

A campus newspaper for faculty, staff and students at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

McKinney Named Sole Finalist for Texas A&M System Chancellor

By David R. Bates, *Institutional Advancement*

Michael D. McKinney, M.D., senior executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO) of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston since September 2003, has been named the sole finalist for chancellor of Texas A&M University System by the Board of Regents. State law requires that the board wait 21 days for public notice before considering McKinney's appointment to the position, in which he will oversee the A&M System's 17-member institutions and the System offices.

McKinney joined UT Health Science Center as interim chief operating officer in May 2003, on temporary assignment from his position as vice chancellor for health



Michael D. McKinney, M.D.

affairs at The University of Texas System in Austin. As vice chancellor, he concentrated on business management and financial issues related to the six health science institutions in the UT System.

"We are proud of this honor for Mike McKinney and we are certain that he will be an outstanding leader of the Texas A&M University System," said UT Health Science Center President James T.

Willerson, M.D. "The A&M System and the people of Texas will benefit from his leadership. Mike has been dedicated, innovative and the epitome of selfless service here at UT Health Science Center. On a personal level, Mike has been a valued advisor, confidant and friend. I will miss

him very much."

McKinney joined the UT System in 2002 after serving as chief of staff to Gov. Rick Perry from August 2001 until November 2002. Before joining the Governor's Office, McKinney served for three years in a variety of executive positions with Centene Corp., a managed care company.

McKinney has served as Texas commissioner of health and human services (1995-98) and represented District 15 in the Texas House of Representatives from 1984-91. He was medical director of an insurance company and a health care plan and a member of the Physician Payment Review Commission in the Federal Office of Technology.

Early in his career, McKinney – a gradu-



Brent King, M.D.

ate of the University of Houston and the UT Medical Branch at Galveston – was the only family medicine practitioner in Centerville in East Texas.

Willerson announced that Brent King, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the UT Medical School at Houston, will act as UT Health Science Center's interim chief operating officer. "Dr.

King will assume the critical tasks that Mike was shouldering," Willerson said. "He immediately will start working with Dr. McKinney and Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Kevin Dillon to ensure a smooth transition in administration." ★

Administrative Changes in Academic Affairs, Development & Public Affairs

Academic Affairs Reorganization Moves Some Functions to Other Areas

In October, Michael McKinney, M.D., senior executive vice president and chief operating officer, announced a number of administrative changes related to areas once part of the Office of Academic Affairs.

"As should be the case in all we do as financial and human resource stewards of the UT Health Science Center at Houston, we continue to look for opportunities to reduce costs, eliminate redundancies and enhance service," McKinney said of the changes that were effective Nov. 1 "To that end, and with Dr. Willerson's support, I have authorized a re-organization of the Office of Academic Affairs."

Under the continued leader of Max Buja, M.D., the Office of Academic Affairs now comprises the Registrar's Office and the areas of faculty affairs and student services, he explained. "Dr. Buja will continue to collaborate on the UT Compact, Strategic Planning and Academic Accreditations."

The Office of Cultural and Institutional Diversity has been re-organized with faculty and student cultural and diversity programs assigned to the Office of Academic Affairs. Similar programs related to health science center staff are assigned to the EEO/AA function within the Office of Human Resources.

Other changes:

- Student Financial Services reports to Mike Tramonte in the Office of Finance and Administration.
- Strategic Planning and Institutional Analysis reports to Laura Smith in the Office of Finance and Administration.
- The Office of International Affairs reports to Arlene Staller in the Office of Legal Affairs and Institutional Compliance.
- Student Counseling Services has been re-assigned to Sherry Wilson, becoming part of the UT Counseling and Work/Life Services (formerly the Employee Assistance Program).

- Outcomes Assessment and Biostatistical Services reports to the Office of the Chief Operating Officer.
- Academic Accreditation and Special Academic-Related Projects reports to the Office of the Chief Operating Officer.

Linda Brannon has been reassigned to the COO's Office and is responsible for coordination, facilitation and collaboration with the schools and Academic Affairs in these important efforts.

A significant re-organization such as this requires transitioning, McKinney said. "We have charged leadership with the task of ensuring as smooth a transition as possible to be completed by the end of this calendar year."

Cooperation, communication and collaboration on everyone's part will increase the likelihood of role clarity and increased efficiencies as we build these new partnerships and business processes, McKinney explained.

"I want to thank all those involved in roll-

ing out these changes," he said. "It is often difficult to adjust how we do business but I am assured that the professionalism and competency of those involved will achieve anticipated improvements and increased efficiencies."

New Office of Institutional Advancement Comprises Development and Public Affairs

The offices of Public Affairs and Development have long shared office space in the University Center Tower, along with the common goal of promoting the UT Health Science Center at Houston. Now the two have joined as the Office of Institutional Advancement. The new office includes the Office of Development and the former Office of Public Affairs, which includes Communications, Marketing and Community Relations, and Media Relations.

The consolidation of the departments into one central operation is intended to optimize efforts to publicize the health science center

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Emphasizing Professional Development One of UCSC Chair's Goals

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

Nancy Shipley, research coordinator in the Medical School's Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, has several goals as this year's chair of the University Classified Staff Council. One of those goals is getting more people involved in UCSC.

"I'm an avid believer in voting and not just for UCSC — whether it's at the UT Health Science Center, your city or national elections. If you didn't vote (or speak up) when you have the opportunity, I don't want to hear you complain. You can't change the system unless you're part of the

system. If you really want to know what the system is about, you have to participate," Shipley asserts.

Her other main goal is helping to emphasize to both staff and administration the need for increased, strategic professional development training for classified staff.

"I got involved in UCSC because the longer I worked here in a laboratory setting, the more estranged I felt from the UT Health Science Center at large," explains Shipley, who has been involved in UCSC for more than five years, serving on the elections committee and procedures committee. She was

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A voucher found at <http://www.uthouston.edu/community/barnesnoble/> ensures that your purchase of books, CDs, calendars, games, DVDs and other items will result in financial help for those students with the greatest needs. (Vouchers also will be available at the checkout counter.)

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