

WILLIAM POWERS, JR.
PRESIDENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
AS OF 4/2/10

Before taking office as president of The University of Texas in February 2006, Bill Powers served as dean of UT's School of Law, where he won recognition for recruiting a world-class faculty and attracting highly diverse and talented students.

President Powers received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of California-Berkeley. After serving in the United States Navy, he attended Harvard Law School, where he was managing editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He joined UT's faculty in 1977.

In 1997, the University named him to its Academy of Distinguished Teachers. He has worked as a legal consultant with the U.S. Congress, the Brazilian legislature, and the Texas legislature. In 2001, he chaired a committee that examined the financial transactions of the Enron Corporation. The resulting report received widespread attention and has come to be known as "The Powers Report."

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to provide the Committee with an update on the implementation of Senate Bill 175, the legislation modifying the automatic admissions policy for The University of Texas at Austin.

We have hired a new Director of Admissions, Kedra Ishop. Under her leadership, we have begun several initiatives to further strengthen our efforts to diversify our student body and faculty.

SB 175 effective in 2011: SB 175's changes to our automatic admissions provisions are effective with the freshman class of 2011. As such, today's discussion regarding SB 175 and its implementation will pertain

mostly to our activities preparing for next year. We are very engaged in this effort, and I will share what we are doing.

Notifying juniors of automatic admissions

percentile: SB 175 provides for automatic admission to fill 75% of UT Austin's admitted class from Texas high schools (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.803 (a-1)). SB 175 further requires UT Austin, in a manner prescribed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), to provide each school district notice of which percentile rank of high school senior-level students will qualify for automatic admission during the next school year (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.803, (a-2)). This information must be

given to high school junior-level students and their parents no later than September 15 each year.

On September 14, 2009, UT Austin notified juniors, through our letter to Education Commissioner Robert Scott (a copy is included in your notebook), that top 8% would be the automatic admissions percentile for fall 2011. Setting the top 8% for automatic admission for the class of 2011 was the result of a careful analysis of our history of increasing numbers of first-time freshman applicants, the increasing representation of top 10% applicants, and the capacity issues we face every year. We will continue to monitor these numbers closely every year and take great care to set the automatic admission

percentile in a manner consistent with the intent of SB 175.

In addition, and through mutual agreement with TEA, UT Austin provided the same percentile information to all twenty Regional Education Service Center directors and to high school counselors. This was done by posting the notification on the counselor section of the *Be a Longhorn* website (www.bealonghorn.utexas.edu), and in the fall edition of the *Campus 2 Counselor* newsletter. We are in the midst of the notification process for the class of 2012.

Geographic outreach: SB 175 provides that attaining geographic diversity is an important part of the admissions process (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.803

(a-6)). As part of our effort to attain more geographic diversity, we have opened two new admissions centers: one in Lubbock, focusing on West Texas, and one in Longview, focusing on East Texas. Both were fully staffed and functional this summer. We will open centers in Laredo and El Paso in 2011. With the addition of these centers, we will have eight regional admissions centers administering 11 sites in Texas, with 40 regionally based recruitment and enrollment professionals. These centers now provide one-stop service to prospective freshmen and transfer students. A state map with the location and contact information for each center is attached.

Other efforts to enhance diversity: UT Austin is taking additional steps to attract a more diverse student

body and faculty. These efforts are not specifically required by the bill but they complement our efforts to further the goal of the bill: to enhance student diversity on our campus.

1: Targeted market analysis: UT Austin is partnering with Sara Martinez Tucker, former Under Secretary in the U.S. Department of Education and former President and CEO of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, to conduct a market analysis that will further refine our outreach and recruitment efforts. She is crafting a plan to expand and strengthen the pipeline of first-generation, low-income students in Texas who are academically prepared for college. Focus is being given to

students who aggressively pursue leadership opportunities, especially in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (the “STEM” fields).

2: Recruiting: We have improved our recruiting process in order to increase our yield rates of sought-after applicants. We are making offers earlier and combining admissions offers, financial aid offers, and housing offers into a single “package” for these applicants. This will allow them to see the whole package earlier and in a way that will focus its impact.

3: Faculty: Several initiatives have been under way over the past decade to recruit more Hispanic and African American faculty members, and we have

made significant progress. Since 2000, African American tenure and tenure track faculty has increased from 58 to 95 members (a 64% increase), and the number of tenure and tenure track Hispanic faculty increased 42 percent from 89 to 126.

Faculty hires for the 2009-2010 academic year were more diverse than ever. Nearly a third of faculty hires were Asian American, African American, and Hispanic. Fifty percent of the new hires were women.

