1. PURPOSE

This document sets forth guidelines for the approval and awarding of contracts for services, including but not limited to contractual documents, terms and conditions, leases, letters of agreement, letters of intent, memoranda of understanding, and interagency or intra-system agreements. This document does not apply to procurement of supplies, goods or equipment that is normally provided by component university purchasing departments.

2. POLICY

2.1. No person has the authority to bind the System or any of its component universities contractually except in accordance with this document. The Board must approve certain contracts in accordance with Board Policy 55.01, Board Policy 53.04, and Board Bylaws. The Board delegates to the Chancellor the authority to negotiate, execute, and administer all other contracts or delegate said authority.

2.2. Each component university shall develop written policies and procedures to implement this policy and for general contract administration.

2.3. All contracts shall have all applicable administrative and legal reviews completed and be signed by all parties prior to commencement of any duties/actions by the parties as stipulated in the contract. Board approval must be obtained in an open meeting for certain contracts (see Section 4 of this document).

2.4. Contracts are legally binding on the System and/or its component universities only upon execution of the contract by the System and/or component university official with delegated contractual signatory authority.

2.5. Amendments, changes, extensions, or renewals to the original contract using non-standard agreement forms (agreements that have not been approved by the Office of General Counsel denoted by OGC S______) must be processed in the same manner as the original contract. A copy of the original contract must be included with the amendment, change, extension, or renewal at the time the documents are processed for approval. In instances where the original contract was approved by
the Board and the aggregate revised contract amount under this section is does not
greater than Section 4.1 exceed 25% of the original contract, the Chancellor is
authorized to execute the amendment, change, extension or renewal without
further action by the Board. The Chancellor shall provide the Board Chairman a
report of any such actions at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting
following the action. In instances where the original contract was not approved by
the Board and the aggregate revised contract amount will exceed $1,000,000, the
Board must approve the amendment, change, extension or renewal.

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.1. Contract Management:

a. Each component university shall retain at least one executed copy of every
contract into which it enters. These copies may be retained by the unit
that originated the contract or by a central repository as specified by the
component university. Although original and signed contracts are
required-preferred by this document, certain limited situations exist, i.e.,
contracting parties located overseas, etc., that may require electronic or
facsimile (collectively “facsimile”) copies of the contract and contract
signatures so that contract performance may begin. In these rare and
limited situations, original-Original fully-signed agreements (not or
facsimiles) must be forwarded to the originating unit within
10 business days from the date of final execution and prior to performance
under the contract. Facsimile is received and processed by the originating
unit and/or applicable contracting office. Notwithstanding the above, all
personnel responsible for contracts within the originating units should
anticipate the time needed to receive fully signed originals and plan
accordingly so that contract facsimiles are the rare exception.

b. Each component university shall develop and maintain a contract
management system to ensure that the terms and conditions of each
contract are performed in an appropriate manner. The individual(s)
responsible for ensuring that the terms and conditions of the contract are
met shall sign an appropriate statement acknowledging this important
responsibility. Such documentation, to include an acknowledgement
statement and the person’s name, title, (if appropriate or required),
signature and date of signature shall be maintained with the records
associated with each contract.

c. Each component university shall report all contracts with a dollar amount
exceeding $0.00 which are executed on September 1, 2015 or after on its
web site, whether reviewed by the System Office of Contract
Administration or not, in the manner required by the Division of
Administration and Finance.
3.2. **Audit Clause:** All revenue generating contracts and all contracts where payment by a component university is contingent upon records processed and maintained by another party to the contract shall contain an audit clause. This clause shall give the System and/or its component universities the right to access and audit any and all documents pertaining to the contractual relationship held by any party to the contract.

4. **CONTRACTS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL**

4.1. Board approval must be obtained in an open meeting for contracts described in Board Policy 55.01.01, including the following contracts (refer to Board Policy 55.01.01):

a. Contracts for the purchase, gift or acquisition of real property;

b. Contracts for the sale of real property or conveyance of any rights-interests in real property, if the value of the property is more than $300,000 expressly excluded are utility easements to serve one or more component universities;

c. Real estate leases, lease renewals and extensions, whether as lessor or lessee, if the obligation of the lease is equal to or greater than the submittal threshold requiring Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) action $1,000,000;

d. Oil and gas leases with an expected bonus exceeding $100,000;

dc. Banking and investment agreements;

ef. Any single procurement or revenue contract for any construction, equipment, goods and/or services, not specified above, that is expected to exceed $1,000,000 in a fiscal year;

fg. Any extension, modification, or renewal of an existing contract that is expected would cause the revised aggregate contract amount to exceed $1,000,000, or that increases the value of a contract already approved by the Board by over 25% in a fiscal year;

gb. Any series of contracts that are initiated in the same department for the same goods or services with the same party within a fiscal year, that if combined in one contract, would require Board approval or reporting; and

hi. Any other contract the Board might designate as having significant importance to require Board approval.
4.2. The Board holds four regularly scheduled meetings per year. The current meetings schedule can be accessed at http://www.uhsystem.edu/board-of-regents/mtg-calendar/index.php. With the exception of Division of Research and Intellectual Property contracts, in order to submit a contract for Board approval, each component must send the contract with a completed Board of Regents’ Agenda Cover Sheet (Exhibit A) to the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. The template for the Board of Regents’ Agenda Cover Sheet may be obtained from the Board of Regents’ Office.

