

II. CHANGES IN THE GOVERNANCE OF SOUTH TEXAS UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS

1. The Legislature should amend the Education Code to abolish the University System of South Texas and make Corpus Christi State University, Laredo State University, and Texas A&I University component institutions of The Texas A&M University System. The new component institutions should be equal partners with other members of The Texas A&M University System, sharing the same resources and responsibilities as the other universities in the system. The new component institutions should be subject to the rules and regulations of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

2. The Legislature should amend the Education Code to make Pan American University and Pan American University at Brownsville component institutions of The University of Texas System. The new component institutions should be equal partners with the other members of The University of Texas System, sharing the same resources and responsibilities as the other universities in the system. The new component institutions should be subject to the rules and regulations of The University of Texas System Board of Regents.

3. The Committee recommends that Corpus Christi State University, Laredo State University, Texas A&I University, and Pan American University including Pan American University at Brownsville continue to receive dedicated funding for capital improvements under Article VII, Section 17, of the Texas Constitution (HEAF funding), until such time as the inclusion of these universities in the provisions of Article VII, Section 18, would provide them with greater revenues than would be provided by remaining under the provisions of Section 17.

4. The Committee recognizes and applauds the effort of The University of Texas System and The Texas A&M University System in working with the universities in South Texas to develop joint academic and research program budget requests.

NOTE: The above recommendation was adopted by a 7-3 vote.

Members voting for adoption: Co-Chairman Truan, Senator Barrientos, Senator Zaffirini, Representative Patterson, Representative Rangel, Representative Smith, Representative Watkins.