

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER INTERNAL POLICIES**

25.99.99.Z1.01 Memberships

Approved February 3, 2010

1. OVERVIEW

The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center (HSC) and its member institutions are frequently asked to join and participate in a range of institutions and organizations that are related to or support health related education and/or the provision of health care services. Most, if not all, of the institutions and organizations, serve valid, useful and worthy educational or health related goals. Recognizing that it is not possible to join and participate in every worthy request that is received, it is important to define those areas within which such membership may be considered.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

HSC has an ongoing interest in and need to attract and foster the best and brightest students, faculty and staff and to advance human health care as part of its broader mission of human health related teaching and research. Thus, HSC will consider membership in those institutions and organizations that have a demonstrated record of:

1. recognized achievements for designated constituencies,
2. providing valuable insight in the areas directly related to the HSC's mission,
3. providing peer contact with representatives of other institutions of higher education, or
4. providing educational, research and developmental opportunities for HSC's students, faculty and staff.

3. REQUIREMENTS

In order to assure appropriate use of HSC resources with respect to membership opportunities, the following criteria will be applied:

1. The prospective institutions and organizations must have been in existence for a minimum of five years and have a mission or purpose directly related to the mission of the HSC or one of its member institutions.

2. Membership will be limited to those institutions and organizations
 - A. that are directly targeted to (i) health related education, (ii) health care services, (iii) health related research, (iv) community relations and/or community enhancement in locations where the HSC or one of its member institutions are located, or
 - B. that provide services including professional development, that are of direct benefit to the students, faculty and staff of the HSC or one of its member institutions.
3. Membership will be limited only to those institutions and organizations that are committed to transparent governance, publish annual audited financial statements, and have an administrative overhead of not more than thirty percent (30%) of annual revenues.
4. This policy applies only to memberships in voluntary institutions and organizations by HSC and its member institutions, not to compulsory memberships or memberships by faculty and staff necessary to maintain their academic or professional status, licensure or credentials.
5. For good cause shown, the HSC Executive Committee, by majority vote, may authorize a deviation from the foregoing criteria.

4. PROCUREMENT

Membership payments will follow State of Texas Purchase Policies and Procedures including Texas Government Code §556.005 prohibiting the use of appropriated funds to pay that portion of membership dues that pays part of all of the salary of a person who is required by Texas Government Code §305 to register as a lobbyist.

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Vice President for Finance and Administration