5. PROCEDURES FOR CONTRACTS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

5.1. The Chancellor shall execute all contracts approved by the Board.

5.2. All delegations of contracting authority must be made in writing, approved by the Chancellor, and filed with the Board as well as with the System Office of Contract Administration by September 1 of the fiscal year in which they will be effective. No employee, officer or agent of the System shall have the authority to execute contracts unless expressly delegated such authority pursuant to this document.

5.3. All contracts requiring Board approval must be reviewed and approved by the Office of General Counsel before execution.

5.4. All expenditures for professional services or consulting contracts must be coded to the accounts listed in Exhibit B or associated accounts which may be approved in the future.

5.5. In the event of a bona fide emergency, as declared by the Chairman of the Board upon consultation with the Chancellor, the Chancellor may execute a contract that would otherwise require Board approval. The Chancellor must then submit the contract to the Board for ratification at its next regular meeting.

5.6. The component Purchasing Director must verify in writing that the solicitation, procurement method, and contractor selection process are in accordance with state law and university policy for any contract over $5,000,000 that is executed on September 1, 2015 or after, and will report any potential issues about the solicitation, procurement method, or contract selection process for these contracts to the Board of Board of Regents.

5.7. Each component university shall monitor all procurement contracts over $1,000,000 executed on September 1, 2015 or after, which are considered contracts that require enhanced performance monitoring, for compliance with terms during the term for such contracts and shall provide reporting of such in the manner required by the Division of Administration and Finance.
6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACTS NOT REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

6.1. Each President or President’s designee may negotiate, execute, and administer all contracts and related legal documents that do not require Board approval, except as otherwise noted in this section. No President or President’s designee shall have authority to execute contracts unless expressly delegated such authority pursuant to this policy.

6.2. All contracts must be reviewed and approved as to form by the Office of General Counsel before execution. The Office of General Counsel may approve standard contracts for use without additional review and approval by the Office of General Counsel.

6.3. Each President or President’s designee, delegated the authority described in Section 6.1., may execute the following contracts when the total budget is not expected to exceed $300,000:

a. Contracts for new construction;

b. Contracts for repair and rehabilitation;

c. Contracts for furnishings and equipment related to new construction or repair and rehabilitation;

d. Contracts for architects, engineers and general contractors supporting projects noted in this Section a.-c. above;

e. Contracts for professional services firms relating to testing, environmental issues and HVAC systems supporting projects noted in this Section a.-c. above.

f. Other contracts not expected to exceed $300,000, except for contracts described in Section 6.8 below.

6.4. Contracts greater than $300,000 require the approval of the Chancellor; Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance; component university President; component university Chief Financial Officer; and the Executive Director, FP&C.

6.5. Contracts greater than $1 million must be approved by the Chancellor, following approval by the Board.

6.6. The Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance shall present for approval to the Board projects for new construction or major repair and rehabilitation of buildings and facilities when the total cost is equal to or greater than the submittal threshold requiring Texas Higher Education Coordinating Council approval.
Board (THECB) action consistent with Board Policy 53.04. In such cases, the Board will be presented with the project, budget, schedule and, if applicable, a program and schematic design. Once a project is approved, the Chancellor or his or her designee is authorized to negotiate and execute all appropriate contracts and easements required to accomplish the project, provided it is within the approved scope and budget of the project.

6.7. When total project costs of a new construction and/or renovation project are $300,000 or less, each component university shall ensure that all plans, specifications and bidding documents are reviewed for compliance with applicable state laws prior to being released for bidding. When total project costs are greater than $300,000, the System FP&C Department shall manage the projects. This includes the review of all plans, specifications and bidding documents for compliance with applicable state laws prior to being released for bidding.

6.8. The following contracts must be routed through the Executive Director for Contracts Administration/Associate General Counsel the Office of Contract Administration for Contract Compliance for the Chancellor’s approval and execution. Delegated authority is not given to the component university Presidents in this regard.

a. Contracts for the purchase, gift or acquisition of real property;

b. Contracts for the sale of real property or conveyance of any rights in real property; and

c. Contracts for real estate leases, lease renewals and extensions, as lessor or lessee.

