

BRIEF SUMMARY: Input from COEHD Strategic Planning Sessions Nov. 15-Dec. 5, 2022

Important note:

The following short summaries highlight recurring themes that came up in the faculty (p. 1), staff (p. 3), student (p. 4) and advisory board (p. 5) input sessions held between Nov. 15-Dec. 5, 2022. These summaries are not intended to be comprehensive. Please also see the full set of input on our virtual whiteboard: https://lucid.app/lucidspark/fd851136-c912-45ad-9efc-4178591b46de/edit?invitationId=inv_a59754d4-2858-4131-a8cd-8cfab509b969#

I. **Faculty** Outreach Sessions: 22 attendees on Nov. 29, 9 attendees on Nov. 30, 35 attendees on Dec. 5

Who is COEHD?

- Education and human behavior/learning experts and researchers with a commitment to social justice. We have expertise in preparing teachers, practitioners, clinicians, scholars, and leaders, and we have expertise and programs in applied/clinical research and mental/behavioral health.
- We are a Hispanic Serving Institution and Research 1 university. We value diversity, equity, social justice and our critical role fostering these values in our local, national, and global communities. Our students are leaders and our diversity is an asset.
- Our interdisciplinary research impacts our community, nation and world.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as a **Model for Student Success**?*

- **Belonging:** Ensure that students feel seen, recognized and affirmed. Seek student input regularly and in a variety of spaces. Share faculty identity and experiences with students to form authentic connections.
- **Bilingual:** We are unique in our borderlands geography and can build on our success in dual language/bilingual teacher preparation. Our transnational knowledge is part of our model of success.
- **Collaboration:** COEHD faculty can provide a cross-campus resource, as experts in pedagogy, teaching practices and systems.
- **Equity:** Teach and develop curriculum through an equity-oriented lens, using cultural efficacy and strategies to meet all learners. Offer student-facing events on racial justice. Make a commitment to our students at the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, geography, citizenship, and disability.
- **Experiential Learning:** Increase the number of experiential learning opportunities for students, including mentorship opportunities and opportunities to work in the community.
- **Innovation:** Leverage technology to make programs accessible to everyone. Develop cutting-edge courses that reflect our modern student. Provide resource to support the development of innovative new curriculum. Explore adding new academic programs and stackable certificates.
- **Student Support:** Provide wraparound support for struggling students and students entering

from various points of life to improve retention, certification and graduation. Integrate their classroom experience with their experiential learning.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as a **Great Public Research University**?*

- **Collaboration:** COEHD can serve as an institution-wide model for community-based participatory research. Value, honor and incentivize multidisciplinary research.
- **Community:** COEHD is known for community-based research and a deep knowledge of Texas's unique culture. Expand community outreach to identify community needs and identify resources for community partnerships.
- **Faculty Support:** Help faculty enhance their research by allowing for sustained focused research time, provide professional development opportunities, and help faculty begin or grow their research programs.
- **Global:** We are global in perspective and reach. Increase international collaboration and visibility in ways that feed strategic growth and innovation. Celebrate scholarship that has national or international impact.
- **Student research:** Integrate more of our students of all levels into the research experience, connecting their research participation to a sense of belonging. Improve student financial support. Feature student research via in-house events and sending them to conferences.
- **Visibility:** Increase our visibility via increased presence at conferences, improvements to the website and other systems for promoting research (e.g., social media, news, video abstracts, publication on COEHD research). Articulate to students the value-add of having faculty who are national thought leaders.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as an **Exemplar for Strategic Growth and Innovative Excellence**?*

- **Communication:** Enhance communication with COEHD's external and internal constituencies.
- **Community:** Expand community collaborations, including through the Westside Community Partnership. Connect with community resources to identify opportunities to fund students.
- **Enrollment:** Expand our enrollment pipeline, including targeted recruitment. Increase marketing and scholarships. Enhance our existing students' sense of belonging so they will recruit others to COEHD. Increase graduate recruitment from our own undergraduate programs.
- **Faculty:** Recruit and retain faculty and ensure that faculty reviews align with COEHD values.
- **Global:** Forge more international partnerships.

II. **Staff Outreach Sessions:** 23 attendees on Nov. 29, 24 attendees on Nov. 30

Who is COEHD?

