics. His collaboration with academia, industry and government agencies will benefit the College of Engineering by attracting more research funding and students from across the United States. Texas A&M will benefit from the added visibility by one of its faculty. |

| COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ana Goulart<br>Professor<br>Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution | 18 | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 | Dr. Goulart's leave will take place at the University of Canberra, in Canberra, Australia. She will work in a university research center on cybersecurity for critical infrastructure where field devices and instruments are remotely monitored and controlled. Dr. Goulart will investigate programmable networks for operational-technology networks. Specifically, she will study a utility's wide area network and a smart distribution system with renewable energy sources. Her research will bring new expertise to Texas A&M's Smart Grid Center and the Center for Infrastructure Renewal. This leave will help her better train students to work on cybersecurity for energy companies. |
| Shiren Wang<br>Professor<br>Industrial & Systems Engineering | 9 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Wang's leave will take place at the National University of Singapore in Singapore. He will collaborate with colleagues working in the advanced materials and manufacturing for clean energy and environmental sustainability field to broaden his research spectrum, and complete joint journal publications and proposals for international grants. He will also meet with postdoctoral and graduate students to exchange ideas and address new problems in the field. His leave will benefit the department, college and Texas A&M by enhancing international visibility, recruiting top graduate students, and exploring potential educational collaborations such as exchange programs or joint degree programs. |
| Maryam Zahabi<br>Associate Professor<br>Industrial & Systems Engineering | 6 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Zahabi's leave will take place at the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada, and the University of Leeds in Leeds, England. During her leave she will collaborate with prominent researchers on the influence of human factors in the field of transportation, with the focus being on automated vehicle projects. Dr. Zahabi will strengthen Texas A&M's research reputation through her different collaborations and research done during her leave. Students from Texas A&M will be able to gain research experience. Dr. Zahabi's leave will also accomplish goals set by the department for building collaborations with external partners. |

| COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Continued) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Michael Demkowicz<br>Professor<br>Materials Science & Engineering | 8 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Demkowicz's leave will take place at The Centre for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research in Madrid, Spain. During his leave he will collaborate with researchers on atomistic simulations in topic areas relevant to materials for nuclear energy. This work will expand his own research in radiation effects in steel used in nuclear reactors. His leave will enhance the visibility of research carried out at Texas A&M through seminar presentations and one-on-one interactions with researchers in Spain. It will also provide opportunities for engagement in international education exchange and outreach, through the College of Engineering's Halliburton Engineering Global Program. |
| Patrick Shamberger<br>Associate Professor<br>Materials Science & Engineering | 9 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Shamberger's leave will take place at the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado. He will collaborate with three groups to develop bio-inspired semiconductor materials, materials for building energy efficiency and packaging materials for power electronics. His leave will advance the understanding and applications of phase transformation in engineering materials, advance Dr. Shamberger's research career and increase the visibility of Texas A&M. His leave will also enhance opportunities of current and future Texas A&M engineering students to interact with the National Renewable Energy Lab. |
| Zheng O'Neill<br>Professor<br>Mechanical Engineering | 4 | Spring 2026 | Dr. O'Neill's leave will take place at the University of Tokyo in Tokyo, Japan and Aalborg University in Aalborg, Denmark. During her leave, she will collaborate with Japanese and Danish colleagues to create new values in the built environment through global dialogue and will focus on using data-driven artificial intelligence approaches for energy efficiency and demand flexibility to promote building decarbonization. The leave will benefit her research through collaborations and data exchange along with improving departmental outreach through seminars. The leave will also provide her with knowledge and experience that can be applied to her teaching and mentorship. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Continued)** | | | |
| Matt Pharr<br>Associate Professor<br>Mechanical Engineering | 8 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Pharr's leave will take place at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering in Lausanne, Switzerland and at International Atomic Energy Agency conferences and workshops in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During his leave he will collaborate with colleagues to study fundamental fracture behavior of polymers using unique experimental facilities. He will also lead an international workshop focused on using electron-beam technologies for polymer recycling and upcycling. These activities will contribute to scientific innovations in the respective fields, lead to sustainable scholarship and research funding in Dr. Pharr's career and help establish Texas A&M as a global leader in these disciplines. |
| **BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE** | | | |
| Ren Mu<br>Professor<br>International Affairs | 17 | Fall 2025 -<br>Spring 2026 | Dr. Mu's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will conduct three studies on fertility decisions in China involving examination of wealth shocks, education costs and mental health impacts. This research addresses critical gaps in the literature. The leave will significantly enhance her research profile and scholarly impact. Students will benefit from exposure to new findings in classes and gain research assistant opportunities. The department and university will gain from an elevated reputation in development studies, China studies and population research. This work aligns with institutional goals of impactful scholarship and global engagement. |
| William Norris<br>Associate Professor<br>International Affairs | 13 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Norris' leave will take place in College Station, Texas and at the Bush School of Government & Public Service in Washington D.C. During his leave he will draft a book manuscript on economic statecraft, distilling his theories and expertise on the subject. This book will make an impactful contribution to the fields of political science, economics, business, and international affairs. His leave will generate knowledge and experience that benefits his students, enhances his teaching and raises the national reputation of Texas A&M as the Bush School of Government & Public Service serves our country's emerging needs. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE (Continued)** | | | |
| Robbie Robichau<br>Associate Professor<br>Public Service & Administration | 6 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Robichau's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During her leave she will examine nonprofit management, employee well-being and the Texas child welfare system. Post-COVID-19 nonprofits face unprecedented challenges such as surging service demands and workforce instability threatening the sector's sustainability and jeopardizing crucial social services infrastructure. Her research will investigate how nonprofits can reinvent themselves to meet critical societal needs while addressing employee turnover and well-being. This leave will advance management practices and child welfare policy, keeping the college, students and Texas A&M at the forefront of these fields. |
| **COLLEGE OF MARINE SCIENCES & MARITIME STUDIES** | | | |
| Antonietta Quigg<br>Professor<br>Marine Biology | 21 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Quigg's leave will take place at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island and the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. She will work in the newly formed Institute for Clean Water, an effort she would like to mirror at Texas A&M. She will work on large-scale ecological and biogeochemical phenomena in the oceans, especially understanding climate change effects on marine organisms and will also embed herself in the University of North Carolina Blue Economy initiatives. Her leave will accelerate the rebuild of her research and teaching programs and skills. |
| **COLLEGE OF PERFORMANCE, VISUALIZATION, & FINE ARTS** | | | |
| David Wilborn<br>Associate Professor<br>College of Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts | 24 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Wilborn's leave will take place in College Station, Texas. During his leave he will create an original musical manuscript for mixed brass trio. The manuscript will support the international demand for new brass trio repertoire from musicians who perform on trumpet, french horn and trombone. Through global music distribution, professional recordings and recital programming, his work will bring widespread attention to Texas A&M. The proposed manuscript will enhance Texas A&M's image as a leader in the development and creation of new, innovative and musical works for brass instruments. |

| SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jay Maddock<br>Professor<br>Environmental & Occupational Health | 9 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Maddock's leave will take place at the Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He will learn new techniques in dissemination and implementation research for health behaviors. He will also complete a book on the science of social support and how people can best support others to make positive health changes. His leave will benefit the university as there is little expertise in this field. The leave will also offer training for his doctoral students and position Texas A&M as a leader in the field. |
| Jamilia Blake<br>Professor<br>Health Behavior | 17 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Blake's leave will take place in College Station, Texas, and at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina, and The Black Girls Equity Alliance in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During her leave she will examine racial disparities in the treatment of pediatric pain. She will collect formative data to develop a measure to assess the psychological processes that potentially underlie racial disparities in pediatric pain management. She will submit a grant to support the validation of this measure. Her leave will bolster her reputation while increasing Texas A&M's national visibility. |

Agenda Item No. 6.23

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** Dr. Cliff Lamb, Director
Texas A&M AgriLife Research

Mark A. Welsh III, President
Texas A&M University

**Subject:** Establishment of the Center for Comparative Genomics

**Proposed Board Action:**

Establish the Center for Comparative Genomics (CCGEN) as a joint Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research) and Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) center and an organizational unit within AgriLife Research.

