

Faculty Senate Resolution on Merger between The University of Texas at Tyler and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

Context

In Fall 2019, the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System announced plans to merge The University of Texas at Tyler (UT-Tyler) and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSCT), bringing together the academic and medical research branches of UT in Tyler into a single educational institution and administrative body.

Statement

Whereas UT-Tyler formed a committee to work on the merger, with the intention of submitting a proposal to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) at the end of May 2020; and

Whereas the faculty are essential in the educational component of the university; and

Whereas the impact of a merger will affect faculty of both UT institutions in Tyler as they merge into one administrative unit; and

Whereas the Provost of UT-Tyler Dr. Amir Mirmiran and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chair of the Merger Committee Dr. Neil Gray, in keeping with the spirit of shared governance, submitted a draft of the proposal to SACS to the Faculty Senate; and

Whereas the Faculty Senate of UT-Tyler has had an opportunity to review the proposal; and

Whereas the merger of UT-Tyler and UTHSCT will have a direct impact on teaching, research, and service for faculty, and on the faculty's impact on the broader East Texas community; then

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of UT-Tyler supports the plans to merge The University of Texas at Tyler and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of UT-Tyler endorses the proposal for a merger to be submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate believes the faculty of both UT Tyler and UTHSCT must be vital members and participants in the discussion of the merger; that, in line with the proposal of a merger and in the spirit of shared governance, faculty from both UT-Tyler and UTHSCT be involved in the further construction of the university's mission throughout the process of the merger; that faculty be included in the conversations around and implementation of the merger throughout the process as it pertains to the educational mission of the university and to questions of academic affairs, implications, and costs, and in any other germane areas where faculty can contribute; and that faculty from both institutions collaborate and work with the university to ensure the merger best serves the faculty, students, and community of Tyler and of East Texas.