4: Academic initiatives: In February, we announced the creation of two new centers of cultural scholarship on our campus to complement our John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies. The new Department of African and African

Diaspora Studies will study the experiences of African Americans, indigenous Africans, and people of African descent around the world. The new Institute of Critical Urban Policy will conduct socioeconomic and cultural policy research on key issues related to African American life in Texas. We are in the final process of hiring a director for the Institute.

We continue to strengthen our Center for Mexican American Studies with financial support and additional resources. In recent months, we have provided \$350,000 per year in additional funding to the Center for Mexican American Studies. \$200,000 is a permanent, recurring commitment for graduate

fellowships and is funded through the Graduate School. The balance is an allocation of \$150,000 per year for four years with a commitment to secure a recurring source of funding. Diversifying graduate education is addressed in SB 175 (Texas Education Code Sec. 51.803 (a-6)).

4: “Subiendo: The Academy for Rising Leaders”: *Subiendo* is a project of the LBJ School and the Texas Exes. High school students from Texas will participate in a four-day, intensive summer leadership camp. The first annual *Subiendo* occurred in July of 2010.

Litigation: *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin, et al:* SB 175 prohibits an institution from using the

modified automatic admissions process if a final court order has been issued which prohibits the institution from using race or ethnicity as a factor, or if the institution's governing board prohibits the use of race or ethnicity as part of the admissions decision (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.803 (k)). At this time, one case is being litigated.

Fisher v. University of Texas, et al, was already before the federal District court when SB 175 was passed. The issue in *Fisher* is whether UT Austin is authorized to include the holistic consideration of race in freshman admissions.

The record from Judge Sparks' summary judgment in UT's favor shows that UT-Austin followed the U.S.

Supreme Court guidance in the 2003 *Grutter* decision.

The plaintiffs appealed to US Court of Appeals for the

Fifth Circuit. Oral arguments were heard on August 3, 2010. UT Austin was represented by Solicitor General of Texas, and Amicus argument was made by the Black Students Alliance and NAACP/Legal Defense Fund. The University has received support through Amicus briefs from the U.S. Department of Justice, the American Council on Education (joined by thirteen other national higher education groups); the Black Student Alliance and the NAACP/Legal Defense Fund, Texas LULAC, the Asian Law Caucus, and the New York Law School Racial Justice Project.

The Fifth Circuit is expected to provide its decision sometime during 2011.

Non-resident students: SB 175 provides that not more than 10% of the entering class be non-resident students (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.803, (j)). We are in compliance now and will be in compliance with the 2011 class.

Community College Transfers: SB 175 provides that students who were eligible for automatic admission when they graduated from high school but chose to attend a community college continue to be eligible for automatic admission at public universities, provided they complete the core curriculum with a 2.5 GPA (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.8035). Our Undergraduate Admissions Center and Provost's office are fully engaged in community college recruiting and transfer student

services. This includes developing partnerships with community colleges through which assessment and data-sharing will promote stronger pipelines from community colleges. We will continue to monitor this provision and ensure that our students and community college partners are informed of this opportunity.

Counseling: SB 175 provides that UT Austin will report on our progress in counseling and outreach efforts (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.803 (a-6)). Through the Institute of Public School Initiatives, we have been working with Rep. Joaquin Castro and the National College Advising Corps to create “The Texas College Advising Corps.” The Texas Corps will join the national program and serve priority areas of the state by

employing recent bachelor's degree graduates and placing them into public service in high schools. Texas placement sites include 15 underserved high schools in Houston, the Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio, in partnership with the College for All Texans Foundation, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, and Bank of America.

Space utilization: SB 175 provides that students in the entering class of 2011 be required to take six hours of credit during evening or other low-demand hours during their careers at UT (Texas Education Code, Sec. 51.803 (a-5)). We are addressing space utilization in the “Task Force on Future Policy Issues.”

Other provisions: We are in compliance with other provisions in SB 175 including legacy, admissions notification, and summer admissions.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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September 14, 2009

Via Interagency Mail

Mr. Robert Scott
Commissioner
Texas Education Agency
Agency Code: 701

Dear Commissioner Scott:

Senate Bill 175 (by Sen. Florence Shapiro and Rep. Dan Branch), passed by the 81st Legislature, modifies the top ten percent automatic admission program at The University of Texas at Austin. Under the new law, the University is to admit automatically enough students to fill 75% of available spaces set aside for Texas residents in an entering freshman class, beginning with the 2011 summer/fall class.

Section 51.803 (a-2) of the Texas Education Code requires the University, in a manner prescribed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and not later than September 15 annually, to

provide to each school district, for dissemination of the information to high school junior-level students and their parents, notice of which percentile ranks of high school senior-level students who qualify for automatic admission under Subsection (a) are anticipated by the institution to be offered admission under Subsection (a-1) during the next school year.