**Background Information:**

For more than 30 years, Texas A&M has been a leader in comparative animal genetics and genomics of companion, livestock, wildlife, and laboratory species. Comparative genomics applications are broad and impactful, from precision improvements to animal health and production, biodiversity discovery, species conservation, and translational biomedical research. Traditionally, these strengths have been distributed primarily in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS), the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS), and AgriLife Research. The animal genomics faculty have included three National Academy of Science members and several University Distinguished and Regents Professors. Comparative genomics faculty interact with nearly every college, school and interdisciplinary program on campus and scientists at many U.S. and international institutions. As a testament to the strength and global visibility of Texas A&M animal genomics faculty and their labs:

- they remain active participants and leaders in national and international collaborations that sequenced the genomes of more than 300 animal species, which revolutionized translational impacts in agriculture, industry and human medicine;
- they have a consistent record of publications in top-tier peer-reviewed international journals, including *Science, Nature, Nature Genetics, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS),* and *Cell;*
- they have received over $100,000,000 in total research funding, with the majority of these funds coming from the major federal funding agencies [National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)], supplemented by numerous private foundations; and
- they have collectively trained hundreds of graduate and postdoctoral students who have gone on to positions in academia, industry and government.

The ability to sequence human and other animal genomes for less than $1,000 is considered the primary approach to advances in health, agriculture and the environment. Traditionally, genomics has developed as an interdisciplinary or cross-disciplinary science, meaning faculty recruitment and retention is not maximized at the disciplinary-focused departmental level, limiting Texas

A&M's ability to fully realize the full potential of the Genomics Revolution for Texas A&M and Texas. Given its historical strength, world-renowned faculty, and status as a Land Grant Institution with a veterinary college, Texas A&M and AgriLife Research are uniquely positioned to strengthen their stature as national and world leaders in comparative animal genomics. We aim to establish the CCGEN to promote the growth of new interdisciplinary research programs in animal genomics and generate synergies to link genetic changes to desirable production traits and diseases that will foster the next generation of basic and translational research discoveries. CCGEN will serve as an intellectual home for current and future faculty that will expand multi-PI research and training opportunities for students and faculty across campus at a time when the genomics discipline is growing in scope nationally and globally.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

The Chancellor's Research Initiative has committed $5,000,000 and AgriLife will contribute $1,800,000 to support the center director and their research program, center computational resources and administrative support, and partial support for start-ups for six new tenure-track faculty recruits in CVMBS and COALS. AgriLife Research has committed $50,000 in annual administrative support that can be used as discretionary funding for center initiatives. This complements an endowed professorship to be held by the center director through CVMBS that will also be used to support CCGEN initiatives (>$40,000 annually). The professorship may be converted to an endowed chair in the future. To further sustain the center, the director of AgriLife Research and the center director will work to identify internal seed funding opportunities to enhance collaboration among scientists and philanthropic opportunities through the Texas A&M Foundation to provide additional support for CCGEN activities. The center will coordinate with participating departments to recover indirect cost generated through external funding for participating CCGEN Faculty Fellows as additional revenue (>$50,000 annually) for center student and training activities and research/student enhancement. Because the center is not establishing and maintaining core facilities, instead using internal genomics and high-performance computing cores, total estimated annual costs for the center will not exceed $100,000 annually for sponsored seminars, administrative support for center functions, support for workshops and other events, and seed grants. The center will target long-term funding through the NIH Centers of Excellence in Genome Sciences mechanism, NSF Midscale RI-1/2 and similar mechanisms.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

The CCGEN will advance The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) strategic imperative 4 – The A&M System will increase prominence by building a robust and targeted research portfolio. CCGEN will also impact strategic imperative 5, responding to the needs of the people in Texas and contributing to the strength of the state's economy through genomic advances in human and animal health and agriculture. CCGEN will impact strategic imperative 3 by training undergraduate and graduate students in cutting-edge genomics and bioinformatics/Big Data experiences that will lead to successful careers in a global economy.

Agenda Item No. 6.23

**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH**
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**
Office of the Director
Office of the President
November 8, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Establishment of the Center for Comparative Genomics

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

**"The Center for Comparative Genomics is hereby established as a joint Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M University center and an organizational unit within AgriLife Research."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. Cliff Lamb
Director
Texas A&M AgriLife Research

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Mark A. Welsh III
President
Texas A&M University

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Jeffrey W. Savell, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor and Dean
Agriculture and Life Science

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH**
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**
Center for Comparative Genomics

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. Rationale for the Creation of the Center for Comparative Genomics (CCGEN)

Comparative genomics is a pivotal component of modern Life Sciences research. It pinpoints specific genomic components, measures their capacity for change during evolution, and connects this to variation in an organism's phenotypes (e.g., traits, diseases). The applications are broad and impactful, and include biodiversity discovery and species conservation, precision improvements to animal health and production, and translational biomedical research. The breadth of investigators and research programs at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) positions the university to become a national and world leader in comparative genomics. The Center for Comparative Genomics (CCGEN) will serve as an intellectual home unit for current and future faculty under a thematic platform that will expand opportunities for research units across campus using whole genome sequence data within a comparative framework to link genetic changes to desirable production traits and diseases. CCGEN will foster the next generation of research discoveries, moving beyond a focus on traditional animal models to being more firmly rooted in the study of genomic variation of a broader sampling of the organisms on our planet.

The center will focus on comparative genomics of animals, reinvigorate genomics research as one of the cornerstones of the Life Sciences missions, and establish Texas A&M as a leader in advances in genotype to phenotype health-related and economic discoveries. This expanded focus is timely in capitalizing on recent technological advances to sequence genomes to completeness at scale. The center's faculty and trainees will be at the cutting edge of research that advances animal, human and ecosystem health. The center will work with unit leadership in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS) to identify critical campus needs and recruit tenure-track and research faculty to support its initiatives. Growth in comparative genomics faculty will increase Texas A&M's competitiveness in multidisciplinary research that solves grand challenges facing human and animal health, agriculture, the environment, and biodiversity resilience. Focusing on diverse disciplines of research united under the umbrella of comparative genomics, the reimagined research community will increase competitiveness for federal center grants that can more broadly and holistically imagine solutions to current and future challenges in medicine, agriculture and environmental sustainability (e.g., National Institutes of Health (NIH) Centers of Excellence in Genome Sciences, National Science Foundation (NSF) Midscale RI-1/2, etc.). High-impact research will enhance Texas A&M's national visibility through publications in leading scientific journals via collaborative partnerships. Faculty growth will also cultivate research training opportunities for our graduate and undergraduate student bodies through mechanisms like the Aggie Research Program and train the next generation of computationally savvy students who are competitive in the global economy.

Texas A&M is committed to academic excellence that combines knowledge, research and innovation, creating solutions that offer translational value to society. Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research) is working to find innovative solutions that will create adaptive agricultural systems - systems that can meet the demands of a growing population, changing climate, fluctuating economic conditions, unpredictable geopolitical environments, declining

resources, and public health crises. CCGEN will contribute to the Discover innovations, technologies and science-based solutions to enhance agricultural and ecological systems and the Life Sciences. CCGEN will enhance the efficiency, profitability and resiliency of agriculture, natural resources and food systems in Texas and the world.

## 2. Mission and Vision

CCGEN will be an organizational unit within AgriLife Research, with strong collaborative interactions with CVMBS and faculty in COALS, in addition to the Interdisciplinary Program in Genetics and Genomics (GGEN), the College of Medicine (COM) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

*Mission*

The mission of CCGEN is to lead and promote new research and training initiatives in comparative genomics across Texas A&M and AgriLife Research. The expansion of new and existing research and training programs will produce novel basic and applied scientific discoveries that translate into environmental benefits, human wellness and sustainable agriculture. Through targeted faculty recruitment in collaboration with participating departments, CCGEN will prioritize areas of research and training in cutting-edge basic and applied genomics research that will increase federal funding, promote interdisciplinary research proposals, enhance competitiveness for federal center and training grants, and mentor the next generation of computationally savvy trainees to meet the market need for advances in genomics research in Texas and the United States.

