

tuf times

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TUF RESPONDS TO THE CHANCELLOR'S 6 YEAR PLAN?

1. The time allotted for comment and revision of a 25 page document and appendices of much greater length was 11 days, if you count weekends, not nearly enough time for a substantive response.
2. The 100 goals of the plan are completely undifferentiated. In student development, which is more important, fostering critical thinking and reasoning, intellectual curiosity, and an awareness of intellectual achievement, or improving emotional development, or improving interpersonal relations, or facilitating physical development, or preparing students for careers? Any one of these could work at cross purposes with any of the others. The 100 goals rank a reexamination of UH/CL's institutional priorities in terms of national higher education priorities with the development of a master plan for the campus physical plant, redesigning the UNIVERSITY BULLETIN, establishing scholarships for community college students, and developing term specific distinguished professorships. These, of course, are only 11 of the 100 goals. Many of the goals overlap, many may well contradict each other, and many seem less important than others. None of these problems does the 6 year plan address.
3. Some of the problems might have been discussed in the implementation section of the plan (3 pages of 25), but almost never were, and when they were, only in the vaguest of terms. The plan contains no timetable for realizing any of the 100 goals. The plan calls for a review process, but never specifies what should be reviewed and who should review it. The implementation section never makes clear who is responsible for what in the 6 year plan, except for vague generalizations about faculty responsibility for curriculum and scholarship and administrative responsibility to "lead and assist the work of faculty and students."
4. The 24 reports from which the 100 goals were said to be drawn were not available to anyone who wanted to comment on the plan. They had evidently not been typed. This makes any analysis of the draft 6 year plan all the more difficult, and silly. As scholars we would never evaluate a work without any reference to the sources it used. Intellectual honesty requires that any reasonable evaluation be made with access to the sources of the materials being evaluated.

We have raised only a few questions that might be asked of this document. To raise them all would take more time than we have and more words than all but the most dedicated academic masochist would read. Suffice it to say that UH/CL's draft 6 year plan is a wish list, lacking in almost all of the things a 6 year plan needs, except for "wants," of which it has too many. It provides no specific way to decide priorities among the 100 items, it provides no agenda for realizing any of the items, some of which will require extensive planning and preparation and step-by-step development, and does not even mention a schedule for implementation of these goals.

If this 6 year plan were a student paper, we would be hard pressed to give it a charitable "D" and suggest the student immediately enroll in a writing course. The plan reflects poorly on this University, its faculty, staff, and administration. It is, indeed, a scandal, an embarrassing scandal, for which the administration appears primarily responsible. UH/CL can do better; it has done better in the past. The document speaks quite effectively to how well, in the words of the draft 6 year plan itself, the present administration will "lead and assist the work of the faculty and students."

UH/CL FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTS TUF's RIGHT TO MEET ON CAMPUS

On November 2, 1983, the Faculty Senate passed the following resolution:

The Faculty Senate at UH/CL requests the UH/CL and UH Systems administrations to allow Texas United Faculty/Clear Lake Guild

and all other duly constituted UH/CL faculty organizations to meet on campus free of charge.

The vote was nearly unanimous. Our guild has again written to the Chancellor, asking that we be allowed to meet, citing this resolution as well as our rights of free speech and equal protection.

MEMBERSHIP RISES

Our Guild now has 16 members. We have set a goal of 20 members by the end of the academic year, or 10% of the total UH/CL faculty of approximately 200.

A number of benefits come with membership; see CURT SMITH or BRUCE PALMER for details.