



Outline of Testimony

*Senate Higher Education Committee
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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. Senator Shapleigh's bill designates the Coordinating Board to establish the standards by which institutions will be identified as potential national research universities. It is for that purpose that we have prioritized the following key metrics.
- IV. 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.
- V. 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 - Must be specific about the following measures
 - 1. Student selectivity (SAT scores, class rank)
 - 2. Graduation Data - (number of degrees awarded, time to degree, etc.)
 - 3. Range of programs, including high need fields

- F. Demographic and economic considerations
 - 1. Population trends
 - 2. Economic/business Infrastructure – national research universities have to be able to show collaboration between local/regional industry and the advantage of shared resources
 - 3. Number of Pell Grant Recipients Successfully Served
 - 4. Institutional Endowment Assets

- VI. The Future Pathway
 - a. Regardless of what we do this session, it is imperative that the State identify the model by which we are going to identify, support, and maintain national research universities.
 - b. Additionally, we must clearly define the pathway toward national research university status which other institutions may use as they grow and expand excellence and capacity.