*Vision*

The vision for CCGEN is to make Texas A&M the premier institution for genomics-informed research that advances agriculture, biomedical research and biodiversity conservation.

*Description of the Center*

The CCGEN will focus on expanding and leading discoveries in four thematic areas:

1. ***Animal genomics***. This thematic area connects genetic variation to phenotypes relevant to disease susceptibility/resistance, morphology and production. Studying the history of genomic ancestry, genetic interchange with wild species and the landscape of adaptative signatures will be vital to breeding programs targeted at resilience to environmental change. Functional comparative genetics driven by single-cell profiling advances will be key to connecting genotype to phenotype linkages in agriculture, evolution and disease.
2. ***Biomedical genomics***. Comparisons between distantly related organisms with complete genome assemblies will be critical to identifying the fundamental units of gene regulation that dictate development and organismal health. Comparative genomics can identify novel targets for therapeutics and translational application in animal models of human disease, supporting other centers and institutes on campus.
3. ***Biodiversity & Conservation genomics.*** This thematic area documents, explores and manages living and extinct biodiversity. Rapid environmental changes are reorganizing patterns and distributions of biodiversity. Applying cutting-edge comparative genomic methods at the population and species levels allows researchers to assess the genetic health of species and identify and prioritize populations for recovery through genetic rescue. Understanding spatial genetic variation across landscapes is critical to identifying future wildlife corridors for dispersal and populations at risk of local extinctions.

4. ***Structure and function of complex genomic regions***. Long-read sequencing enables studying the function and diversity of genomic "dark matter" within complex eukaryotic genomes, including centromere and telomere biology, and the role of satellite elements in normal physiology and disease.

CCGEN will complement existing genomics focused centers and institutes on campus such as the Texas A&M Institute for Genome Sciences and Society (TIGSS) and the Center for Statistical Bioinformatics. While overlapping in the broad area of expanding genome-based knowledge and research, each center and institute brings a more specialized focus with TIGSS focused on the mission of the One Health Initiative and the societal implications of the genome revolution, and the Center for Statistical Bioinformatics focused on developing modern statistical methodologies in genomics. CCGEN's focus on advancing the four thematic areas will complement these efforts and the combined efforts will advance both comparative genomics and genome sciences across Texas A&M and AgriLife Research.

Central to expanding and leading discoveries in these thematic areas is ensuring center faculty have the infrastructure needs, such as shared equipment, facilities and staff, to be successful. To this end the Texas A&M vice president for research and AgriLife Research director will develop a unifying advisory structure to ensure the success of CCGEN and the complementary centers and institutes. The CCGEN director along with the directors of the related centers, institutes and core facilities will work collaboratively with the unifying advisory structure to maintain modern infrastructure to meet the needs of the changing technological landscape in genomics and provide computational training in the latest comparative genomics tools to support Texas A&M faculty, staff and students.

## 3. Faculty Associated with CCGEN

### 3.1 Faculty Director

Dr. William Murphy will be the inaugural director of CCGEN. Dr. Murphy is the James E. Womack University Professor in the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences in CVMBS, where he also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Biology in CAS. He is known for his work in mammalian comparative genomics and phylogenetics. Dr. Murphy received his B.S. in Biological Sciences from Illinois State University. He received his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from The University of Tulsa. Dr. Murphy was awarded an NIH Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) postdoctoral fellow and later advanced to a Senior Scientist at the Laboratory of Genomic Diversity at the National Cancer Institute, where he studied mammalian comparative genomics. Dr. Murphy joined the faculty of Texas A&M in 2004 and was named an inaugural Presidential Impact Fellow in 2017 and a University Professor in 2020. He is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Heredity, was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2020 and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2024. Over the course of his career, he has published more than 170 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Murphy will provide overall direction and vision for the education, research and engagement mission of CCGEN.

### 3.2 Faculty Fellows

CCGEN will play a central role in hiring genomic faculty members in collaboration with participating departments across the university who will become Faculty Fellows. These newly hired faculty will form the nucleus of CCGEN. Existing faculty members from CVMBS, COALS,

and other colleges will be able to apply to become Faculty Fellows with the center. The center director will work with participating department heads and college deans to establish clear statements of expectations (e.g. time faculty are expected to spend for department versus center activities, mandatory versus optional activities in the department and center, proposal routing, communication channels and frequency, feedback process for annual evaluations and tenure and promotion) for both newly hired faculty and existing faculty. Faculty Fellows will engage with the center and provide programmatic support in a two-year renewable term. Maintaining a strong group of Faculty Fellows will allow the center to promote novel areas of interdisciplinary research, promote mentoring of early career faculty, and identify faculty and student training synergies, including through the new Chancellor's National Academy STEM Ph.D. Fellowship Program.

## 4. Potential Activities

CCGEN will serve the following functions for center-affiliated Faculty Fellows:

- Increase national recognition and visibility of Texas A&M in the area of comparative genomics through interdisciplinary research.
- Increase interdisciplinary research collaboration and funding from grants and contracts, including multi-PI grant proposals.
- Increase opportunities for interdisciplinary research and graduate student training that includes investigators from different disciplines and participating colleges across campus and within The Texas A&M University System (A&M System). These include linkages between graduate cohorts in animal genomics disciplines, including CVMBS (BIMS-Genomics and Bioinformatics Track), GGEN, Ecology & Conservation Biology (ECCB), and Animal Science (ANSC) in COALS, and Biology (BIOL) in CAS.
- Facilitate the development of novel genomics graduate courses and support undergraduate teaching missions in genetics on campus.
- Support external seminar and workshop series, in collaboration with GGEN and with stand-alone symposia, that feature preeminent scholars in comparative genomics to provide lectures and contribute to a student-led podcast.

## 5. Impact on the Education and Training of Students

The center will prepare future graduates in multiple genomics graduate programs, including GGEN and CVMBS BIMS-Biomedical Genomics and Bioinformatics track, in cutting-edge genome research using high-performance computing. Graduates will be prepared to be academic and industry leaders, generate research and outreach to strengthen the animal and human health industry, and foster the environment's welfare through genomically-informed management and conservation. The center will promote interdisciplinary research experiences through jointly sponsored graduate recruitment events, seminars and graduate mentoring programs involving GGEN, CVMBS and COALS.

## 6. Resource Requirements

The CCGEN will occupy research space in CVMBS and COALS research buildings. It is envisioned that advancements at CCGEN will be supported by existing genomic-related core facilities and computing resources, including Texas A&M's High Performance Research Computing (HPRC). These shared resources are often complemented by investigator-specific high-performance computing resources managed through CVMBS IT staff that are acquired and maintained through start-up funding and grants.

## 7. Sources and Future Expectations of Financial Support

The center director will receive $50,000 in annual administrative support from AgriLife Research that can be used towards discretionary funding for center initiatives. The Chancellor's Research Initiative has committed $5,000,000 to support the center director, their research program, center computational resources and administrative support, and partial support for start-ups for six new tenure-track faculty recruits in CVMBS and COALS. The center director will identify shared research and computational infrastructure within CVMBS and COALS, reducing start-up costs for individual departments. The center director will be provided an endowed professorship established through CVMBS to contribute to sustainable support for CCGEN initiatives (>$40,000 annually). The professorship may be converted to an endowed chair in the future. AgriLife Research will contribute $1,800,000 to center support, faculty recruitment and start-ups. Administrative support will be funded according to AgriLife Research center funding guidelines and supported by CVMBS and AgriLife Research. The center director will receive access to centralized administrative services at AgriLife Research, such as marketing and communications, IT, digital education, and events management. In addition, the director of AgriLife Research and the center director will work to identify internal seed funding opportunities during the initial three years to enhance collaboration among scientists. In addition, the director of AgriLife Research and the center director will work to identify philanthropic opportunities through the Texas A&M Foundation to provide additional support for CCGEN operating costs, including administrative and proposal support, an endowed lecture series and annual campus activities and workshops, including seed grants, grant writing workshops, and/or new comparative genomics training workshops for center faculty. The center will also seek to recover a portion of departmental/college indirect cost (IDC) generated through external funding for participating CCGEN Faculty Fellows as additional revenue for center activities and research/student enhancement. The statement of Faculty Fellow expectations between the center director and participating department head and college/school deans will detail proposal routing procedures and IDC distributions. Faculty recruiting will identify candidates with research portfolios that would be competitive for diverse federal (NIH, NSF, USDA) and private funding sources. These include the NIH/NIGMS R35 (MIRA) awards with high early-stage funding (46%) and renewal (83%) rates. The center's growth through recruiting and existing campus genomic faculty will target long-term funding through the NIH Centers of Excellence in Genome Sciences mechanism, NSF Midscale RI-1/2 and similar mechanisms.

