Friday, May 23, 2008 11:12 AM

Sent on behalf of Joe Stafford, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

To: Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, and Deans of Graduate Schools of Public Universities and Health-Related Institutions

From: Joe Stafford, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research

Subject: New Policy on Doctoral Program Information

In an effort to strengthen doctoral programs and provide greater public access to information about them, the Graduate Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) has identified a set of 18 important characteristics of doctoral programs (see attachment). Data related to these 18 characteristics are intended to serve as a self-study guide for institutional improvement of doctoral programs and to assist prospective students in choosing the right program for themselves.

GEAC first submitted its recommendation for using these 18 characteristics in November of 2007. The staff presented the recommendations to the Academic Excellence & Research Committee of the Coordinating Board in December 2007. It concurred with the recommendations of GEAC and the staff.

Each institution with active doctoral programs now should begin collecting the necessary data associated with these 18 characteristics and begin preparations to publish this information on its website. Staff recommend that a link to this information be placed on the web page for the Graduate School as well as on each program's website.

Institutions must begin collecting data in Fall 2008 and publishing information as soon as practical thereafter. Data for all programs must be published by December 15, 2009.

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to Dr. James Goeman at James.Goeman@thecb.state.tx.us or at 512-427-6249.