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UT Austin Issues Plan to Increase Graduation Rates, Reduce College Costs

Recommendations aim to increase efficiency and maintain excellence at UT Austin

AUSTIN—The [Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education](#) today released the following statement in response to a [new report](#) issued by [UT Austin](#) entitled, “Raising Our Graduation Rates: Recommendations from the Task Force on Undergraduate Graduation Rates.” The report is a product of a Graduation Task Force organized by President Bill Powers last September and chaired by College of Liberal Arts Dean Randy L. Diehl with the goal of providing actionable recommendations to increase the four-year undergraduate graduation rates at UT Austin to 70 percent.

“UT Austin has the highest four-year graduation rates of any public university or college in Texas, but is not satisfied with the status quo. This new report is a proactive self-examination by The University to find ways to help undergraduates and their families lower the cost of college by reducing the number of years spent on campus.

“The thorough, deliberate and inclusive manner in which these recommendations were developed is consistent with the standard of excellence we expect from the state’s flagship institution. We applaud the proactive efforts of President Powers and Dean Diehl to increase efficiency, reduce costs and better prepare the next generation to meet the demands of the 21st century economy.

“The realistic and actionable recommendations that will be implemented as soon as next semester will bolster graduation rates and lower the overall cost of tuition at UT Austin, while preserving the quality education that students expect, and taxpayers demand. This plan will also provide tangible best practices for other higher education institutions to replicate.”

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***

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