## 8. Governance and Advisory Structure

As a joint center, CCGEN's administration and organizational strategy will be structured to subscribe to A&M System Policy *11.02, Creation of Centers and Institutes*, A&M System Regulation *11.02.01, Management and Evaluation of Centers and Institutes,* and to both Texas A&M Standard Administrative Procedure *11.02.99.M0.01, Centers and Institutes,* and Texas A&M AgriLife Research Procedure *11.02.99.A0.01, Review and Monitoring of Centers and Institutes*. These procedures are wholly aligned in principle and in function, with the primary distinction being required reporting to both Texas A&M and AgriLife Research administrations. CCGEN will be led by a director who will report directly to the AgriLife Research administration. Dr. Murphy will serve as the founding director and will be responsible for the administrative and scientific oversight of the center, including the recruitment of new Faculty Fellows. Dr. Murphy will be supported by input from an External Advisory Committee and an Internal Advisory Committee who will be charged with developing an endowed fund for administrative support, seed grants, and an endowed lecture series. These two committees will be expected to meet annually to

provide input on the advances and success of the center. The External Advisory Committee will be comprised of leading researchers from peer academic institutions, government laboratories and private/industry companies. The Internal Advisory Committee will be comprised of representatives from CVMBS, COALS and other academic units where relevant.

## 9. Mechanisms for Periodic Review

CCGEN will be reviewed at least once every five years in accordance with policies established for institutes and centers (i.e., A&M System Policy *11.02, Creation of Centers and Institutes,* A&M System Regulation *11.02.01 Management and Evaluation of Center and Institutes,* Texas A&M AgriLife Research Procedure *11.02.99.A0.01, Review and Monitoring of Centers and Institutes* and Texas A&M Standard Administrative Procedure *11.02.99.M0.01, Centers and Institutes*). This review will provide feedback to the director of AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M vice president for research regarding the center's effectiveness in meeting its mission. The review will also be shared with participating department heads in CVMBS and COALS, and the deans of participating colleges for their input. The center director will prepare annual progress reports for the director of AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M vice president for research for comment.

A Review Committee will be established in accordance with the guidelines of the Texas A&M vice president for research and AgriLife Research in effect at the time of each periodic review. The Review Committee will be comprised of at least three people selected by the AgriLife Research director and Texas A&M vice president for research in consultation with the center director. The Review Committee will provide recommendations to the AgriLife Research director and Texas A&M vice president for research, department heads in CVMBS and COALS and the CCGEN director about CCGEN's performance. The review report along with a memorandum in which the results of the review are summarized will be submitted to the vice president for research and to AgriLife Research director who will jointly make a determination about the continued operation (continuation, revision, or dissolution) of the center.

Agenda Item No. 6.29

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS**
Office of the President
October 30, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, February 2025,
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty member at Texas A&M University-Central Texas as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 25-02."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Richard M. Rhodes
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.29
EXHIBIT

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS**
**BACKGROUND OF FACULTY**
**RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE**
**TENURE LIST NO. 25-02**

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

| Name | Present Rank<br>Department | Yrs. Towards Tenure*<br>Univ. | <br>Other Inst. | Effective Date<br>Tenure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Dr. Clifton Jones | Provost, VPASA<br>Professor<br>Economics | 0 | >39 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board and<br>Faculty Arrival |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (1985) | Texas A&M University | | | |
| Fa 1985 – Su 1991<br>Fa 1991 – Su 1995<br>Fa 1995 – Sp 2012<br>Su 2012 – Sp 2015<br>Sp 2015 – Fa 2024<br>Sp 2025 - present | University of Richmond<br>Murray State University<br>Stephen F. Austin University<br>University of South Carolina Aiken<br>Angelo State University<br>Texas A&M University-Central Texas | | Assistant Professor (Tenured 1991)<br>Assistant/Associate Professor (1993)<br>Associate Professor/Professor (1999)<br>Professor<br>Professor/Vice Provost (2021)<br>Professor/Provost VPASA | |

Dr. Clifton Jones's research contributions include more than 40 scholarly publications and presentations, most centered on energy economics and policies. He has held progressively higher leadership positions culminating in just under four years of service as Vice Provost at Angelo State University prior to coming to Texas A&M University-Central Texas as Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, Professor of Economics.

To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Clifton Jones has behaved in a professional manner across his career and has not engaged in behaviors that may lead to dismissal for cause as specified in System Policy *12.01,* Section 4.3.

* Each university determines, through a review process, the number of years each faculty member will be awarded towards tenure based on his/her dossier.

Agenda Item No. 6.35

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Dr. Robert Vela, President
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

**Subject:** Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026,
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

**Proposed Board Action:**

Authorize Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026 at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (A&M-Kingsville).

**Background Information:**

System Policy *31.03, Leaves of Absence*, and System Regulation *12.99.01, Faculty Development Leave*, require that a recommendation for faculty development leave be submitted by the university president to the chancellor for recommendation to the Board of Regents for approval. At A&M-Kingsville, the application is submitted with support of the academic department, college dean, university development leave committee, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and president.

As shown in the exhibit, A&M-Kingsville requests approval for faculty development leave for four faculty members for FY 2026.

A&M-Kingsville is in compliance with the statutory requirement that no more than six percent of eligible faculty be on development leave at any time.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

No additional funding is required. Departmental faculty members are assuming the recommended faculty members' teaching load by adjusting course offerings for the next academic year.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

Strategic Plan Imperative 4: The A&M System will increase its prominence by building a robust and targeted research portfolio. Providing faculty development leave further supports the university's fourth strategic plan priority: Research & Innovation Goal 3 (Research Culture) by promoting a dynamic culture of innovation, entrepreneurship and research engagement university-wide.

Agenda Item No. 6.35

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE**
Office of the President
November 15, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026,
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *31.03*, System Regulation *12.99.01* and Sections 51.101-108 of the Texas Education Code, authorizes faculty development leave to the faculty members as shown in the attached exhibit, Faculty Development Leave List FY 2026 Texas A&M University-Kingsville."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Dr. Robert Vela
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.35
EXHIBIT

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE LIST**
**FY 2026**
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE**

