



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 6, 2011

Jenifer Sarver
512-879-0992
Jenifer.Sarver@bm.com

Thorough Analysis by UT Austin Debunks So-Called “7 Solutions” *Coalition calls for regents, state leaders to repudiate flawed ideas*

AUSTIN—The Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education, formed to advance a thoughtful, transparent approach to higher education in Texas, issued the following statement in support of a newly-released report by The University of Texas at Austin, entitled “[Maintaining Excellence and Efficiency at The University of Texas at Austin.](#)”

“This careful and thoughtful analysis of available science and research exposes the serious flaws with misguided proposals that will undermine the quality of higher education in Texas. This analysis should settle this issue once and for all, ending any flirtation with implementing these misguided suggestions and we call on university regents and state leaders to repudiate these flawed ideas in the best interests of quality education and economic development in our state. We continue to support proven, effective improvements that our universities have been actively implementing, and continue to address.”

The report was issued in response to the so-called “seven solutions” offered by a privately-funded think tank that has been promoting its untested recommendations, largely based on for-profit models, as ways to improve higher education. The UT Austin report points out, however, that the university’s low tuition, limited public funding and robust demand would suggest that the university is a model for efficiency and excellence, and that the ongoing innovation that drives the campus has made it a national model.

In addition to issuing this report, UT Austin President Bill Powers announced the formation this week of a task force on graduation rates. Powers acknowledged the need to improve the university’s four-year graduation rates in his recent update to the [Commission of 125](#). In his message to faculty about the new task force, he noted that improving graduation rates “will save the state and Texas families millions of dollars annually, and enable the University to accommodate more of the outstanding students who want to attend UT.”

Demand for the university’s high quality, affordable education is demonstrated by the [32,000 applications](#) it received for the summer and fall 2011 semesters. Improving graduation rates will provide even more opportunities for Texas students to experience the world class education provided by UT Austin.

About the Coalition

The Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education was launched in the summer of 2011 by a group of concerned citizens who believe strongly in the power of higher education to transform lives, build our economy and shape Texas’ future. Formed in response to a growing concern over recommendations being floated that could have long-term damaging effects on our institutions of higher learning, the Coalition hopes to advance a thoughtful, constructive and transparent dialogue around higher education in Texas, seeking to improve the quality educational opportunities for all Texans.

***For more information on the Coalition and information on higher education in Texas, please visit:
www.TexasEducationExcellence.org***