Faculty-Staff Meeting
May 4, 2016

[Enter to Slide Show of Spring Events, Music Playing]

WELCOME

[SLIDE 1: OPENING]

Good morning!

It’s hard to believe that we are about to close another academic year, but commencement is next week! I understand we expect to have 1,000 more graduates on May 14.

This morning, I’d like to look back on some of our accomplishments from the past year, share some data about our progress, give you a sneak peek at our proposed legislative agenda and recognize transitions among our employees.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[SLIDE 2: ACCOMPLISHMENTS]

Our first Momentum 20/20 goal is about growing our enrollment.

[SLIDE 3: ENROLLMENT GROWTH]

I’m pleased to say that our enrollment continues to increase at a steady pace. Margaret Dechant promises me we will cross the 12,000 threshold this coming fall. In blue, you see our actual enrollments through last fall. The green shows projections of what would be required to reach an enrollment of 15,000 students by 2020.

[SLIDE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS]

Although we frequently are referred to as a regional institution, our students come from 191 of the 254 counties in Texas and there is heavy representation from the major population centers in Texas. We also have some students from out of state and about a five percent enrollment of international students.

[SLIDE 5: DIVERSITY OF STUDENTS]

We’re also one of the most diverse institutions in Texas. In fact, last fall we qualified under some federal programs as a minority serving institution, in addition to being a Hispanic Serving Institution.

[SLIDE 6: PERSISTENCE]

We have started to turn around the decline in our same institution persistence rate of first-time, full-time freshmen, which you see in the blue bars. The orange bars include students who, although they didn’t persist with us, did attend another institution after their first year here.
There is still ample work to be done in this area, and it’s something that all of us, no matter our position, can affect. Simply making a student feel welcome, being encouraging, going the extra mile to help them navigate our systems – everyone can make a difference.

Provost Quintanilla has been examining the issue and one thing she discovered is that while we had many good student success programs, they were not implemented across all units. The new department of undergraduate studies will bring coherence to our efforts and ensure that the core curriculum prepares students for their majors. A search is underway for a chair.

[SLIDE 7: DEVELOPMENTAL ED]
Last fall, we saw a sharp rise in students taking developmental education courses. We’re not entirely certain why, but it does seem to be occurring in most institutions across the state and seems to be related to new testing requirements. We’re investigating this because of the potential impact on our retention and graduation rates, so that we can develop appropriate responses if this trend continues.

[SLIDE 8: HIGH QUALITY STUDENTS]
At the same time that we saw this increase in students taking developmental courses, we also are purposefully admitting and enrolling more high achieving students. High achieving students have increased from 16.6 percent of those enrolling in fall 2008 to 23 percent of those enrolling in fall 2015. Overall, that’s a 38.6 percent increase.

[SLIDE 9: GROWING RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY]
Another major Momentum 20/20 goal is to become an emerging research institution.

[SLIDE 10: EMERGING RESEARCH ANCHORS]
Two areas of research anchor this endeavor – marine-related research and autonomous vehicle research – including unmanned aircraft systems as well as underwater and land-based autonomous systems. There are possibilities for involvement in these two areas from virtually every college.

Additionally, we still have a focus on what it means to be on the cultural border of Latin America. The work being done in the colonias by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is a good example.

Another is our leadership of the planning effort, supported by the NSF-funded Research Coordination Network and the Harte Research Institute, for a U.S.-Mexico workshop addressing sustainability in the Gulf of Mexico.

The workshop has generated interest and participation from the National Academy of Sciences Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability, as well as prominent Mexican scientists and government leaders.

And as noted in the title to this section, our goal involves intentional focus on increasing all types of research, scholarly and creative activity – not just sponsored or funded research. In the
following several slides I’d like to share some highlights from the colleges from the past year. I know how dangerous this is – but if your accomplishment is not shown here – it’s not because it wasn’t thought to be important!

[SLIDE 11: RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS, COB & CEHD]
In the College of Business Dr. Patrick Crowley and Dr. David Hudgins published articles in top-tier economics journals.

In the College of Education and Human Development, Drs. Chase Young, Dan Pearce, Bethanie Pletcher and Kathleen Fleming conducted a reading intervention program in a local elementary school that had good results and is expected to lead to a publication and continued work with CCISD.

Also, Faye Bruun conducted a mathematics intervention at the Garcia Center aimed at parents helping their students. Results are being studied.

