FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMERGENCY CAMPUS POWER OUTAGE

Houston, June 5, 2012 – A contractor hit one of the Universities Main Feeders and as a result a total of ten (10) buildings experienced a temporary power outage at approximately 5:36 PM this evening. A main feeder (Cougar 2) between Calhoun Lofts and Melcher Business School was impacted. There are a total of 25 buildings on this feeder and many also experienced a blip in power as they rolled to the alternate feeder.

Due to outside temperatures and current feeder capacity concerns Facilities Management has determined it best not to roll the impacted buildings to Primary alternate Cougar 1 feeder at this time, but have proceeded with engaging the tie breaker switch in the Central Plant and roll the buildings on damaged Cougar 2 over to Central Plant feeder Cougar 3 to ensure continuity of service to the campus. As a result of this rollover buildings may be warmer than usual during this interim repair period.

We have distributed communications through the Outage Notification listserv as well as worked with Public Safety to communicate a secondary message through PIER. The Central Plant operations as well as our mechanical team members have been notified since our actions will affect the Central Plant while we transfer the loads. Facilities Management response team will continuously update the Facilities Service Center with the work status and when the buildings come back online. The extent of the damage to Cougar feeder 2 is not yet known, but Facilities Management will work with the contractor to ensure repairs are completed as quickly as possible so the loads can be returned and all services returned to normal operational service levels.

The Utilities Services group has begun rolling over the loads and buildings should begin to come back online tonight. Facilities members will complete building walkthroughs to verify building power.

If you experience any service issues after this time, please contact the Facilities Service Center at 713-743-4948 with a clear description of the issue that is occurring so it can be quickly and accurately assessed and addressed.

For further questions or concerns related to this outage, please contact Sameer Kapileshwari, Director of Facilities & Operations at 713-742-3069.
About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a comprehensive national research institution serving the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. UH serves more than 38,500 students in the nation’s fourth-largest city, located in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region of the country.