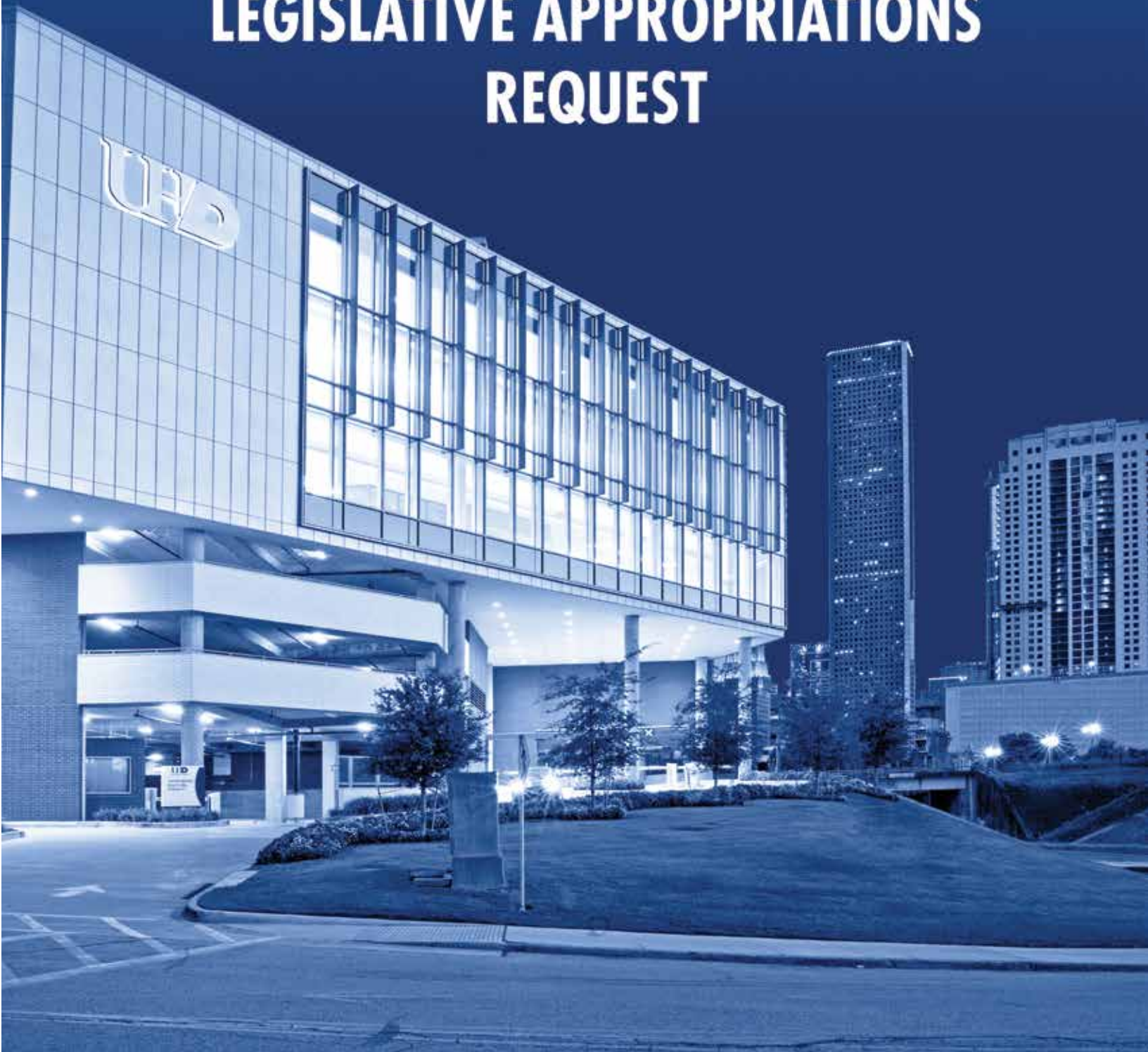




FISCAL YEARS

**2020 – 2021**

**LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS  
REQUEST**



## **UHD Mission Statement**

The University of Houston-Downtown is a comprehensive four-year university offering bachelor's and selected master's degree programs, and providing strong academic and career preparation as well as life-long learning opportunities. Located in the heart of the city, the University reflects the diversity of the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area and, through its academic programs, engages with the community to address the needs and advance the development of the region. UHD is an inclusive community dedicated to integrating teaching, service, and scholarly research to develop students' talents and prepare them for success in a dynamic global society.

## **UHD Vision Statement**

The University of Houston-Downtown will be a premier city university engaging every student in high-impact educational experiences and ensuring that students graduate with 21st century skills.



Entering the 2020-2021 biennium, UHD is aligned with the state's 60x30 goal of doubling, by 2030, the number of Texans ages 24-35 with postsecondary credentials or degrees. In 2016-17, UHD increased the number of degrees and certificates it awarded by 12.1%. At this rate, by 2030, UHD will more than double the number of academic credentials it awards. In order to achieve this benchmark, UHD will continue to work with business, and educational and governmental agencies to create curricula and programs that develop students' critical thinking and marketable skills.

Regarding the 60x30 plan to limit student debt, UHD will sustain its track record of affordable tuition and fees, as well as its effort to decrease excess semester credit hours that students attempt in completing their degrees. In fact, UHD was recently recognized by IPEDS as one of the 15 lowest net-price 4-year universities in the country. Approximately 80% of UHD's full-time students receive an average \$10,000 in scholarships, grants and/or loans each year, helping to keep student costs at manageable levels.