[SLIDE 12: RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS, COLA & SAMC]
In the College of Liberal Arts and its School of Arts, Media and Communication we have:

- Dr. Sandrine Sanos receiving a National Endowment for the Humanities award to do research in French archives this summer,
- Dr. Anthony Quiroz publishing a new book on Mexican American leaders, and
- Dr. Ethan Thompson receiving a George Foster Peabody research and teaching fellowship.

[SLIDE 13: RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHENTS, CONHS & COSE]
Looking at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Dr. Linda Gibson-Young received the Researcher of the Year Award from the National Association of Nurse Practitioners and was elected to the Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

The college is also involved in three different research programs with community partners.

In the College of Science and Engineering, Dr. Toshiaki Shinoda received the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory Annual Research Publication Award and Dr. Lei Jin was selected to participate in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Summer Faculty Research Program.

[SLIDE 14: HRI]
Turning to research achievements by our centers and institutes, the Harte Research Institute was named a RESTORE Act Center of Excellence and will receive up to one million dollars annually for the next 17 years for research related to the restoration and protection of the Gulf of Mexico after the DeepWater Horizon spill.

Dr. Rich McLauglin was appointed by the National Academy of Sciences to serve on its Committee on Environmental Sciences and Assessment for Ocean Energy Management.

And Dr. Greg Stunz, in addition to being featured on Shark Week, teamed with another organization to build the most extensive shark-tagging program in the Gulf of Mexico.
[SLIDE 15: RESEARCH: BLUCHER AND CCS]
The Blucher Institute continues to provide a vast array of geospatial data and research, especially related to the coast. A couple of highlights include:
- the release of the Weather of Wheels app, which allows the user to check the weather while traveling, and
- the selection of Dr. Gary Jeffress for the board of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System.

In the Center for Coastal Studies, Dr. Paul Zimba published a peer-reviewed article on aquaculture raised channel catfish. Also, Erin Hill and Brian Nicolau published a peer-reviewed article on the effects of the Rincon Bay pipeline of the Lower Nueces Delta.

[SLIDE 16: LSUASC ACCOMPLISHMENTS]
The Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft System Center, under the leadership of Jerry Hendrix, has had a very busy year. A few of their accomplishments include:
- Holding the inaugural Texas UAS Summit
- Participating in the NASA test of its traffic management system with 24 drones flying at multiple sites
- Conducting a survey of seagrass scarring by propellers, and
- Establishing the national UAS credentialing program with the Texas Engineering Extension Service,

[SLIDE 17: Research Development and Commercialization]
The bookends of a successful research university are a strong research development program at the front end and a technology commercialization program on the back end that helps faculty and research staff commercialize the intellectual property they create.

The faculty research development program is about to complete its second year. I am pleased to report increased participation and success in grant submission among all colleges, centers and institutes.

With the support of the research development staff, there is a renewed focus on student support grants, especially those with experiential learning components. In the past year, we have seen $10 million in grants awarded in this area and submissions for another $8 million.

On the commercialization front, all five colleges had representatives at a commercialization workshop. We have already submitted four disclosures of intellectual property and another four are in the works. That doubles last year’s numbers.

And finally, Dr. Rick Smith and his SITU-Map, which has generated great interest in the emergency management and mitigation industry, has resulted in our first spin-off company to market the technology.
Research expenditures are an important measure for the emerging research institution goal, and I’m pleased to share that ours have been growing steadily, with a 43 percent increase since FY 2011.

Adding the right programs to attract and support students as well as research is another Momentum 20/20 focus.

This past year, we launched bachelor’s degrees in electrical engineering and graphic design.

At the recent Board of Regents meeting, we received approval for the master’s in chemistry, which will now go the Coordinating Board.

We have two existing master’s degrees, reading and kinesiology, which are at the System for approval as online programs.

Bachelor’s degrees in civil and industrial engineering are ready to send to the System, hopefully to be included on the agenda for the next Board of Regents meeting.

I should also mention that this coming fall, we will launch the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, which was previously approved.

Growing enrollment and programs mean we need facilities to support them. This has been a challenge, with the state’s reluctance to fund tuition revenue bonds. We have made do by adding several modular buildings, but we were successful in getting approval during the last session for the first phase of a life sciences research and engineering building.

We expect construction to begin this fall and to last for about two years.

