Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
SACS: Self-Study Report

3.2.2.1 institution's mission;

**Compliance Status:** Compliance

**Narrative**

The legal authority and operating control of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi are clearly defined regarding the University's mission by the laws of Texas, the rules of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the policies of The Texas A&M University System. Section 61.0511 of the Texas Education Code requires each institution of higher education to develop a role and mission statement "reflecting the three missions of higher education: teaching, research, and public service [1]." Other sections of the Texas Education Code discuss the responsibilities of the THECB and of governing boards regarding the review and approval of institutional mission statements. A&M University-Corpus Christi's governing board is the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System [2].

The THECB was established by Section 61.002 of the Texas Education Code as "an agency to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system, institutions, and governing boards... [3]." Texas Education Code Section 61.051 (d) authorizes the THECB to "develop, after direct consultation with the governing board of the institution and after providing a forum for a public hearing, the role and mission of each public institution of higher education in Texas [4]." Section 61.051 (e) of the Texas Education Code directs the THECB to "review periodically the role and mission statements, the table of programs, and all degree and certificate programs offered by public institutions of higher education to assure that they meet the present and future needs of the state and the counties in which they are located [4]." This review, which should occur at least every four years, involves the institution's governing board.

Additional guidelines provided by the rules of the THECB Rule 5.24 discuss the criteria and approval of mission statements and tables of programs [5]. The THECB's Web site provides more information for institutions on the review and approval process [6]. Although the THECB review of mission statements normally occurs once every four years, an institution may request revisions to its mission statement and table of programs outside of this cycle when circumstances warrant [7].

The policies of The Texas A&M University System supplement the state requirements regarding institutional mission statements. System Policy 03.02, Policies for the Establishment and Revision of Mission Statements and Tables of Programs, requires members of the A&M system to request approval from the board of regents for the creation or revision of mission statements, tables of programs and other actions requiring THECB approval. Mission statements and tables of programs are submitted "through the vice chancellor for academic affairs to the chancellor, for approval by the board." The purpose of the system review is to ensure that "statutory, policy, and regulation requirements" are met [8].

Section 51.352 of the Texas Education Code outlines the general responsibilities of governing boards of institutions of higher education. Among other duties, a governing board is expected to "insist on clarity of focus and mission of each institution under its governance" and to set goals for each institution that are consistent with its role and mission [9]. A&M System Policy 02.01, Board of Regents, reiterates these points [10].
Following a campus review and approval process, A&M-Corpus Christi submitted an amended mission statement to the A&M System in fall 2008 for consideration by the board of regents as part of the statutory four-year review of the mission statement and table of programs. The institution did not request changes to its table of programs at that time. After completing their review, the vice chancellor for academic affairs and the chancellor recommended approval of the mission statement. The board of regents formally approved the institution's amended mission statement on January 22, 2009 [11]. The A&M system forwarded the statement to the THECB for review. On June 22, 2009, the Academic Excellence and Research Committee approved the mission statement, paving the way for final approval by the THECB on July 30, 2009 [12]. The revised mission statement follows:

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is an expanding, doctoral-granting institution committed to preparing graduates for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in the global community. We are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative activity and service and our supportive, multicultural learning community provides undergraduate and graduate students with a challenging educational experience. The University's federal designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) provides a foundation for closing educational gaps, while its strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico and on the cultural border with Latin America provides a basis for gaining national and international prominence.

As demonstrated in Principle 2.4 (Institutional Mission), the mission statement is a clearly defined, comprehensive mission statement that is specific to A&M-Corpus Christi and appropriate for higher education [13]. Principle 3.1.1 (Board - Institutional Mission) provides an overview of the periodic review of the mission statement during the past decade by the institution, the board of regents, and the THECB [14].

**Conclusion**

The laws of Texas, the rules of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the policies of The Texas A&M University System clearly define the legal authority and operating control of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi within its governance structure with regard to its mission. These documents define the responsibilities of the institution, the board of regents, and the THECB in the development, review, and approval of the University mission.

**Evidence**

- [SD 054 TEC 61-0511 Role and Mission Statement](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [SD 001 TEC 87-401 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Establishment-Scope](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [SD 003 TEC 61-002 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board-Purpose](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [SD 004 TEC 61-051 Coordination of Institutions of Public Higher Education](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [SD 121 THECB Rule 5.24](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [SD 145 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Web Page](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [SD 146 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Web Page - Terms and Definitions](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [BD 003 TAMUS 03-02 Policies for the Establishment and Revision of Mission Statements and Tables of Programs](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [SD 006 TEC 51-352 Responsibility of Governing Boards](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [BD 014 TAMUS 02-01 Board of Regents](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)
- [BD 180 McKinney 021309 Mission -BOR approval 2009](https://tamucc.xitracs.net/accredit/reports/1566E97912C002D55C725D...)

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