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## **UTSA GETS GREEN LIGHT TO ADD FOOTBALL**

### **University committed to excellence in both academics *and* athletics**

(San Antonio) ... The University of Texas System Board of Regents today approved UTSA's Athletic Initiative Business Plan granting the university permission to add a football program. The plan calls for UTSA to develop an \$84 million competitive athletic complex and add an NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS / formerly Division I-AA) football program with the intent to advance football and the athletics department's existing 16 intercollegiate sports programs to an NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS / formerly Division I-A) conference.

The Athletic Initiative directly supports the University's academic mission as outlined in its strategic plan, *A Shared Vision UTSA 2016*.

UTSA will fund the Athletic Initiative through student fees, corporate and private support and other revenue streams that do not draw from the institutional academic budget. In September 2007, UTSA students overwhelmingly supported a referendum to expand the athletics program and double the Athletic Fee over the next five to seven years from \$10/semester credit hour up to \$20/semester hour, capped at 12 semester credit hours.

The university's intent behind adding football is to engage current students at new levels by providing them an enhanced and more complete university experience and draw former students and the San Antonio community closer to the University and its continued development towards national research university status. Approximately 80 percent of the university's 76,000 alumni continue to live in the immediate area.

The University of Texas at San Antonio is one of the fastest growing higher education institutions in Texas and the second largest of nine academic universities and six health institutions in the UT System. As a multicultural institution of access and excellence, UTSA aims to be a premier public research university providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment.

UTSA serves more than 28,400 students in 64 bachelor's, 46 master's and 21 doctoral degree programs in the colleges of Architecture, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Honors, Liberal and Fine Arts, Public Policy, Sciences and Graduate School. Founded in 1969, UTSA is an intellectual and creative resource center and a socioeconomic development catalyst for Texas and beyond.

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