



## TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Committee Meeting: 2/19/2025**

**Board Meeting: 2/20/2025**  
Austin, Texas

*Christina Melton Crain, Chairman*  
*Robert P. Gauntt*  
*Jodie Lee Jiles*  
*Janiece Longoria*  
*Nolan Perez*  
*Stuart W. Stedman*

	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Convene</b>	<i>4:00 p.m.</i> <i>Chairman Crain</i>		
1. <b>U.T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>202</b>
2. <b>U.T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding allocation of \$10 million from the Available University Fund (AUF), contingent upon receiving legislative appropriations, to support the University of Texas Research, Engineering, and Application Laboratory for Healthcare Artificial Intelligence (UT-REAL-Health-AI) initiative; and a finding that the expenditure of AUF for this purpose is appropriate</b>	<b>Action</b> <i>Dr. Zerwas</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>203</b>
3. <b>U.T. Health Science Center - Houston: Approval to establish an International Dental Education Program for the School of Dentistry and appropriate action regarding proposed tuition and fee rates</b>	<b>Action</b> <i>President Colasurdo</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<i>4:30 p.m.</i>		

1. **U.T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration**

RECOMMENDATION

The Board will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda beginning on [Page 222](#).

**2. U.T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding allocation of \$10 million from the Available University Fund (AUF), contingent upon receiving legislative appropriations, to support the University of Texas Research, Engineering, and Application Laboratory for Healthcare Artificial Intelligence (UT-REAL-Health-AI) initiative; and a finding that the expenditure of AUF for this purpose is appropriate**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor concurs with the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs that the U.T. System Board of Regents

- a. authorize allocation of \$10 million from the Available University Fund (AUF), contingent upon receiving legislative appropriations for this purpose, to support the University of Texas Research, Engineering, and Application Laboratory for Healthcare Artificial Intelligence (UT-REAL-Health-AI) initiative, a new Systemwide collaboration to facilitate building an artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure; and
- b. find that the expenditure of AUF for this purpose is appropriate in furtherance of U.T. System Administration's responsibility to coordinate the activities of the U.T. System institutions in furtherance of its core mission to improve the lives of Texans and the world through education, healthcare, and research, and with the intent that the expenditure will benefit a broad number of the institutions.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

U.T. System seeks to establish the UT-REAL-Health-AI through this initiative. The proposed collaboration will coordinate and facilitate building AI infrastructure benefiting all health-related institutions and focusing on healthcare-related data integration and evaluation of AI applications—to ensure the U.T. System remains a leader in this emerging field and that all Texans benefit from advancements in AI.

UT-REAL-Health-AI is an extension of the efforts of the U.T. Health Intelligence Platform (UT-HIP) which is a system-wide program run collaboratively by the U.T. System health institutions. The initial funding for UT-HIP was provided by the U.T. System Board of Regents on May 12, 2016, through an initiative known as the Clinical Data Network. Working across the System, drawing on the expertise of U.T. System leaders in healthcare, research, business, and information technology, the UT-HIP program is designed to integrate data and technology to improve patients' experience of care, improve the health of the populations served by U.T. institutions, and reduce the overall cost of health care across the System. UT-REAL-Health-AI will utilize the data resident within UT-HIP in its activities.

Funding for the UT-REAL-Health-AI initiative is expected to support the following:

- developing a core AI platform, including a statewide AI model inventory, a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant generative AI testing platform, and laboratories for secure data sharing and model evaluation;

- acquiring cloud services, computing resources, and physical collaborative workspaces necessary to support U.T. System health-related efforts; and
- hiring key personnel such as software developers, clinicians, AI specialists, and project managers who will design, implement, and maintain the AI platform.

Funding allocated for this initiative is anticipated to be used over Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026. U.T. System Administration expects to contract with several U.T. institutions to develop and launch elements of the UT-REAL-Health-AI initiative with annual evaluations by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs to ensure overall success in attaining a systemwide collaboration.

