Maintain UTSA’s existing Special Items:
SB 1 eliminates all of UTSA’s Special Items, a total of $12.75M per year or $25.5M for the biennium. Special Items at UTSA provide benefits for the entire State of Texas.
We ask the Texas Legislature to restore current funding cuts for the following UTSA Special Items:

Institutional Enhancement    $4.9M for the biennium:
• Continued loss of State support would equate to a budget reduction severely impacting faculty support. Cuts would increase the student/faculty ratio and reduce course sections offered.
• Loss of State support would significantly impact UTSA’s student retention, time of graduation, and number of degrees awarded.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)    $8.3M for the biennium:
Voted as the National Small Business Development Center of the Year - by the U.S. Small Business Administration, 2014. SBDC serves the needs of some 30,000 small business clients consistently every year through a network of 10 SBDC field centers covering 72 South-Texas counties. Last year the SBDC Network helped these clients contribute an incremental tax revenue of $41M, create 6,000 new jobs, and helped access $323M in new business growth financing/investments.
• Loss of State support would impact federal funds and reduce client services. UTSA has no other resources to continue the operations of the SBDC.

San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI)    $4M for the biennium:
• Loss of State support would eliminate the Institute. This Institute allows UTSA to better leverage the strengths of students and researchers at both the UTSA & UTHSC-SA campuses, to work together on similar Life Sciences challenges and increase our research-funding base for Life Sciences.
• The Institute enables joint doctoral degree programs and research projects, which provide students with the best of both worlds at both campuses. The SALSI Institute has become a model for other Texas universities.

Institute of Texan Cultures in Hemisfair Park    $2.9M for the biennium:
• Cuts would limit the museum’s ability to provide services to 265,000 individuals across Texas and
• Reduce number of exhibits; number of students served statewide; teacher development and continuing education courses; hours of operation; and city and tourism revenue, and
• Prevent production of educational resources for Texas teachers and distribution of existing resources to public school students, researchers, and the general public. UTSA has no other resources to continue operating this museum.

SW Tx. Border Network    $2.6M for the biennium:
• Loss of State support would impact rural communities and businesses that would not have the same access to small business development services as the larger Texas cities.
• Loss of funding for this initiative would impact rural communities that receive extensive capacity building training, research, municipal planning, and project resource development.
Texas State Data Center $1M for the biennium:

- The State Demographer, a distinguished faculty member at UTSA (Dr. Lloyd Potter), serves as Chair of the Federal and State Cooperative for Population Projections. The Center is housed at the UTSA Downtown Campus.
- Loss of State support for this Center would impact the production of all demographic, economic and related data requests for Legislators, Legislative Committees, and State agencies needed for population estimates, biennial projections, and trend analysis impacting Texas.

Texas Pre-Engineering program (TexPREP) $835,784 for the biennium:

- This is an 8-week summer program that prepares middle and high school students for college, leading to careers in STEM fields. Over 80% of Tex-PREP students go on to college, 66% become STEM majors, and 81% are minority.
- Loss of State support would eliminate the program at 35 colleges and universities in 15 Texas cities. This would negatively impact progress in the Statewide “Closing the Gaps” initiative and reduce STEM degree production. TexPREP anticipates serving 9,000 students over the next two-years, and 40% are first generation students.
Support UTSA’s request for 2 NEW Special Items:

Cyber and Cloud Computing $5M for the biennium:
- UTSA ranked #2 best GRADUATE cyber security program in U.S. - by Universities.com, June 2016 & #1 best UNDERGRADUATE program in the U.S. - by Hewlett Packard/Ponemon in 2014.
- Support for this special item would position UTSA to be a resource to Texas and would provide UTSA with an opportunity to partner with the State of Texas to help ensure security of online data and networks at Texas Agencies.
- UTSA proposes to: 1) help implement a “culture of security” awareness; 2) evaluate commercial and/or government security products; 3) assist small businesses to meet State standards as cyber readiness vendors; and 4) help train and develop our State’s workforce through certification preparation and degree programs in cyber and in cloud computing.

College Completion UTSA $990,000 for the biennium:
With current levels of State funding UTSA has not been able to adequately address barriers for “first generation” and “academically at-risk” students. This particular student population is increasing at Texas institutions. However, the level of support services has not grown proportionally. Academic readiness and socioeconomic issues are roadblocks to college completion and need to be addressed. Lack of skilled graduates will impact Texas’ global competitiveness. This Student Success initiative is composed of four parts:
- Retention grant program will provide micro grants to students at the fee drop stage of registration to help cover a student’s financial shortfalls. A small amount could make a big difference in a student’s decision.
- Peer advising services will be added through university kiosks, digital applications and phones to create jobs for students and provide on-demand assistance for students navigating college.
- Freshman summer bridge program will serve as a student success academy for under-resourced and/or first generation admitted students. Academically at-risk students will attend a 6-8 week summer session, before the Fall semester.
- Math success initiatives will centralize facilities and staffing to support NCAT endorsed math emporium models.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Increase State investment in Texas Grants
This item is critical for our first-generation students at UTSA who struggle with access and affordability.
- 71% of UTSA’s students receive some form of grant or scholarship to make ends meet.
- Helps UTSA provide access to all students in the pipeline, average Texas Grant award was $5K.
- Fully fund the Texas Grant program at the $5K award amount and increase the investment above the baseline to help students stay in school and graduate.

Funding Support for Hazlewood Exemptions:
• The number of students utilizing Hazlewood exemptions has grown, with UTSA being located in Military City.
• Exemptions total over $12M in FY2016 and a projected $14M in exemptions for FY2017.
• We have close to 3,000 (veterans, active duty, and family members) enrolled at UTSA. We are proud of our continued designation as a “Military Friendly School”, 6th consecutive year by G.I. Jobs Magazine, Sept 2016.
• We encourage the Texas Legislature to continue providing funding relief for Hazlewood legacy exemption.

**Restore funding cuts in UTSA’s Core Research, listed in SB 1 by $945,000 per year or $1.8M for the biennium.**

What we need in SB 1 is full investment in UTSA’s Core Research. SB 1 cuts in UTSA’s Core Research would:

• Limit support for UTSA students and faculty in key research areas
• Reduce support for faculty securing federal research grants
• Slow UTSA’s progress in meeting criteria for NRUF, as outlined in Tier One Legislation of 2009:
  1. Recruit, educate, and graduate at least 200 PhD’s per year
  2. Freshman class of high academic achievement, at least 50% need to be in top 25%
  3. Institutional recognition of Research Capabilities & Scholarly attainment
  4. Grow or recruit high quality faculty, at least 5 as members in the National Academies
  5. Grow the number of high quality graduate-level programs, at least 50
• Impede UTSA’s trend in growing research expenditures, 78% over the last 10 years
• Texas needs more engineers and scientists, particularly in fields of cyber, cloud, and data analytics.

**Restore funding cuts in SB1 and in HB 2 for the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP).**

SB 1 and HB 2 both cut UTSA’s TRIP funding by 10% which would indirectly impact our UTSA’s faculty recruitment and graduate research initiatives. What we need is for the Texas Legislature to continue supporting TRIP at a higher level to ensure the potential of a future match. There is an ongoing backlog of unfunded eligible gifts. UTSA has $10M in eligible gifts waiting to be matched by TRIP.

• Cuts in TRIP Funding would slow progress with potential donors, some of whom may not otherwise give unless there is a match.
• TRIP helped make a $5M gift grow into a $13.75M gift. H-E-B set up the initial $5M for faculty endowments, provided that UTSA raise $5M. TRIP provided a match at $3.75M.