| Name/ Title/ Department | Years of TAMUK Tenured, Tenure-Track Service | Semester of Leave | Location, Brief Description of Leave and Benefit to University |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES** | | | |
| Melinda Brou<br>Professor<br>School of Music | 9 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Brou's leave will take place in Kingsville and Rockport, Texas, where she will prepare her and Dr. Michael Carlson's opera pastiche for publication. The pastiche will be workshopped in Spring 2025 at A&M-Kingsville, and following that process, she will revise the production and develop materials to allow for the opera to be produced by opera programs nationally and internationally. The production will fill a major need for undergraduate opera programs that need to produce economical shows, with many featured roles, achievable levels of difficulty, and are less than ninety minutes. The expected scholarly outcomes include articles and presentations regarding the creation of and need for accessible undergraduate opera programming. These activities will bring national and international recognition to the School of Music and the university as a whole. |
| Dean T. Ferguson<br>Professor<br>History, Political Science & Philosophy | 21 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Ferguson's leave will take place in Corpus Christi, Texas, with the occasional self-funded visit to archives in Wichita, Kansas and Washington, DC. The development leave will be used to complete two book projects already nearing completion. The first is a biography of missionaries to Burundi and Rwanda whose service in these two countries coincided with their independence from Belgium and the immediate post-colonial period as well as with periods of ethnic conflict and genocide in both nations. The book will examine critically the accommodations made by church planters with political actors in states torn by ethnic and political violence. The second manuscript is a study of the role of waste collection, processing, and recycling in the history of industrialization from ca. 1500 to the late 19th century in Europe, with important comparisons to other world regions. The former study is destined for Barclay Press and the latter will be developed into peer- |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | reviewed articles and a published book. Advanced undergraduate students will participate in archival work and advanced history courses building on the work and the university reputation will be enhanced by publications in respected scholarly venues. |
| Brenda Hannon<br>Professor<br>Psychology and Sociology | 9 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Hannon's leave will take place in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she will draw on over 25 years of experience to complete a book, three National Institutes of Health/National Science Foundation grant proposals, and possibly a journal article. The book will cover the past, present, and future expected contributions of working memory to cognitive research. The topics of the grants are (i) the predictors of academic achievement for first-generation university students, (ii) the relative contributions of prior knowledge and cognitive processes to reading and problem-solving, and (iii) a novel approach to literacy training in pre-kindergarten children. The benefits of her leave include completing a high-impact book and three grant proposals, which will increase domestic and international recognition of the department, college, and university and potentially provide research funding to Dr. Hannon and the university. |
| Jingbo Louise Liu<br>Professor<br>Chemistry | 13 | Fall 2025 – Spring 2026 | Dr. Liu's leave will take place in Corpus Christi and College Station, Texas, where she will collaborate with a multidisciplinary team to create innovative decarbonization solutions, fostering an environment that empowers all participants to contribute creatively. She will work on the second edition of her book "Nanochemistry" with Walter de Gruyter GmbH and begin a new book titled "Promise and Challenges of Lithium Batteries" with Springer Nature Publishing. She continues her research projects funded by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Energy, and assists in developing the National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center (ERC) proposal for "Smart Decarbonization Technologies for Chemical Manufacturers and Refineries" (SmartD). In addition, Dr. Liu will enhance her teaching and leadership skills through virtual courses from Cornell University, Rochester Institute of Technology Extension, and Harvard Extension. Results of the leave will lead to future grant submissions; research and industry opportunities; manuscript publications that will support accreditation goals; and increased domestic and international recognition of the department, college, and university. |

Agenda Item No. 6.36

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Salvador Hector Ochoa, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

**Subject:** Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026,
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

**Proposed Board Action:**

Authorize faculty development leave for FY 2026 at Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-San Antonio).

**Background Information:**

System Policy *31.03, Leaves of Absence*, and System Regulation *12.99.01, Faculty Development Leave*, require that a recommendation for faculty development leave be submitted by the university president to the chancellor for recommendation to the Board of Regents for approval. At A&M-San Antonio, the application is submitted with support of the academic department, college dean, provost, and senior vice president for academic affairs and president.

As shown in the exhibit, A&M-San Antonio requests approval for faculty development leave for four faculty members for FY 2026.

A&M-San Antonio is in compliance with the statutory requirement that no more than six percent of eligible faculty be on development leave at any time.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

The cost of the leave will be covered by reallocation of internal resources. Department faculty members will also assume the recommended faculty members' teaching loads by adjusting course offerings the next academic year as possible.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

The granting of the faculty development leave allows for the advancement of strategic plan imperatives three, four, and five by directly supporting the goal of preparing students for successful careers and enhancing A&M-San Antonio's ability to provide students with experiential opportunities while fostering their development as responsible, globally minded citizens. The approved leave will also contribute to building a robust and targeted research portfolio and enhance A&M-San Antonio's research output through high-impact scholarly publications, policy analyses, and data-driven studies and the ability to focus on the commitment to serving community needs and strengthening the economy.

Agenda Item No. 6.36

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO**
Office of the President
November 21, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Granting of Faculty Development Leave for FY 2026, Texas A&M University-San Antonio

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *31.03*, System Regulation *12.99.01* and Sections 51.101-108 of the Texas Education Code, authorizes faculty development leave to the faculty members as shown in the attached exhibit, Faculty Development Leave List FY 2026, Texas A&M University-San Antonio."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Salvador Hector Ochoa, Ph.D.
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.36
EXHIBIT

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE LIST**
**FY 2026**
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO**

| Name/ Title/ Department | Years of Texas A&M-San Antonio Tenured, Tenure-Track Service | Semester of Leave | Location, Brief Description of Leave and Benefit to University |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES** | | | |
| Claire Nolasco Braaten<br>Professor<br>Criminology and Political Science | 13 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Braaten's leave will take place in two locations: in San Antonio, Texas, where she will conduct secondary research by analyzing existing reports, academic studies, and government records on human trafficking and employment scams to support her primary research; and in the Philippines for several months, where she will conduct on-site data collection, interview experts and stakeholders, and access government records related to these issues. Her research is focused on understanding the mechanisms of transnational employment scams, particularly their connection to human trafficking, deception, and coercion in the Southeast Asian region, with an emphasis on inbound trafficking operations in the Philippines. During her leave, she seeks to build a comprehensive dataset on victims and perpetrators, collaborate with Philippine academics and government officials, and analyze policy responses to these crimes. Dr. Braaten expects to produce high-impact scholarly publications, contribute to policy analyses, and develop resources that enhance graduate-level education in criminology. The outcome of her leave will benefit the research community by addressing a globally significant issue and will strengthen the Criminology program at A&M-San Antonio by enhancing its research profile, fostering international collaborations, and supporting the university's pursuit of Emerging Research University status. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dawn Rachelle Weatherford<br>Associate Professor<br>Health and Behavioral Sciences | 8 | Fall 2025 | Dr. Weatherford's leave will take place in Brisbane and Canberra, Australia. Her research focuses on the cognitive mechanisms that underlie human face processing. During her leave, she seeks to visit eminent researchers at the University of New South Wales who have been recently awarded a grant to study face processing phenomena in real-world settings (e.g., passport office, airport security, forensic CCTV examination). Dr. Weatherford expects to collect data from unique samples with special skills and experiences both personally (e.g., individuals with exceptionally strong face processing skills) and professionally (e.g., individuals who use their face processing skills in their day-to-day work duties). This data will result in peer-reviewed publications and extramural collaborative grant submissions with researchers at the University of New South Wales and Cornell. The outcome of her leave will benefit the research community and the Psychology program at A&M-San Antonio. |
| **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** | | | |
| Theresa Garfield<br>Professor<br>Educator and Leadership Preparation | 15 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Garfield's leave will take place in San Antonio, Texas. She will work on two projects focused on programming for individuals with disabilities and the teacher efficacy of educators working with students with disabilities. During her leave, she seeks to conduct research leading to the submission of one peer-reviewed journal (targeted journal: *Exceptional Children*), the submission for one national conference presentation (targeted conference: *Council for Exceptional Children*), draft new approaches in teacher preparation regarding language (targeted outcome: policy paper to submit to significant organizations in the field [*Council for Exceptional Children, Council for Learning Disabilities, Teacher Education Division of CEC, AERA*]) and prepare another two peer-reviewed manuscripts (possible outlets: *Teacher Education and Special Education and Journal of Effective School Leadership*). The outcome of her leave will benefit the research community, the disability community, the system, as well as the Special Education program at A&M-San Antonio. |
| Tamara Hinojosa<br>Associate Professor<br>Counseling, Health, & Kinesiology | 12 | Spring 2026 | Dr. Hinojosa's leave will take place in Texas, off-campus, with in-country travel to relevant scholarly trainings and conferences. She will conduct a series of three, qualitative single case study analyses (Stake 2006) that will lead to three separate peer-reviewed publications, at least one conference presentation acceptance, and a final multiple case study analysis report for |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | public presentation to the university community. She will also complete testing for international certification as a Diplomat Jungian Analyst via the Inter-Regional Society of Jungian Analysts (IRSJA). Her research is focused on Latin@ counseling clients, a demographic often lacking access to mental health services, who are participating in Jungian psychoanalytic informed therapy. Her study will integrate the Jungian psychoanalytic concepts of the analytic container, the subjective analytic third, complexes, archetypes, typology, transference, and countertransference. During her leave, she seeks to analyze and report case study data, submit manuscripts and conference proposals for review, and attain training/mentorship within the IRSJA. IRSJA training/mentorship will include individual clinical case consultations, monthly seminars in Jungian psychology, as well as testing for international certification as a Diplomat Jungian Analyst at the IRSJA spring 2026 conference.<br><br>The use of a Jungian Psychoanalytic therapeutic approach with the Latin@ community is not often studied. Therefore, Dr. Hinojosa expects to use her research to expand future clinical treatment protocol for Latin@s, as well as to enhance curriculum directly impacting A&M-San Antonio students' clinical skill development, thus preparing students for thriving careers in a global economy. The outcome of her leave will benefit the research community as well as the Counseling program at A&M-San Antonio. |

Agenda Item No. 6.37

# AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Submitted by:** Salvador Hector Ochoa, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

**Subject:** Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Electrical Engineering and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Proposed Board Action:

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-San Antonio) leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree with a major in Electrical Engineering**,** authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met.