- COEHD prepares students to be educators, practitioners, clinicians, and researchers, via a culturally efficacious framework.
- We prioritize the academic and professional success of our students and impact on our communities.
- COEHD values collaboration and teamwork, student success and research, and diversity and inclusion.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as a **Model for Student Success**?*

- **Belonging:** Intentionally and frequently reach out for student input. Create an environment where students know where to go for help with any type of question or concern.
- **Experiential Learning:** Increase experiential learning opportunities at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Leverage community partnerships, including with alumni, to increase internships and mentoring.
- **Innovation:** Encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration including across colleges. Incorporate new technologies into instruction. Invest in new program development and course redesign. Incentivize the development of high-risk-high-reward ideas.
- **Student Support:** Provide students (graduate and undergraduate) with easy access to information on the resources currently available. Increase student financial support. Provide students with psychosocial support.
- **Workforce:** Ensure that our degrees are responsive to changes in the job market.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as a **Great Public Research University**?*

- **Broaden Research:** Incentivize "risk taking" to expand into new research areas.
- **Collaboration:** Forge cross-campus collaborations with STEM disciplines, expand community-based participatory research to address local challenges. Forge regional and statewide partnerships that extend beyond San Antonio.
- **Research Support:** Increase support in proposal writing. Leverage the Centers and Institutes to facilitate expanded interdisciplinary research opportunities.
- **Student Research:** Recruit more students to participate in research. Provide students with access to research-related software.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as an **Exemplar for Strategic Growth and Innovative Excellence**?*

- **Community:** Assess community needs in determining how to grow.
- **Enrollment:** Purposefully recruit from lower SES/underserved areas of the community. Increase engagement with secondary students to develop a pipeline. Increase graduate recruitment from our own undergraduate programs.
- **Wellbeing:** Cultivate a culture of belonging among all students and employees

III. **Student Outreach Session, Dec. 1:** 10 student attendees, *all attendees were graduate students, although the opportunity was also widely publicized to undergraduate students*

Who is COEHD?

- We are a community of lifelong learners

Model for Student Success

- **Coursework:** Ensure that coursework is practical. Lean into the social justice piece.
- **Professional Development:** Students suggested workshops for preparing for the job market, job shadowing experience with professors or researchers, and peer mentoring.
- **Value of a COEHD Education:** Students were drawn to COEHD for the future career opportunities, opportunity to develop new skills, a progressive technical education, and the programs offered.
- **Writing:** Students were interested in developing their writing skills, including gaining experience in writing professional publications. They noted that the writing center is geared more towards undergraduate students than graduate students.

Great Public Research University

- **Advising:** Provide assistance when students need a new advisor
- **Grant writing:** Students were interested in gaining grant writing experience and noted that a grant writing microcredential might be useful.
- **Research Opportunities and Funding:** Assist students in identifying GRA job opportunities (or interesting research opportunities, even if not funded) and opportunities to conduct research with external partners. Provide mini-grants for student researchers to purchase software. Feature current research on the website so it's easy for graduate students to learn about the various opportunities.

Exemplar for Strategic Growth and Innovative Excellence

- **Community Building:** Students would like to feel more "COEHD identity" through availability of t-shirts, hats etc, and graduate student mixer events. Noted that, in particular, more community-building and engagement is needed at the downtown campus and for the night class students.
- **Onboarding:** Create a graduate student handbook for each graduate program.

IV. COEHD Advisory Board Outreach Session, Nov. 14: 7 attendees from the Advisory Board

Who is COEHD?

- A community of expert educators invested in sustaining and re-imagining integrated, equity-minded learning, teaching and scholarship.
- We value our multilingualism, equity and inclusivity.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as a **Model for Student Success**?*

- **Innovation:** Consider adding new academic programs. Gather data on COEHD areas of coursework that performed better when offered online.
- **Student Support:** Provide wraparound services to increase student success.
- **Teacher Prep:** Prepare teachers and leaders to serve in all types of educational need areas, including public school systems, private school systems, charter schools, and in providing homeschooling resources.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as a **Great Public Research University**?*

- **Collaboration:** Be a leader in cross-university collaborative research. Focus on research that serves the field and that serves the community. Share data and insights with the community to enhance accessibility and increase diversification of the pipeline.
- **Student Research:** Involve more undergraduate students in research.

*How Can COEHD Contribute to UTSA's Destination as an **Exemplar for Strategic Growth and Innovative Excellence**?*

- **Enrollment:** Increase recruitment in high schools, including the use of marketing materials on teaching as a service to your community (e.g., like ROTC signs in schools). Use scholarships to attract diverse candidates. Increase recruitment of males of color (underrepresented in the teaching profession). Consider 3-way partnerships with a district and foundation to tie scholarships to a commitment to teach in the district.
- **Faculty Recruitment:** Intentional hiring so that faculty mirror the diversity of our students.

Note: Input from UTSA faculty on the Strategic Planning Committee who attended the Advisory session is included in the faculty summary above (pp 1-2).