## Legislative Appropriations Request - Fiscal years 2020 and 2021

- **Increased formula funding**
- **Continued and increased funding for the Texas Grant program**
- **Increased funding to offset Hazlewood exemptions**

### Exceptional Item Requests:

- 1 Restoration of Funding**
  - Formula: Restore the Operations Support funding to the 2010-11 rate, adjusted for inflation
  - Non-formula: \$1,642,984
- 2 Harvey Flood Recovery and Mitigation Efforts**
  - \$4 million for the biennium
- 3 Student Union & University College**
  - \$15 million for the biennium
- 4 Arts, Sciences, Engineering and Entrepreneurship Center**
  - \$19,035,446 for the biennium

1

THE NEED

Restoration of Funding – Formula and Non-formula

1A: Restore the Operations Support funding to the 2010-11 rate, adjusted for inflation. The current SCH rate remains 10% below the base funding that had been provided four legislative sessions prior, without considering inflation.

1B: Restore the non-formula funds (\$1,642,984) that were cut during the 85th legislative session. For UHD, 83% of this overall reduction was to the Institutional Enhancement special item (I/E). For many years now, the funds from this item have been treated as general operating funds. This reduction resulted in fewer faculty, advisors, and financial aid counselors and has made it more difficult to provide students with the direct services and support needed to be successful.



THE REQUEST . . . . .

- **Formula: Restore the Operations Support funding to 2010-11 rate, adjusted for inflation.**
- **Non-formula: \$1,642,984**

# 2

## THE NEED

## Hurricane Harvey Recovery/Mitigation Costs

UHD took a direct hit from Hurricane Harvey, and the iconic One Main Building sustained major flooding. The first floor of One Main took in 33 inches of floodwater, devastating four major functions located on that floor (Facilities Management, Police, Parking & Transportation, Shipping & Receiving), while also causing significant damage to aspects of the central plant. The cost of addressing this damage amounted to \$9 million. The 2% deductible on the high-value One Main Building amounted to approximately \$3.1 million. UHD is requesting an extraordinary one-time appropriation to cover this deductible.

**\$3.1 Million**

In addition, UHD is looking for ways to minimize damage from future storms. Two significant steps are:

- Have a system of floodgates in place and ready to deploy.
- Make water tight the subterranean tunnel that runs from the basement of UHD's One Main Building down to Buffalo Bayou.

**\$900,000**



**THE REQUEST . . . . . \$4 million**

3

THE NEED

Collaborative, Retention and Academic Engagement Facilities

UHD is transforming from an institution focused primarily on access, to an institution equally committed to both access and success. At present, UHD lacks the kind of gathering spaces for students that foster a 'sense of place,' space that is inviting and flexible for non-traditional students. Areas such as these support student-to-student networking and deeper faculty-student relationships, which are vital to the improvement of persistence and graduation rates. This is particularly true at a university like UHD, which lacks residential housing and is composed of an entirely commuter student population.

**3A:** UHD is seeking legislative approval to put in place a new Wellness & Success Center Fee to support construction and operation of a much-needed student center. The availability of a new Wellness & Success Center is critical to accommodating students on campus between classes, where they'll be able to meet with classmates, study, exercise, and become more connected to the culture of the University. Upon approval of the Wellness & Success Center Fee, design and construction can begin with an anticipated completion time frame of summer 2021.

**3B:** After construction of the Wellness & Success Center, UHD will then repurpose the current Student Life Center (SLC) into a comprehensive Student Union. The SLC structure itself can be redesigned to serve as a functional Student Union, which UHD requires and currently does not possess. This transformational development will take one year to complete, following completion of the Wellness & Success Center. Design and construction costs for the Student Union are expected to be \$7 million.

**\$7 million**

**3C:** The third phase of this strategy will be to build out a second level on the Girard Street Building (GSB). The GSB was constructed to accommodate a second floor, which will primarily house UHD's University College. In addition to serving as the home for students who have yet to declare a major, this particular college incorporates many of UHD's crucial student success functions and programs including:

- Student Advising
- Gator Success Center
- Honors College
- Minority Male Initiative

By moving University College to the GSB, students will have improved access to a number of engagement-focused functions, including the Advising Center, W.I. Dykes Library and Student Activities. Design and construction costs for the second level of GSB are expected to be \$8 million.

**\$8 million**



**THE REQUEST** ..... **\$15 million**

4

THE NEED

Arts, Sciences, Engineering and Entrepreneurship Center

UHD proposes a 173,000 gross square feet facility with engaging maker-spaces to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship in the arts, sciences, and engineering. This unique facility would serve UHD and the surrounding community through academic and continuing education programs. This building would offer spaces to serve as a hub for creativity and entrepreneurship. Other spaces would include studios, a theatre, study spaces, and larger open spaces to support gatherings.



THE REQUEST ..... \$19,035,446



## UHD ENROLLMENT FACTS

- **Current Enrollment:** 14,265
- **Student status:** 46% Full-time, 54% Part-time
- **Enrollment by Gender:** 61% Female, 39% Male
- **Enrollment by Ethnicity:** 50% Hispanic; 21% Black; 15% White; 10% Asian/Pacific Islander; 4% International and others
- **Average Student Age:** 28