LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

University of Houston
Student Leadership Work Day

2009

Barbara Stanley
Chief of Staff and
Assist VP/VC of Local Government Relations
United States Federal Government

U.S. Congress

House of Representatives
(Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D Houston)

Senate
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)
Sen. John Cornyn (R)

Primary Responsibilities (partial list):
• National defense
• Health and welfare through such agencies as the Food and Drug administration and the Environmental Protection Agency
• General protection and regulation such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission
• Funding research endeavors through such agencies as the National Institute of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense

Connection to the University of Houston:
• Significant source of prestigious research funding that is a criteria for Tier One status
• Source of scholarship funds and loans (e.g. Pell Grants, GI Bill)
• Protections provided by the armed services, the various regulatory agencies, highways and transportation
State of Texas

Texas Legislature

House of Representatives
Rep. Garnet Coleman (D Houston)

Senate
Sen. Rodney Ellis (D Houston)

Primary Responsibilities (partial list):
• Education (public and higher education)
• Prisons
• Highways
• Welfare (aid to indigent and disabled)

Connection to the University of Houston:
• Legislature appropriates funds for majority of University’s budget
• Legislature establishes tuition rates or authorizes universities to set tuition
• Governor appoints Regents who govern the University
• Coordinating Board of Higher Education determines academic standards and programs
• Legislature creates laws that govern certain University actions (such as the legislation that would allow concealed weapons to be carried on campuses).
City of Houston

Mayor Bill White
Council Member Wanda Adams
Five At Large Council Members

**Primary Responsibilities:**
- Police and fire protection
- Streets and Roads
- Water and wastewater
- Garbage
- Libraries
- Parks and Recreation

**Connection to the University of Houston**
- Fire and supplemental police protection
- Street access
Harris County

County Judge Ed Emmett (R)
Commissioner El Franco Lee (D)

**Primary Responsibilities:**
- Roads and bridges in the unincorporated areas of the county
- Mental health services
- Oversees the Harris County Hospital District
- Oversees the Harris County Mosquito Control District
- Parks and recreation

**Connection to the University of Houston:**
- Medical and mental health services are available
- Sprays campus for mosquitoes
- Maintains the Brays Bayou Hike and Bike trail just south of the campus
METRO (Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County)

METRO is governed by a nine member board; five members are appointed by the Mayor of Houston, two are appointed by the Harris County Judge, and two are appointed by members of METRO’s 14 other member cities.

**Primary Responsibilities:**
- Provide bus and light rail service
  - **Connection to University of Houston**
- Currently provides bus service to UH
- Will build two light rail lines (Southeast Line and University Line) to serve UH campus