## Background Information:

A&M-San Antonio is seeking approval for a new B.S. degree with a major in Electrical Engineering.
The proposed program will require students to complete 120 semester credit hours and is designed to enable students to apply scientific, mathematical and technical principles in the planning, design and evaluation of electrical engineering systems. The curriculum incorporates an innovative "design spine" comprising eight courses, seamlessly integrating engineering design and professional practice experiences with other electrical engineering coursework. This “design spine” serves as the program’s focal point, fostering the development of essential skills including critical thinking, professionalism, communication, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking.

Several public universities in Texas offer bachelor degrees in Electrical Engineering. However, the demand for baccalaureate-trained electrical engineers continues to increase with the current programs unable to match the demand. Currently, 23 Texas institutions are providing bachelor’s degrees in electrical and electronics engineering; however, none are delivered in south San Antonio, and only four are delivered within a 100-mile radius.

## A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:

Estimated new costs over the first five years are $3,071,952 and estimated five-year funding is $3,071,952. The new costs include the addition of faculty.

## Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:

The proposed program supports The Texas A&M University System’s (A&M System) strategic plan imperatives 1 that all qualified students will find a place in the A&M System and will have an array of pathways to pursue their ambitions and interests; and imperative 3 that students will leave the A&M System as responsible and engaged citizens prepared for successful careers in an increasingly global economy.

Agenda Item No. 6.37

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO**
Office of the President
December 3, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a Major in Electrical Engineering and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-San Antonio leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree Program with a major in Electrical Engineering.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-San Antonio's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Salvador Hector Ochoa, Ph.D.
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Texas A&M University-San Antonio**

Bachelor of Science
with a major in Electrical Engineering
(CIP 14.1001.00)

**Program Review Outline**

## BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: Department of Computational, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-San Antonio) is seeking approval for a new Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree with a major in Electrical Engineering. The proposed program is designed to enable individuals to apply scientific, mathematical and technical principles in the planning, design and evaluation of electrical engineering systems.

The proposed program will require students to complete 120 semester credit hours and is designed to enable students to apply scientific, mathematical and technical principles in the planning, design and evaluation of electrical engineering systems. Notably, the curriculum incorporates an innovative "design spine" of eight courses, that seamlessly integrate engineering design and professional practice experiences with other electrical engineering coursework. This “design spine” of courses will foster the development of essential skills such as critical thinking, professionalism, communication, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking.

There are 23 Texas public universities that offer bachelor degrees in Electrical Engineering. However, the demand for baccalaureate-trained electrical engineers continues to increase with the current programs unable to match the demand. Additionally, none of the existing programs are delivered in south San Antonio, and only four are delivered within a 100-mile radius.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2026.

A&M-San Antonio certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs.

I. NEED

### A. Employment Opportunities

Overall employment of electrical and electronics engineers is projected to grow five percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for electrical engineers in Texas is anticipated to remain steady until 2032. Employment in the field is projected to grow slightly faster than the average for all occupations. Electrical engineering is one of the occupations that is projected to grow at the fastest rate, estimated at 16 percent from 2020 to 2030.

The employment landscape for electrical engineers in the San Antonio area is robust and diverse. In the last six months, employers in the San Antonio-New Braunfels metropolitan region have advertised more than 500 job opportunities specifically seeking candidates with a background in electrical engineering. A notable majority of the listings, more than 80 percent, require applicants with bachelor's degrees.

**B. Projected Enrollment**

| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total New Students | 50 | 52 | 57 | 60 | 65 |
| Attrition | 0 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Cumulative Headcount | 50 | 87 | 127 | 155 | 184 |
| FTSE | 44.0 | 76.6 | 112.1 | 136.7 | 162.2 |
| Graduates | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 18 |

**C. Existing State Programs**

There are several public universities in Texas that offer bachelor degrees in Electrical Engineering. However, the demand for baccalaureate-trained electrical engineers continues to increase with the current programs unable to match the demand. Currently, 23 Texas institutions are noted for providing bachelor's degrees in electrical and electronics engineering; however, none of these programs are delivered in south San Antonio, and only four are delivered within a 100-mile radius of A&M-San Antonio.

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

**A. Faculty**

Three new faculty positions will be filled to fulfill the instructional and service needs of the proposed B.S. program over the first three years. One new faculty will be hired in the first year at an estimated cost of $114,817 per year, and the remaining two in the second and third years of the program at an estimated cost of $103,981 per year each. The initial hire will also assume the role of the electrical engineering program coordinator. These new faculty members are expected to possess doctoral qualifications in electrical engineering. The trio of engineering faculty will be responsible for delivering core engineering courses, offering students valuable insights into the practical facets of electrical design. In addition, adjunct-taught sections of physics and calculus will be offered to support the program at an estimated cost of $24,000 the first year, $48,000 the second year, and $146,000 each year in the third, fourth, and fifth years

**B. Program Administration**

The existing program administration will be sufficient. No additional program administration costs are anticipated.

**C. Other Personnel**

Two additional professional staff positions will be added to coordinate the program and run the labs, at a cost of $105,000 per year. Lab staff will cost approximately $60,000 per

year for the first five years, while the administrative assistant will cost approximately $45,000 per year for the first five years.

**D. Supplies, Materials**

Additional supplies and materials for the program will cost approximately $135,000 over the first five years.

**E. Library**

The library resources are sufficient to support the needs of the proposed program. No additional library material costs are anticipated.

**F. Equipment, Facilities**

A capital investment of $450,000 in equipment and simulation software will be required in the first year of the program.

**G. Accreditation**

A&M-San Antonio will pursue accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for the engineering program at the earliest possible time and is contingent upon the graduation of the first student. The cost of seeking ABET accreditation will be approximately $150,000 in the first five years.

## III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES

| NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS | | | SOURCES OF FUNDING | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personnel | | | Reallocated Funds | $0 |
| Faculty | $1,811,952 | | Statutory Tuition | $1,811,952 |
| Clerical/Staff | $525,000 | | | |
| Facilities | $0 | | Designated Tuition | $675,000 |
| Equipment | $450,000 | | Course Fees | $0 |
| Supplies and Materials | $135,000 | | Formula Funding | $450,000 |
| Library | $0 | | Special Item Funding | $135,000 |
| Other : ABET Accreditation | $150,000 | | | |
| Total Costs | $3,071,952 | | Total Funding | $3,071,952 |

Agenda Item No. 6.38

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA**
Office of the President
October 29, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Academic Tenure, February 2025
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

I recommend adoption of the following minute order.