In the event sufficient funding is not received through legislative appropriations to enable successful building and implementation of the AI infrastructure, the UT-REAL-Health-AI initiative will not proceed. Advance notice of this potential initiative was provided to the Legislative Budget Board as required by Rider 7, Page III-78 of the current General Appropriations Act.

**3. U.T. Health Science Center - Houston: Approval to establish an International Dental Education Program for the School of Dentistry and appropriate action regarding proposed tuition and fee rates**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, and the institutional president that authorization, pursuant to Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 40307, related to academic program approval standards, be granted to:

- a. establish an International Dental Education Program (IDEP) for the School of Dentistry at U.T. Health Science Center - Houston; and
- b. establish new Resident Tuition and Non-Resident Tuition for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029, as set forth on the following page.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Program Description

U.T. Health Science Center - Houston School of Dentistry (UTSD) currently offers a four-year Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). UTSD proposes a two-year pathway to the D.D.S. degree for dentists who have been training internationally. Internationally-trained dentists are not eligible for dental licensure in most states unless they have obtained either a D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree from a dental school accredited by CODA, which generally takes four years, or have completed a CODA-accredited residency program of at least two years in length. This two-year international dental education program (IDEP) pathway is designed to allow a shortened timeframe for internationally-trained dentists, who have substantial clinical competence and experience, to obtain their D.D.S. degree in two years.

The proposed IDEP program will be compliant with the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education and approved by CODA. Upon successful completion of the third- and fourth-year curricula, clinical competencies and all other requirements for graduation, IDEP students are awarded the D.D.S. degree.

Need and Student Demand

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, the dentist-to-population ratio in Texas continues to be one of the lowest in the nation. Oral health issues are prevalent throughout Texas due to affordability, lack of dental insurance, and limited access to oral health care. Recent data from the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute demonstrate that 86% of UTSD graduates actively practicing are practicing in the state of Texas, with 10% practicing in rural locations and 90% in urban locations.

This new IDEP will increase UTSD's capacity to positively influence the oral and overall health of residents of the Greater Houston area and the State of Texas. Each year, UTSD's clinics serve approximately 20,000 new patients. Many of these patients do not have access to appropriate dental or medical care and, therefore, suffer from undiagnosed or poorly controlled conditions, such as chronic dental disease, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. To keep fulfilling the School's vision of "Improving Oral Health ... Improving Overall Health", UTSD seeks to break this cycle by graduating more licensed dentists to serve in Texas communities.

Currently, there are four dental schools in the state of Texas: U.T. Health Science Center - Houston School of Dentistry, Texas A&M University School of Dentistry, U.T. Health Science Center - San Antonio School of Dentistry, and Texas Tech University Woody L. Hunt School of Dentistry. In the 2022-23 academic year, the total number of graduates was 320 from these schools of dentistry.

Of the four, U.T. Health Science Center - San Antonio offers the only two-year IDEP (which was approved by the Board of Regents on August 10, 2006). The student demand for IDEP programs is high. In the 2023-24 academic year, 47 dental schools across the United States offered these programs. According to CODA, the number of students admitted in these programs ranged from 1 to 100, with 852 international dental school graduates admitted into either the second or third year of the respective programs. Additionally, data from the American Dental Education Association, the dental school application services for IDEP programs, shows an increase of applications for IDEP programs from 2,653 to 3,180 from the 2022-2023 admission cycle to the 2023-2024 admission cycle.

### Program Quality

Initial enrollment in the new IDEP is anticipated to be five students, increasing to 10 students in the second year.

Prior to being enrolled into the IDEP, applicants will participate in the Pre-Admission Professional Development Program (Pre-Admission Program), an accelerated ten-week comprehensive calibration and preparation program. This Pre-Admission Program is designed to prepare the IDEP students for matriculation into the current third-year dental school class. Upon completion of the Pre-Admission Program, the IDEP students matriculate into the third-year class and are required to complete all didactic, preclinical and clinical requirements of the third- and fourth- year curricula.