In this aerial, you can see where this building will be placed. And yes … it means we will lose parking spaces when construction starts. Terry Tatum is working on options to help with the situation, including encouraging more people to park for a reduced rate on the Momentum Campus and ride the shuttle. Hammerhead Parking lot also still has capacity.

Another issue being worked out is a place for buses coming to the Early Childhood Development Center to load and unload.

So, I ask that everyone be patient when we return in the fall, especially in the first couple of weeks of class, when our parking lots will be at their fullest.

In this slide, you see renderings of the building looking toward the ECDC at the top and toward HRI on the bottom. The main entrance will be on the side closest to the ECDC.
Here you see renderings of the entrance close up and from further away.

We are also working on the next phase of housing for the Momentum Campus. Since we expect to be at capacity this fall, the additional beds are certainly needed. The plan is for them to be ready for occupancy in fall 2017.

**LEGISLATURE**

Turning now to legislative matters, I’d like to say that Austin is in our rearview mirror.

Unfortunately, we are already beginning preparations for the next legislative session, which begins in January 2017. We have had meetings with System officials and with legislators to test the waters on priorities. We expect to finalize them in late summer.

Although the outlook for additional funding is not good because of the drop in oil prices … we will still have our priorities established in case funding should become available. As the old saw goes, “If you don’t ask, you won’t get it.”

We have two special items on our list. The first is [CLICK] $9.5 million for the unmanned aircraft system effort. The second is [CLICK] $2 million in start-up funding for civil and industrial engineering.

In terms of capital funding, our first priority is [CLICK] $65 million for an arts and media building, which would include display and recognition space for Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

Our second priority is [CLICK] $65 million for phase two of the life sciences research and engineering building. Although we did receive funding for this last session, we got half of what we requested.

And finally, [CLICK] our third priority will be $70 million for a Learning Resource Center.

And of course, maintaining our state appropriations will be our highest priority.

As you all know, the last Legislature mandated that campuses permit concealed carry of handguns by those with permits. The regents did not make any changes to our proposed rule during their recent meeting. This chart, which can be found on the System website, shows the categories in which we requested restrictions, as permissible under the law.
I appreciate the input from everyone that helped us develop our rule, within the limitations of the law.

**[SLIDE 28: CAMPUS CARRY WEBSITES]**
Here are the System website, where you can find the chart we just saw, as well as our website, where our rule and information is now posted. This presentation will be posted online by tomorrow, so you find the web address that way if you didn’t write it down or don’t remember it.

**PEOPLE**

I’d like now to turn to various transitions among our employees.

**[SLIDE 29: COLA DEAN]**
First, congratulations to Dr. Mark Hartlaub, who will become our new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, as soon as the regents act on the appointment. Mark has been serving as interim in the role for a year and was selected after a national search. Mark, would you please stand so we can congratulate you? **[LEAD APPLAUSE]**

**[SLIDE 30: WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES]**
We have had several new employees join us since we met in January and we will introduce them through a video.

**[START VIDEO]**

If you are a new employee this spring, would you please stand so we can welcome you to the Islander family? **[LEAD APPLAUSE]**

**[SLIDE 31: RETIREES]**
We also have some individuals who have decided it’s time to move to the next chapter in their lives and retire. You see here those who have retired this spring or will be retiring by the end of summer.

We want to honor their service, wish them well and also say that we hope to see them back at the annual retiree reception and luncheon, at Islander games and hope that they stay in touch and involved with us. Let’s please ask any of those retiring who are present to please stand and let us recognize you. **[LEAD APPLAUSE]**

**EMERITUS**

**[SLIDE 32: EMERITUS]**
It is also our honor to recognize today four faculty members granted emeritus status by the Board of Regents this year. Emeritus status is conferred on faculty or staff members who have made significant contributions to the System through long and distinguished service in administration, teaching, research and/or service.
Our emeritus appointments include Dr. Jack Cassidy and Dr. Tim Wells from the College of Education and Human Development and Dr. Pat Carroll and Dr. Catherine Cox from the College of Liberal Arts.

Only Dr. Carroll was able to be with us today, and I would like to ask him to come forward and receive his framed certificate from the Board of Regents.

[GIVE FRAMED CERTIFICATE TO PAT, PAUSE FOR PHOTOS. PAT DEPARTS STAGE.]

Let’s give these outstanding colleagues who have given so much to the university another round of applause. [LEAD APPLAUSE]

[SLIDE 33: ENJOY SUMMER]

That concludes today’s meeting. Have a great summer!

[MUSIC TO EXIT]