The following instructions, received from the TEA, are the "manner prescribed":

1. The President of the University will send to the Commissioner of Education a letter explaining which percentile ranks of high school senior-level students who qualify for automatic admission the University anticipates offering admissions for fall 2011.
2. The Texas Education Agency will post a letter from the Commissioner on the "To the Administrator Addressed" Web site with the letter from the President of the University as an attachment.

Mr. Robert Scott
September 14, 2009
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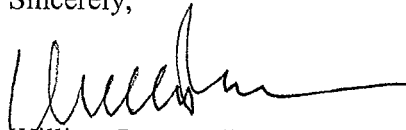
3. The University will send a copy of the President's letter to the Regional Education Service Center (ESC) Executive Directors with a request that they assist in the dissemination of the information to all Texas school districts.

Using data from recent years, the University has determined that automatically admitting students in the top 8% of their high school graduating class to the 2011 entering freshman class will fill 75% of available spaces. As a result, The University of Texas at Austin will automatically admit all eligible 2011 summer/fall freshman applicants who rank within the top 8% of their high school graduating classes, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review.

This information is provided to you in accordance with provisions of SB 175 and instructions from your office. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Dr. Kedra Ishop, Vice Provost and Director of Admissions. We will send a copy of this letter to the Regional Education Service Center (ESC) Executive Directors with a request that they assist in the dissemination of the information to all school districts in Texas.

We appreciate your assistance and that of the Texas Education Agency in disseminating this information to high school juniors and their parents across the state.

Sincerely,



William Powers, Jr.
President

WP/dwd

cc: The Honorable Florence Shapiro
The Honorable Dan Branch
Dr. Kedra Ishop

North and West Region
 Lubbock (5)
 El Paso (3)
 Dallas (5)
TOTAL STAFF: 13

Pan Handle Area (Amarillo)
 1 Admissions Counselor

West Texas Admissions Center (2010) Area HUB (Lubbock)
 1 Director
 1 Administrative Assistant

South Plains Area (Midland-Odessa) (Fort Stockton & Pecos)
 1 Admissions Counselor

El Paso Admissions Center (Van Horn, Alpine & Marfa)
 1 Director
 1 Admissions Counselor
 1 Administrative Assistant

Undergraduate Admissions Center (1985) (Central Texas I-35 Corridor)
 6 Admissions Counselors
 1 Administrative Associate

San Antonio Admissions Center (2005)
 1 Director
 2 Admissions Counselors
 1 Administrative Assistant
 1 Financial Aid Counselor

South and Central Region
 San Antonio (5)
 Laredo (1)
 Austin (6)
 Valley (5)
TOTAL STAFF: 17

Dallas Admissions Center (2000)
 1 Director
 2 Admissions Counselors
 1 Administrative Assistant
 1 Financial Aid Counselor

