



The University of Texas System
Nine Universities. Six Health Institutions. Unlimited Possibilities.

Office of Academic Affairs
601 Colorado Street, Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: 512-499-4233 Fax: 512-499-4240

March 15, 2007

The University of Texas at Arlington

The University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Brownsville

The University of Texas at Dallas

The University of Texas at El Paso

The University of Texas – Pan American

The University of Texas
of the Permian Basin

The University of Texas at San Antonio

The University of Texas at Tyler

The University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

The University of Texas
Medical Branch at Galveston

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio

The University of Texas
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

The University of Texas
Health Center at Tyler

www.utsystem.edu

Dr. Joseph Stafford
Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Research
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
P.O. Box 12788
Austin, TX 78711-2788

Dear Dr. Stafford:

I write in accordance with Title 19 Texas Administrative Code §4.31 to request approval to modify the core curriculum at the University of Texas at Austin. The modifications described herein have been approved by the Faculty Council, Provost, and President of UT Austin, and, subsequently, by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the University of Texas System.

The specific core curricular changes recommended are as follows:

1. Remove the upper-division Substantial Writing Component requirement from the core (currently designated as Area 011 – Additional Communication);
2. Add a “Freshman Signature Course” to the core as an Institutionally Designated Option (Area 090); and
3. Expand the list of courses satisfying the Additional Natural Science requirement (Area 031) to include certain science, technology, and engineering courses that address problems facing society today and in the future. (No action is requested on this item until submission of a revised list of courses that satisfy this component area.)

The changes outlined above follow a comprehensive University-wide core curricular review and are designed to further specific goals outlined in the attached Faculty Council motions.

UT Austin has not yet developed specific University-wide lists of courses that will satisfy the new and modified core component areas, but we seek your approval to begin the process of amending degree plans to implement

the new core, with the understanding that course lists will be developed and submitted for your approval as soon as possible.

Please see Appendix A of the attached *Final Version of the Amended Motion to Change Degree Requirements for all Undergraduate Students at UT Austin* (D 5155-5163) for a comparison of the current UT Austin core curriculum to that which has been proposed. Also attached is the *Natural Science Requirement of the Core Curriculum for all Undergraduate Students at UT Austin* motion (D 5189-5190), which will require no action by the Coordinating Board until course lists are developed to implement the recommended change.

We ask for your approval so that UT Austin may begin the process of implementing the new core in individual degree plans.

Sincerely,



Dr. Pedro Reyes
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning & Assessment

Enclosures (2)

cc: Mr. William C. Powers, President
Dr. Stephen Leslie, Executive Vice President & Provost
Dr. Paul Woodruff, Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Mr. Cale McDowell, Special Assistant to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Dr. Catherine Parsonneault, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board