TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

COMMITTEE: Board Business

ITEM: Request for Approval of Resolution Related to Curriculum Review Required by Senate

Bill 37, including Appointment of Curriculum Review Committee

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED: N/A

SUMMARY:

This request seeks formal approval of a resolution related to a curriculum review required by Senate Bill ("SB") 37 from the 89th Legislative Session (2025), including the appointment of a curriculum review committee.

Senate Bill 37 requires the Governing Board ("Board") of an institution of higher education at least once every five years to conduct a comprehensive review of the general education curriculum established by the institution.

"General education curriculum" means a core curriculum, and any other curriculum or competency all undergraduate students of an institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an undergraduate degree.

"Core curriculum" means "the curriculum in liberal arts, humanities, and sciences and political, social, and cultural history that all undergraduate students of an institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an academic undergraduate degree."

Curriculum Review Standards Contained in SB 37

In reviewing the curriculum, the Board must ensure courses in the curriculum:

- 1. Are foundational and fundamental to a sound postsecondary education;
- 2. Are necessary to prepare students for civic and professional life;
- 3. Equip students for participation in the workforce and in the betterment of society; and
- 4. Ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with applicable accreditation standards.

The Board must also consider the potential costs the curriculum may impose on students, including for additional tuition, fees, and time a student must spend to complete an undergraduate degree program at the institution.

Curriculum Review Committee

Under SB 37, the Board may appoint a committee to assist it in carrying out its duties, including making recommendations to the Board. The committee may include:

- 1. Faculty employed full time by TSU;
- 2. Institution administrators;
- 3. Community leaders;
- 4. Industry representatives; and

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5. Other individuals selected by the Board.

Additional Requirements

Each institution of higher education must annually submit to the Board an update regarding any changes to the general education curriculum offered at the institution. The Board may reserve the right to overturn any decision made by the institution regarding any changes to the general education curriculum.

Certification

Not later than January 1 of each year a comprehensive review is conducted, the Board must certify its compliance with this Section of SB 37 to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and each standing legislative committee and subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over higher education.

Effective Date

These provisions of SB 37 apply beginning January 1, 2026.

Codification

These provisions of SB 37 are now codified in Section 51.315 of the Texas Education Code.

SUPPORTING

DOCUMENTATION: Senate Bill 37 and Resolution

FISCAL NOTE: No Fiscal Impact

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

BOARD CHAIR Brandon L. Simmons DATE