ACADEMIC PROGRAM WORKING GROUPS:
CHARGE AND GUIDELINES

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this unprecedented opportunity to help create and design a new emerging research university that is innovative, in tune with the fast developments of the 21st century, and, most importantly, in tune with the needs and well-being of the people of the Rio Grande Valley. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to envision the academic programs for our new university, an emerging research institution of "the first class." This is an opportunity to dream of new academic programs that are innovative, creative, and best serve the needs of our students and our community, especially programs that are trans-disciplinary and reflect the bicultural and bilingual principles of the new university; please visit www.projectsouthtexas.com.

To facilitate this work, faculty have been placed in the following academic program working groups[1].

Academic Program Working Groups	
1. Creative and Performing Arts	Art, Music, Dance, Creative Writing English, Creative Writing Spanish, Theater, TV, Film, Radio
2. Liberal Arts/ Humanities	English (literature, rhetoric, linguistics), History, Philosophy, Modern Languages & Literature, Medical Humanities
3. Community & Public Service	Communication, Criminal Justice, Law & Justice Studies, Public Administration, Public Policy & Management, Hospitality & Tourism, Global Security Studies, Planning, Public Service, Social Work, Rehabilitation Counseling
4. Social Sciences	Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, Government
5. Sciences & Math	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Environmental Science
6. Biomedical Science	Clinical Lab Science, Biochemistry, Biomedicine, Pre-Med, A-Prime Time
7. Health Professions	Communication Disorders, Dietetics, Exercise Science, Health and Human Performance, Health Services Technology, Kinesiology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies, Pharmacy, Public Health
8. Nursing	Nursing
9. Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology	Electrical, Mechanical, Computer, Manufacturing, and Civil Engineering; Engineering Physics, Computer Science, Computational Studies, Computer Information Systems Technology, Engineering Technology

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[1] The list of academic program working groups is not exhaustive or mutually exclusive. Additional changes (e.g., addition, elimination or reconfiguration of groups) will occur as the development and implementation process progresses.

10. Business	Accounting, Business Law, Marketing, Computer/Management Information Systems, Quantitative Methods, Management, Economics, Finance, International Business, Entrepreneurship
11. Education	Teacher Preparation, Bilingual Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Counseling, Early Childhood Education, Educational Leadership, Educational Psychology/School Counseling, Educational Technology, Special Education/Educational Diagnostician
12. Bicultural Studies: Bicultural, Biliterate, & Bilingual Programs (focusing on Global Engagement - "Gateway to the Americas"	<u>Offices and Centers</u>: Center for Bilingual Studies, Center for Mexican American Studies, Office of International Programs, Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools (CHAPS) <u>Academic Programs</u>: Mexican-American Studies, Modern Languages & Literature (e.g., Spanish and Medical Spanish), Bilingual Studies, MA-English as a Second Language, Spanish Translation and Interpretation
13. Trans-disciplinary Programs	Gender Studies, Disaster Studies, Trans-border Studies, Environmental Studies, Developmental Education, Multidisciplinary Studies, Pan American Collaboration for Ethics (PACE)

Working Group Charge

- Each discipline-based working group is charged with recommending a possible academic structure and programming to be offered by your collective disciplines within the new university. The Guiding Principles approved by the Board of Regents is the compass directing the planning and design of curriculum and degree programs. Please see the handout on the Guiding Principles.

- Working group recommendations should include the following:

    o A description of the academic structure you are recommending for your group of disciplines (i.e., Colleges, Schools, Centers, and/or Departments).
    o A list of the academic degrees to be offered within this structure (undergraduate and graduate).
    o A description of how the recommendations reflect the bicultural/bilingual/ biliterate mission of the new university and our region.

- The Bicultural Studies working group is specifically charged with considering how the overarching goals of the new university can best be accomplished through academic structures, programming, etc. They are encouraged to particularly develop global perspectives with an emphasis on the Caribbean and Latin America.

- The final written report from the working group should include a two-page executive summary as well as a longer report more fully detailing the recommendations of the group.

Timeline

- December 1, 2013: Preliminary recommendations for the Bicultural Studies group are due so other groups can use their work as they consider their overarching goals.
- December 1, 2013: Preliminary recommendations for trans-disciplinary opportunities are due so that collaborations between affected working groups can be arranged.
- January 31, 2014: All academic program working group recommendations due.
- February – March 2014: Recommendations compiled and reviewed by the Transition Team.
- April 2014: Summit with UT System to present recommendations.
- April 2014 – August 2014: Consultations with leaders, scholars, and campuses based on outcomes of Summit to finalize and implement the approved recommendations.

Working Group Guidelines

- A key goal of these working groups is to propose academic programs that directly address, and have as a strong foundation, the Guiding Principles of the new university; trans-disciplinary programs are also critical to the success of the new university.
- It is important to regularly consult with your respective departments and colleges regarding the deliberations of the working groups and provide feedback to the working groups based on these external discussions.
- Bear in mind that members are representing their discipline at the new university, not their UTPA/UTB department or college.
- Do not limit your discussions to currently existing programs or academic structures. Consider what would be the best combination of innovative programs for the new university without restricting your discussions to programs that UTB and UTPA currently offer or their existing academic structures.
- Keep minutes of your meetings and regularly post them to the SharePoint site for your group.
- Select two co-chairs (one from UTB and one from UTPA) who will coordinate group meetings, ensure the guidelines and timeline are followed, and provide the leadership to ensure the success of the working groups.
- Identify one of the co-chairs to be responsible for communicating with the liaison for the group.
- Be sensitive to the time and travel involved for face-to-face meetings. Use technological tools to facilitate the group work when possible.
- Identify leaders, institutions, and/or programs across the country that are already organized in a particularly innovative or effective manner.
- Identify campuses your team may wish to study or visit.
- Identify leaders/scholars your team may wish to consult.
- Keep in mind that the new university is designed to provide a world class education as a Hispanic Serving Institution. Include issues of culture and bilingualism in your discussions.
- Identify trans-disciplinary opportunities that extend beyond your group of disciplines (this is due December 1, 2013). Keep in mind that technology will be used to facilitate

student access to program courses and minimize student travel since the new university will potentially have multiple major instructional sites.

- Your attendance at the working group meetings is very important. However, if you are unable to attend, please do not send a representative in your place. We want to avoid, as best as possible, having different individuals attending the working group meetings as this impacts the continuity and the dynamics of these groups. However, the co-chairs will ensure that detailed notes for each meeting are shared with all working group participants. Also, if a working group participant is not able to attend, they can send suggestions and other materials to the group through the co-chairs and the SharePoint site dedicated to the working group.

The Role of the Liaison

- Each working group has been assigned a liaison from Academic Affairs at UTPA or UTB. The role of the liaison is to support the work of the group by allowing members to focus on their charge rather than on administrative issues that are not central to their task.
- The liaison will:

    o Provide regular updates on the work of the group to the Transition Team and to the UTB and UTPA campuses.
    o Provide updates on transition issues to the working group.
    o Facilitate staff assistance as needed with the mechanics of meetings (e.g., scheduling rooms, trouble-shooting SharePoint issues, etc.).
    o Provide any clarification to group members on their charge and serve as a point of contact for questions as they arise in the group.
    o Assist co-chairs in ensuring that the working group guidelines and timeline are followed.