



Outline of Testimony

*House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
February 24, 2009*

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Commissioner of Higher Education**

Establishing More National Research Universities

- I. Given the size of Texas, an argument can be made that Texas lags behind other states in the number of national research universities located here.
 - A. National research universities attract research dollars and are economic engines, both attracting businesses and creating them (e.g. Silicon Valley, Research Triangle, Harvard-MIT complex)
- II. Characteristics of national research universities are fairly well-established by organizations such as the American Association of Universities (AAU), the Center for Measuring University Performance, and the Center for World Class Universities in Shanghai.
- III. The Coordinating Board has looked at a number of different ranking and rating methodologies and has established some preliminary criteria for assessing which institutions in Texas are best positioned to become national research universities.
 - A. The Coordinating Board has also identified several AAU institutions, the Universities of Arizona, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, to which we could compare seven emerging research universities for purposes of funding and benchmarking.
- IV. Criteria for National Research Universities
 - A. Peer Assessment
 1. Academic reputation as evaluated by academic administrators and leading faculty
 2. Peer assessment often lags behind changes in quality
 - B. Faculty Quality

1. Faculty recognition – membership in academies, faculty awards such as Nobels, Guggenheims, Fulbrights, faculty citations
- C. Quality of Graduate Academic and Professional Programs
1. Number and breadth
 2. Program productivity (number of students, degrees produced, placement indicators)
 3. Quality of graduate students (selectivity, graduate student support)
- D. Extramural Research and Academic Support
1. Federal research expenditures
 2. Private foundation support (Ford, Rockefeller, Robert Wood Johnson)
- E. Undergraduate Education
1. Student selectivity (SAT scores, class rank)
 2. Academic outcomes (graduation rates, time to degree, etc.)
 3. Range of programs
- F. Demographic and economic considerations
1. Population trends