Abilene Area (San Angelo)
 1 Admissions Counselor

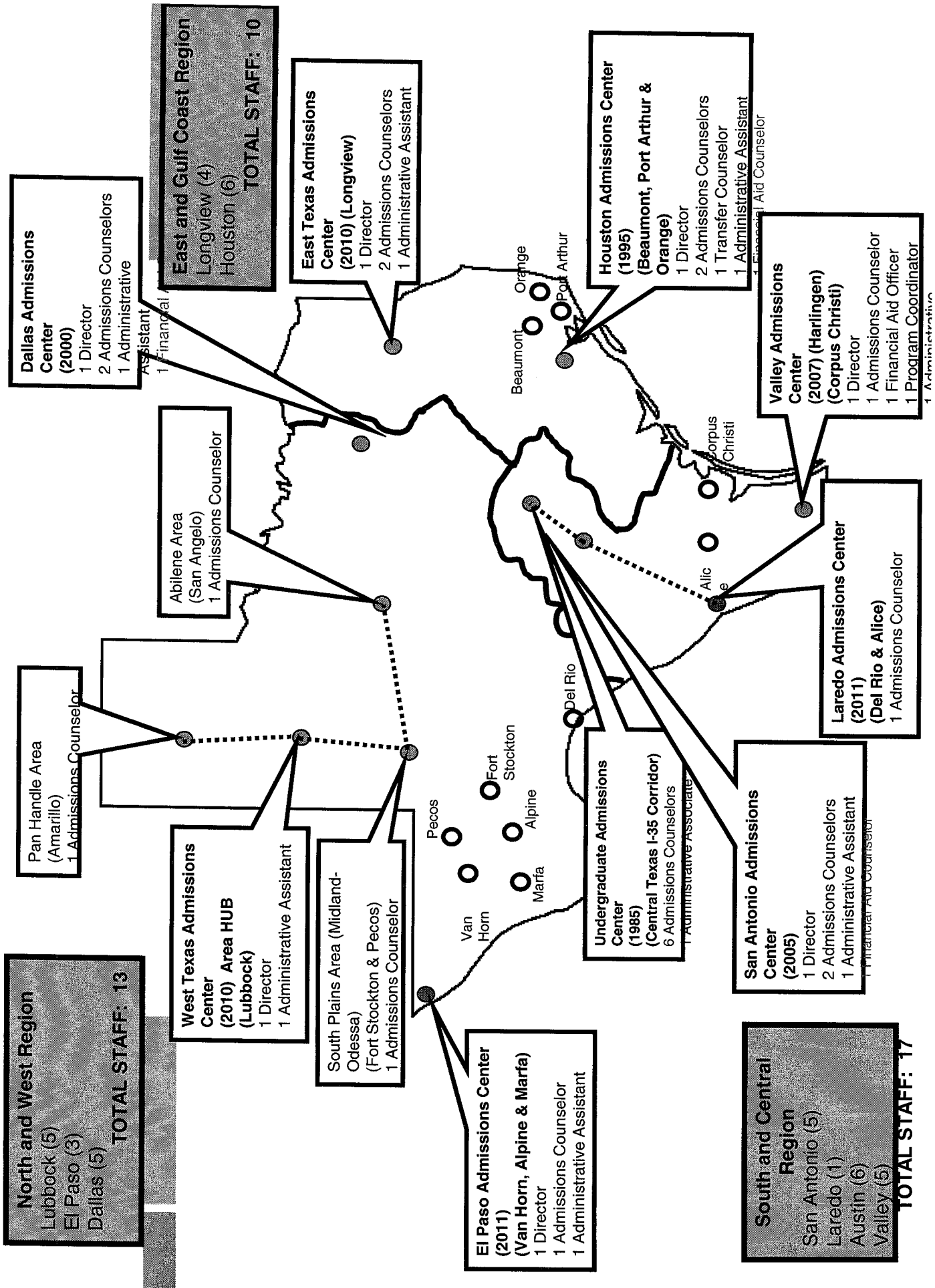
East and Gulf Coast Region
 Longview (4)
 Houston (6)
TOTAL STAFF: 10

East Texas Admissions Center (2010) (Longview)
 1 Director
 2 Admissions Counselors
 1 Administrative Assistant

Houston Admissions Center (1995) (Beaumont, Port Arthur & Orange)
 1 Director
 2 Admissions Counselors
 1 Transfer Counselor
 1 Administrative Assistant
 1 Financial Aid Counselor

Laredo Admissions Center (2011) (Del Rio & Alice)
 1 Admissions Counselor

Valley Admissions Center (2007) (Harlingen) (Corpus Christi)
 1 Director
 1 Admissions Counselor
 1 Financial Aid Officer
 1 Program Coordinator
 1 Administrative Assistant



UT Austin Admission Centers

Undergraduate Admissions Center

Michael Orr, Associate Director of Admissions

The University of Texas at Austin
Undergraduate Admissions Center
P.O. Box 8058
Austin, Texas 78713-8058
512-475-7440 | phone
512-475-7475 | fax

Central and South Texas Region

Belinda Celis, Regional Director

San Antonio Admissions Center

1123 N. Main Ave.
Suite 200
San Antonio, Texas 78212
210-562-4665 | voice
210-223-6061 | fax
sanantonio@austin.utexas.edu

North and West Texas Region

Brian Taylor, Regional Director

Dallas Admissions Center

3300 Oak Lawn Ave.
Suite 100
Dallas, Texas 75219
214-526-1800 | voice
214-526-1811 | fax
dac@www.utexas.edu

Valley Admissions Center

Alex Salinas
2102 Treasure Hills Blvd.
Harlingen, Texas 78550
956-365-8630 | voice
956-365-8623 | fax
vac@austin.utexas.edu

West Texas Admissions Center

Christina Blake

Sentry Plaza II
5225 S. Loop 289, Suite 119
Lubbock, Texas 79424
806-798-BEVO | phone
806-698-0540 | fax
wtac@austin.utexas.edu
(Local representatives in Amarillo,
Midland, and San Angelo)

East Texas and Houston Gulf Coast Region

Ka'rin Thornburg, Regional Director

Houston Admissions Center

7000 Fannin, Suite 110
Houston, Texas 77030
713-500-BEVO | voice
713-500-0308 | fax
hac@austin.utexas.edu

East Texas Admissions Center

Mario Villa
911 West Loop 281
Longview, Texas 75604
903-759-7800 | voice
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etac@austin.utexas.edu