

# ORAL TESTIMONY OUTLINE

President James D. Spaniolo  
The University of Texas at Arlington

Senate Higher Education Subcommittee  
Wednesday, July 23, 2008  
Austin, Texas

**POINT 1:** Underscore the need for stronger state support.

- Texas needs a 2020 Plan.
- Only with a firm commitment by the state can any of the seven emerging research universities achieve Tier 1 status in the foreseeable future.
- We need stable and continuous support. You cannot hire faculty under a funding mechanism that may expire, be eliminated, or change. And national-caliber faculty won't come to Texas unless they sense that the commitment from the state is firm.

**POINT 2:** This benefits all of Texas.

- Endorse David Daniel's proposal—but this issue goes beyond one or two universities. It's about building economic strength and academic powerhouses in the major regions throughout Texas.
- Some institutions may achieve Tier 1 status; others may not. But ALL of the universities will benefit...and the Texas economy will benefit.
- The stature of Texas will be enhanced nationally. We need more Tier 1 institutions to compete with California and other states that have invested much in higher education as an education and economic engine.

**POINT 3:** The Washington Advisory Group Report—issued in 2004—is a road map to achieving Tier 1 status for the four UT System emerging research institutions.

- Whether you agree or disagree with some aspects of this report, one matter is not debatable: Achieving Tier 1 status is expensive...and the costs are increasing exponentially every year to hire, equip, and retain top research faculty.
- It will take time; this can't be done overnight.
- It will take a sustained commitment from the academic institutions and from the state.

**POINT 4:** The Metroplex offers a special opportunity.

- Three respected research universities—plus one of the nation's top academic medical centers.
- Fourth-largest metropolitan area in the United States, and the largest one without a recognized Tier 1 institution.
- UT Arlington, UT Dallas, UT Southwestern, and the University of North Texas have a combined \$442 million annually in research expenditures.
- In a number of ways, we're already working together. Increased state support means even more opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between and among these institutions.
- The ingredients (expertise, infrastructure and financial resources) are present for creating a new paradigm: a Virtual Tier 1 institution.

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