Of the 238 faculty members employed by UTSD, 123 are full-time and 115 part-time faculty members. Faculty/student ratios at UTSD are maintained to meet the stated goals and objectives of the courses in which students participate. The typical faculty/student ratio in any lecture course is one faculty member to 105 students.

The predoctoral clinical teaching model and clinics currently operate with five vertically-integrated Group Practices, providing comprehensive care in a general practice model with support by discipline-specific clinics. The Group Practices oversee comprehensive patient care to ensure consistency and continuity while also allowing for close monitoring of the students' clinical progress. Approximately one-fifth (or 21 students) from each of the second-, third-, and fourth- year cohorts are assigned to each Group Practice, and each Group Practice has 22-28 surgical clinics available per clinic session.

For the first year of the proposed IDEP (which will be an increase of five students), UTSD will add one full-time faculty position, and for the following year (which will then increase to a total of 10 students) an additional full-time faculty position. In addition, UTSD will identify a current faculty member to fill the role as the IDEP Program Director.

Measures of student success, which are indicative of program quality, will be the same as for all UTSD students, which includes: written didactic examinations; daily clinical evaluations by attending faculty; pre-clinical and competency assessments; and outcomes of dental licensure examinations. Students enrolled in the IDEP will have the same access as all other students to the UTSD Office of Student & Academic Affairs and UTHealth Houston Student Services currently offered. In addition, they will have access to the IDEP Program Director who will be directly responsible for addressing student needs.

### Revenue and Expenses

The table below summarizes the five-year projection of revenues and expenses.

<b>Projected Enrollment</b>	<b>5-Year Total</b>
Number of Students Used for Formula Funding Calculation	10
Total Number of Students	10
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>5-Year Total</b>
<i>Faculty</i>	
Salaries	\$1,882,630
Benefits	\$527,140
<i>Staff and Administration</i>	
Administrative Staff Salaries	\$209,180
Staff Benefits	\$86,550
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,705,500</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>5-Year Total</b>
<i>From Student Enrollment</i>	
Formula Funding	\$668,686
Tuition and Fees	\$3,354,628
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,023,314</b>

### Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees for dental students include statutory tuition, designated tuition, mandatory fees, and additional fees required for dental education, including clinical skills fees, lab and testing fees, and educational software or electronic textbook fees. The proposed two-year tuition and fees place the UTSD IDEP 49% above a similar IDEP program at U.T. Health Science Center - San Antonio. A survey of eight – one private and seven public – schools offering IDEP, show the proposed tuition and fees only 3% higher than the average tuition and fees for those programs.

The following new proposed tuition rates for IDEP resident and non-resident students beginning fall 2025 through fall 2028 are as follows:

<b>RESIDENT TUITION</b>					
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<b>No enrollment 2024-25</b>	<b>Proposed 2025-26</b>	<b>Proposed 2026-27</b>	<b>Proposed 2027-28</b>	<b>Proposed 2028-29</b>
Statutory-54.051	--	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$5,400
Designated-54.0513	--	\$75,000	\$78,750	\$82,688	\$86,822
Differential-54.008	--	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$5,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	--	<b>\$85,800</b>	<b>\$89,550</b>	<b>\$93,488</b>	<b>\$97,622</b>

<b>NON-RESIDENT TUITION</b>					
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<b>No enrollment 2024-25</b>	<b>Proposed 2025-26</b>	<b>Proposed 2026-27</b>	<b>Proposed 2027-28</b>	<b>Proposed 2028-29</b>
Statutory-54.051	--	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200
Designated-54.0513	--	\$75,000	\$76,500	\$78,030	\$79,591
Differential-54.008	--	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	--	<b>\$107,400</b>	<b>\$108,900</b>	<b>\$110,430</b>	<b>\$111,991</b>

A public hearing opportunity regarding the proposed designated tuition will be provided before the full Board prior to consideration of this item during the Committee meeting.

Coordinating Board Criteria

The proposed pathway program meets all applicable Coordinating Board criteria.