

Consider Ratifying Acceptance of US Department of Agriculture Grant Titled Rapid Detection of Incursions of SARS-CoV-2 and Novel Coronaviruses on Texas Meat and Dairy Farms

Galveston College is a sub-recipient of a grant that the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). This grant is titled PARTNERSHIP: Rapid Detection of Incursions of SARS-CoV-2 and Novel Coronaviruses on Texas Meat and Dairy Farms. This 5-year grant will run through August 31, 2028 and will provide the College a total of \$149,995.

Emergent coronaviruses often cause epidemics and are not detected by routine veterinary or human diagnostics. In this 5-year research project, 16 Texas livestock farms (pigs, cattle, or poultry) will be evaluated for coronaviruses. This project is “One Health-oriented”, meaning that health of farmers and working crew is evaluated as well the livestock with their environment.

UTMB will provide hands-on training to up to 4 Galveston College students per semester in virology, laboratory biosafety, and molecular biology methods. These students will receive a stipend at the end of the semester, after successful completion of at least 100 hours of training and submit a written report of their experience.

It is recommended that the Board of Regents ratify the acceptance of this grant award.