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, in accordance with System Policy *12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure,* hereby authorizes the granting of tenure to the following faculty member at Texas A&M University-Texarkana as set forth in the exhibit, Tenure List No. 25-02."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

ITEM 6.38
EXHIBIT

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA**
**BACKGROUND OF FACULTY**
**RECOMMENDED FOR ACADEMIC TENURE**
**TENURE LIST NO. 25-02**

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY**

| **Name** | **Present Rank**<br>**Department** | **Yrs. Towards Tenure***<br>**Univ.** | **Other Inst.** | **Effective Date**<br>**Tenure** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Harm-Jan Steenhuis | Professor<br>Management | 0 | >15 | Upon Approval<br>by the Board |
| | | | | |
| Ph.D. (2000) | University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands | | | |
| Fa 2002 – Sp 2006<br>Fa 2006 – Sp 2010<br>Fa 2010 – Sp 2015<br><br>Fa 2015 – Sp 2024<br>Fa 2024 – present | Eastern Washington University<br>Eastern Washington University<br>Eastern Washington University<br><br>Hawaii Pacific University<br>Texas A&M University-Texarkana | Assistant Professor<br>Associate Professor (Tenured 2006)<br>Professor of Management (Tenured 2010)<br>Professor of Management<br>Professor of Management | | |
| | | | | |
| Dr. Harm-Jan Steenhuis has spent more than 20 years in higher education as a researcher, post-doctoral fellow, and Assistant, Associate, or Professor in The Netherlands, Eastern Washington University, and Hawaii Pacific University. Dr. Steenhuis also served as Associate Dean of the College of Business at Hawaii Pacific University from 2018-2022. Dr. Steenhuis was Professor with tenure from 2015-2024 at Hawaii Pacific University. Dr. Steenhuis has published in additive manufacturing and management technology in numerous top-tiered, peer-reviewed journals, published two books as sole author, and served as co-editor of two books. Dr. Steenhuis has also presented numerous papers at scholarly meetings in management technology. Dr. Steenhuis has also received numerous awards including the Hawaii Pacific University Golden Apple Award for distinguished graduate teaching.<br><br>Dr. Harm-Jan Steenhuis' file does not include any information we believe to be inconsistent with System Policy *12.01*, Section 4.3. | | | | |

* Each university determines, through a review process, the number of years each faculty member will be awarded tenure based on his/her dossier.

Agenda Item No. 6.39

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** Ross Alexander Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

**Subject:** Approval of Amended Mission Statement and Authorization to Provide Notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

**Proposed Board Action:**

Approve the amended mission statement for Texas A&M University-Texarkana and authorize notification of the amendment to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**Background Information:**

As provided by 19 Texas Administrative Code, §5.24 Submission of Mission Statements and Planning Notification and The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) Policy *03.02, Academic Mission Statements and Program Inventory*, the Board of Regents approves changes to an institution's mission statement. Texas A&M University-Texarkana is developing a new strategic plan and amending the mission statement is an integral part of the process.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

There are no funding implications for this request.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

The proposed amended mission statement aligns with A&M System strategic plan imperative 1, that all qualified students will find a place in the A&M System and will have an array of pathways to pursue their ambitions and interests, and imperative 3 that students will leave the A&M System as responsible and engaged citizens prepared for successful careers in an increasingly global economy.

Agenda Item No. 6.39

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA**
Office of the President
November 26, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of Amended Mission Statement and Authorization to Provide Notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the amended Mission Statement for Texas A&M University-Texarkana as shown in the attached exhibit. The Board also authorizes notification of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's amended Mission Statement to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Texas A&M University-Texarkana**
**Amended Mission Statement**

**(REVISED – WITHOUT ANNOTATIONS)**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Texas A&M University-Texarkana creates transformative experiences that foster personal and professional growth for lifelong learning through student-centered teaching, innovative research, and selfless service.

**Amended Mission Statement**
**(REVISED - ANNOTATED)**

~~As a member of The Texas A&M University System,~~ Texas A&M University-Texarkana ~~is a comprehensive regional University that provides students with academically challenging, engaging, and rewarding educational experiences through quality teaching, scholarship, student support services, co-curricular programming, research, and service. Through the personal attention of our faculty and staff, students are afforded the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, abilities, and skills to become leaders in their chosen profession and to prepare for the opportunities of serving in a global environment.~~ creates transformative experiences that foster personal and professional growth for lifelong learning through student-centered teaching, innovative research, and selfless service.

**EXISTING MISSION STATEMENT**

**INSTITUTION**: Texas A&M University-Texarkana

As a member of The Texas A&M University System, Texas A&M University-Texarkana is a comprehensive regional University that provides students with academically challenging, engaging, and rewarding educational experiences through quality teaching, scholarship, student support services, co-curricular programming, research, and service. Through the personal attention of our faculty and staff, students are afforded the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, abilities, and skills to become leaders in their chosen profession and to prepare for the opportunities of serving in a global environment.

Agenda Item No. 6.40

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** Ross Alexander, Ph.D., President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

**Subject:** Approval of a New Master of Public Administration Degree Program with a Major in Public Administration and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

**Proposed Board Action:**

Approve the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) leading to a Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) with a major in Public Administration, authorize the submission of this degree program to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for approval, and certify that all applicable THECB criteria have been met

**Background Information:**

A&M-Texarkana is seeking approval to offer an M.P.A. degree program. The M.P.A. will prepare graduates to serve as managers in local, state, county, interstate, and federal governments as well as nonprofit organizations and management.

Individuals from diverse academic backgrounds who earn an M.P.A. degree will have the opportunity for meaningful careers that contribute to the public good.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

Institutional funds will be used to support the M.P.A. Two existing faculty members will serve as the program's core faculty. One additional faculty member will be hired in year one of operation. The new costs for the first five years are estimated at $572,000.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) This Item Advances:**

The proposed M.P.A. aligns with The Texas A&M University System strategic plan imperative 3 by preparing students for long-term careers in a fast-growing field.

Agenda Item No. 6.40

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA**
Office of the President
November 12, 2024

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval of a New Master of Public Administration Degree Program with a Major in Public Administration and Authorization to Request Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System approves the establishment of a new degree program at Texas A&M University-Texarkana leading to a Master of Public Administration degree with a major in Public Administration.**
>
> **The Board also authorizes submission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's new degree program request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval and hereby certifies that all applicable criteria of the Coordinating Board have been met."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ross Alexander, Ph.D.
President

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

**Texas A&M University-Texarkana**

Master of Public Administration
with a major in Public Administration
(CIP 44.0401.00)

**Program Review Outline**

## BACKGROUND & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administrative Unit: College of Arts, Sciences, and Education in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The proposed Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree with a major in Public Administration at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) will attract current students, alumni and new students. Individuals seeking to earn an M.P.A. are generally interested in pursuing meaningful careers that contribute to the public good. The proposed M.P.A. program will attract students from a variety of academic backgrounds spanning several undergraduate disciplines. Many currently employed managers in local governments, state governments and nonprofit organizations who seek to advance their careers would be attracted to the program. The proposed M.P.A. would provide a local option that students could pursue while continuing their employment. The proposed program would be offered fully and 100% online and require students to complete 30-semester credit hours (SCH) of coursework.

Educational objectives for graduates include:

- Preparedness to serve as managers in local, state, county, interstate, and federal governments as well as nonprofit organizations from the local to international levels.
- The ability to understand systematic studies of executive organization and management.
- Identifying and understanding the roles, developments and principles of public administration.

The curriculum for the M.P.A. degree program includes 6 SCH of required coursework, a 12 SCH sequence of prescribed electives in Public Administration, and up to 12 SCH of approved electives in one of the following areas: Accounting, Social Work, Education Leadership, Communication, Management, History, English, Adult and Higher Education, or Nursing.

The proposed implementation date is fall 2027.

A&M-Texarkana certifies that the proposed new degree program meets the criteria under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.117 regarding need, quality, financial and faculty resources, standards, and costs. New costs during the first five years are estimated at $572,000.

I. NEED

## A. Employment Opportunities

State data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate a high and increasing demand for employees with training in public administration. National data provided by the BLS indicates a high and increasing demand for employees with training in public administration. The following selected public administration careers provide the respective salaries and projected growth of available positions. Average salaries are high and 10year growth trends are positive.

