Agenda Item: III. F.

DATE: July 22, 2021

SUBJECT: New Academic Program
University of Tennessee, Martin
Veterinary Science and Technology, Bachelor of Science
CIP Code: 01.8101 (Veterinary Sciences/Veterinary Clinical Sciences)

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The University of Tennessee, Martin (UTM) proposes a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Veterinary Science and Technology which will require 120 credit hours and will prepare students to become a licensed veterinary technician or apply to veterinary school. Currently, only 22 accredited veterinary technology bachelor's programs exist nationwide.

The proposed program represents the first academic program to be considered for approval under *THEC Academic Policy A.1.6 – Expedited Academic Programs.* Eligible programs for consideration under this policy are considered to be in high demand and have a demonstrated need for qualified postsecondary graduates in that employment sector

The proposed program will be the first degree program in Veterinary Science and Technology in Tennessee and will elevate highly successful tracks in the current Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at UTM to a standalone degree program. The proposed program will have two concentrations: Veterinary Science and Veterinary Technology.

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology program was approved by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees on June 25, 2021 and plans to be implemented in Fall 2021.

CURRICULUM

The proposed program will require a minimum of 120 credit hours including 38-39 credit hours of general education courses; 35-43 Veterinary Science and Technology core credit hours; and 47 credit hours of concentration credit hours. The program will be delivered primarily on ground and does not require the development of any new courses.

The proposed curriculum is designed to produce undergraduate Veterinary Science and Technology graduates who demonstrate the ability to:

▪   Control and handle animals;

- Properly identify equipment needed for animal procedures and use it safely and proficiently;
- Demonstrate competency and critical thinking in animal nutrition, reproduction, genetics, health, anatomy, and physiology; and
- Demonstrate skills and understanding of careers in veterinary science and technology through the completion of an intensive internship in the field.

PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY

The proposed Veterinary Science and Technology BS program projects an annual fall enrollment of 314 students and 261 graduates. UTM based these annual projections on continued growth of the current concentrations combined with enhanced visibility brought by the elevation of the program to a standalone degree program. The projected attrition rate of 53 students or 17 percent is based on the overall attrition rate at UTM.

	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Enrollment	314	314	314	314	314
Graduates	261	261	261	261	261

EXTERNAL JUDGEMENT

An external review of the proposed program was conducted during a virtual institution site visit on January 20, 2021 by Dr. Glen Wright, Director of Veterinary Technology/Animal Health at Florida A&M University. The site visit included meetings with campus administrators, faculty, prospective students, and community partners.

Dr. Wright made a recommendation for approval of the proposed program and stated, "I unequivocally recommend approval for the proposed program. This program is currently operating very well, and the proposed change will help the program to thrive and grow. The change will benefit recruiting and will help with the efficiency of the administrative processed and reporting structure. The growth and changes will benefit the College of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources and the University of Tennessee Martin."

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Letters of support for the proposed program were provided Memphis Veterinary Specialists and Emergency, UT College of Veterinary Specialists, Nashville Veterinary Specialists, BluePearl Veterinary Partners, Auburn University, Texas Technological University – School of Veterinary Medicine, Bells Animal Clinic in West TN, VCA Ragland and Riley Hospital in Livingston.

PROGRAM COSTS

The proposed recurring expenditures for the Veterinary Science and Technology, BS program are listed in Table 1. The average recurring annual costs for the proposed program are $145,000 for the 5-year period. Additional digital imaging technology will be purchased for the proposed program to meet accreditation standards. Other expenditures are projected to support and maintain existing equipment and facilities at UTM.

Table 1- *Estimated Costs to Deliver the Proposed Program: Recurring Expenditures*

Category	Planning	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Library	5,000	5,250	5,513	5,788	6,078	6,381
Information Technology	20,000	21,000	22,050	23,153	24,310	25,526
Other support (please specify)	35,000 ANSC AEF	36,750	38,588	40,517	42,543	44,670
Equipment	40,000	42,000	44,100	46,305	48,620	51,051
New/Renovated Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marketing	5,000	5,250	5,513	5,788	6,078	6,381
Travel	20,000	21,000	22,050	23,153	24,310	25,526
Grand Total	**125,000**	**131,250**	**137,814**	**144,704**	**151,939**	**157,535**
Explanation of recurring expenditure costs:						
Recurring expenditures are based on current costs to deliver these options. Projections have a 5% increase each year. These costs are accounted for in the current budget and fees.						

ASSESSMENT AND POST-APPROVAL MONITORING

An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following program approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved proposal. At the end of this period, the campus, institutional governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, and other metrics set by the institution and Commission staff. If benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the institutional governing board terminate the program. If additional time is needed and requested by the institutional governing board, the Commission may choose to extend the monitoring period.