**Table 1:** Texas State Public Administration Related Careers: Jobs and Wages

| Occupation | Annual Mean Wage 2022 | Number of Jobs 2022 | Annual Mean Wage 2023 | Number of Jobs 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Facilities Managers | $108,410 | 8,700 | $109,510 (1% growth) | 10,120 (16% growth) |
| Human Resources Specialists | $67,840 | 75,660 | $70,200 (3% growth) | 81,110 (7% growth) |
| Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists | $69,720 | 49,790 | $75,350 (8% growth) | 52,200 (5% growth) |
| Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners | $50,520 | 10,220 | $52,090 (3% growth) | 10,400 (2% growth) |
| Project Management Specialists | $94,390 | 96,070 | $97,680 (3% growth) | 116,950 (22% growth) |
| Social and Community Service Managers | $75,250 | 9,610 | $77,560 (3% growth) | 9,870 (3% growth) |
| Urban Planners | $73,020 | 1,820 | $76,080 (4% growth) | 2,020 (11% growth) |

## B. Projected Enrollment

The projected enrollment for the proposed program includes full-time and part-time students. The program expects to increase enrollment gradually over the first five years, beginning with seven students in year one and increasing to 23 students in year five.

**Table 2:** Projected Enrollment

| Enrollment | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Full-Time** | | | | | |
| In-state | 5 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 18 |
| Out-of-state | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Out-of-country | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Part-Time** | | | | | |
| In-state | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Out-of-state | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Out-of-country | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total New Students** | **7** | **13** | **16** | **20** | **23** |

## C. Existing State Programs

There are currently 26 Texas public institutions that offer the M.P.A. degree program. However, only six are within a 200-mile radius of Texarkana. These are Stephen F. Austin State University, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at Tyler, University of North Texas in Denton, University of North Texas at Dallas, and University of Texas at

Arlington. Notably, the driving distance from Texarkana to each of these institutions is far: Stephen F. Austin is 151 miles, UT Dallas is 180 miles, UT Tyler is 121 miles, UNT is 212 miles, UNT Dallas is 186 miles, and UT Arlington is 220 miles. Only UT Tyler is within a 150-mile range (121 miles).

The Texarkana area has two cities, a council of governments, a large county, and many nonprofit organizations, and many regional residents would like to pursue an M.P.A., yet there is no local option for such an education. Few (less than 10) M.P.A. programs in Texas are offered fully online and most require students to complete a minimum of 36 SCH.

**Table 3:** Texas Public Administration Programs and 2022 Graduates

| Degree Title & Designation | University | CIP Code | Graduates 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public Administration | Lamar University | 44.0401.00 | 28 |
| Public Administration | Sam Houston State University | 44.0401.00 | 26 |
| Public Administration | Stephen F. Austin State University | 44.0401.00 | 8 |
| Public Administration | Sul Ross State University | 44.0401.00 | 7 |
| Public Administration | Tarleton State University | 44.0401.00 | 20 |
| Public Administration | Texas A&M International University | 44.0401.00 | 21 |
| Public Service and Administration | Texas A&M University | 44.0401.00 | 99 |
| Public Administration | Texas A&M University-Central Texas | 44.0401.00 | - |
| Public Administration | Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi | 44.0401.00 | 17 |
| Public Administration | Texas Southern University | 44.0401.00 | 33 |
| Public Administration | Texas State University | 44.0401.00 | 39 |
| Public Administration | Texas Tech University | 44.0401.00 | 22 |
| Public Administration | The University of Texas at Arlington | 44.0401.00 | 104 |
| Public Leadership | The University of Texas at Austin | 44.0401.00 | - |
| Public Affairs | The University of Texas at Dallas | 44.0401.00 | 34 |
| Public Administration | The University of Texas at El Paso | 44.0401.00 | 14 |
| Public Administration | The University of Texas at San Antonio | 44.0401.00 | 38 |
| Public Administration | The University of Texas at Tyler | 44.0401.00 | 8 |
| Public Administration | The University of Texas Permian Basin | 44.0401.00 | 32 |
| Public Affairs | The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | 44.0401.00 | 86 |
| Public Administration | University of Houston | 44.0401.00 | 6 |
| Public Administration | University of North Texas | 44.0401.00 | 60 |
| Public Leadership and Administration | University of North Texas at Dallas | 44.0401.00 | 15 |
| Public Administration | West Texas A&M University | 44.0401.00 | - |

II. QUALITY & RESOURCES

**A. Faculty**

The proposed program will begin with two existing core faculty members and the institution commits to hiring one additional faculty member in year one of this degree program.

**B. Program Administration**

The proposed M.P.A. program will not incur new administration costs.

**C. Other Personnel**

No additional personnel are required to begin the program.

**D. Supplies, Materials**

The proposed program will not require additional supplies and materials.

**E. Library**

The proposed program does not require additional library resources.

**F. Equipment, Facilities**

The proposed program will not require additional equipment and facilities.

**G. Accreditation Page**

Program accreditation for this degree program will not be sought.

**III. NEW 5-YEAR COSTS & FUNDING SOURCES**

| **NEW FIVE-YEAR COSTS** | | | **SOURCES OF FUNDING** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Faculty | $572,000 | | Formula Income | $413,136 |
| Program Administration | | | Statutory Tuition | |
| Graduate Assistants | | | Reallocation | |
| Supplies & Materials | | | Designated Tuition | |
| Library & IT Resources | | | Other Funding: | |
| Equipment, Facilities | | | Tuition | $270,758 |
| Other | | | Fees | $91,544 |
| **Estimated 5-Year Costs** | $572,000 | | **Estimated 5-Year Funding** | $775,438 |

Agenda Item No. 6.45

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** Al Davis, Director
Texas A&M Forest Service

**Subject:** Authorization to Execute FY 2025 Federal Non-research Grant Agreements, and any Amendments, Modifications or Extensions

**Proposed Board Action:**

Authorize the Texas A&M Forest Service director or designee to execute a federal, non-research grant agreement, with a value in excess of $500,000. These grants are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service.

| Program Name | Estimated FY 2025 Award Amount |
|---|---|
| FY2025 Inflation Reduction Act Grants | 37,890,000 |
| | |

**Background Information:**

All three of these Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Grants are new grants and are expected to be one-time awards.

**Inflation Reduction Grants**

The first two IRA grants will provide financial compensation to private forest landowners for the implementation of practices that provide measurable increases in carbon sequestration and storage, as directed by the IRA and the other one will provide cost-share payments to landowners for climate mitigation and/or forest resilience practices. The purpose of this competitive funding is to support the development and implementation of state programs for underserved landowners. These programs should provide technical assistance for underserved landowners to help them steward their land to yield a variety of benefits, including but not limited to carbon storage and sequestration, climate mitigation and forest resilience. Programs will educate landowners about climate, informed forestry techniques and practices. A desired outcome is to connect underserved landowners to an array of incentives, programs and markets – including assisting landowners in understanding and navigating opportunities in carbon or other emerging markets. The amount of these grants are $5,000,000 and $4,000,000 respectively.

There is also an IRA award for the Forest Legacy Acquisition Program which would be funded for a $28,890,000 Conservation Easement on almost 40,000 acres through the Forest Legacy Program. The selection process is competitive and merit-based. The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is for the Texas A&M Forest Service to identify and conserve environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses that prohibit development.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

Texas A&M Forest Service would receive an estimated $37,890,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service to fund the programs described above.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances:**

Approval of this agenda item will advance The Texas A&M University System (A&M System) Strategic Imperative 5, "The A&M System will provide services that respond to the needs of the people of Texas and contribute to the strength of the state's economy." Grant funding supports the Texas A&M Forest Service's mission to provide statewide leadership and technical assistance to ensure trees, forests and related natural resources are sustained for the benefit of all and to protect against wildland fires.

Agenda Item No. 6.45

**TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE**
Office of the Director
February 5, 2025

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorization to Execute FY 2025 Federal Non-research Grant Agreements, and any Amendments, Modifications or Extensions

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

> **"The director of the Texas A&M Forest Service, or designee, is authorized to execute, following review for legal sufficiency by the Office of General Counsel, grant agreements, amendments, modifications or extensions with the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service for the Fiscal Year 2025 Inflation Reduction Act Grants."**

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Al Davis
Director
Texas A&M Forest Service

**Approval Recommended:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
John Sharp
Chancellor

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Billy Hamilton
Deputy Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Phillip Ray
Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Jeffrey W. Savell
Vice Chancellor and Dean
Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]
Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

***Certified by the general counsel or other appropriate attorney as confidential or information that may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with Section 551.1281 and Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.**