6.9. All expenditures for professional services or consulting contracts must be coded to the accounts listed in Exhibit B or associated accounts which may be approved in the future.

6.10. Each President has, or may delegate, the authority to negotiate, execute, and administer all contracts and grants pertaining to sponsored activities, including externally-funded research contracts, cooperative agreements, joint research projects and similar agreements. The presidents must annually report all a list of such contracts exceeding $1,000,000 to the Board as an information item.
7. SPECIAL CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

7.1. Competitive Procurement Requirements:

a. The System and its component universities may acquire goods or services by the method that provides the best value to the institution, including

- Competitive bidding;
- Competitive sealed proposals;
- A catalog purchase;
- A group purchasing program; or
- An open market contract.

b. The following criteria shall be considered in determining best value:

- The purchase price;
- The reputation of the vendor and of the vendor’s goods or service;
- The quality of the vendor’s goods or services;
- The extent to which the goods or services meet the institution’s needs;
- The vendor’s past relationship with the institution;
- The impact on the ability of the institution to comply with laws and rules relating to historically underutilized businesses and to the procurement of goods and services for persons with disabilities;
- The long-term cost to the institution of acquiring the vendor’s goods or services;
- Any other relevant factor that a private business entity would consider in selecting a vendor; and
- The use of material in construction or repair to real property that is not proprietary to a single vendor unless the institution provides written justification in the request for bids for use of the unique material specified.
c. The following additional criteria shall be considered in determining best value:

- A vendor proposal must meet the requirements of the institution’s solicitation document; and
- A vendor proposal that is non-responsive to the criteria set forth in the institution’s solicitation document shall be rejected.

7.2. Lease of Space by a Component Unit: The Chancellor must approve all leases, regardless of the source of funding.

a. **State Funds:** State law requires that state agencies afford the Texas Building and Procurement Commission (formerly the General Services Commission) the opportunity to obtain leased space, if the lease will be paid from state funds. An originating unit desiring to lease space with state funds should anticipate working with the UHS Facilities Planning and Construction Department and the UHS Contracts Office; the System Office of Real Estate Services and the System Office of Contract Administration; who shall coordinate the required activities with the Texas Building and Procurement Commission (TBPC) leasing department, after obtaining approval of the Chancellor as noted in this section. With respect to the foregoing, an originating unit must confirm the source of funds before submission of the lease.

b. **Local Funds:** The TBPC has delegated authority to the System to execute lease agreements for which no state funds will be expended. An originating unit desiring to lease space under System delegated authority must work with the System FP&C Department and the System Contracts Administration Office for assistance in ensuring compliance with all legal and administrative requirements.

7.3. Consulting or Professional Services Contracts: See Texas Government Code, Chapter 2254.

a. **Consulting Services:** There are numerous state requirements governing filing of notices to solicit and award consulting contracts and to process renewals, amendments and extensions. An originating unit must work with the appropriate contracting office and/or the System Office of Contracts Administration Office and allow sufficient time to complete publication and notice requirements. Failure to comply with these requirements may render the contracts as void.

b. **Professional Services:** State law requires that selection and award of contracts for professional services be based on (a) the professional’s demonstrated competence, (b) the professional’s qualifications for the type
of services to be performed, and (c) a fair and reasonable price, rather than on the basis of competitive bids.

c. **State Agency Reporting:**

1. **Professional Services:** Each component is required by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) by directive letter dated August 2014 December 2001; and by law to provide written notice to the LBB not later than the 10th day after the date on which the component enters into contracts for professional services, if the amount of the contract, including an amendment, modification, renewal, or extension of the contract, exceeds $14,000, including but not limited to: (a) contracts for construction projects (Government Code §2166.2551); (b) contracts for professional services (Government Code §2254.006), other than contracts for physician or optometric services, valued at over $14,000, including an amendment, modification, renewal, or extension of the contract; and (c) contracts for consulting services (Government Code §2254.0062254.0301).

2. **Consulting Services:** Each component is required to provide written notice to the Texas Secretary of State for publication in the Texas Register of the university’s intent to enter into a major consulting services contract, defined as a consulting service agreement exceeding $25,000 for an institution of higher education, not later than thirty days before the university will enter into that contract. The notice must include a finding by the university President that consulting services are necessary, an explanation of that finding, and information about how prospective consultants can submit offers for consulting services for this contract (see Government Code 2254.028 and 2254.029 for details). In addition, not later than 20 days after entering into a major consulting services contract, the component university must publish specific information about the consulting contract in the Texas Register (see Government Code 2254.030 for details).

d. **Yearly Report to the Board of Regents:** The Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration, in consultation with the Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance, shall compile a report of all contracts for consulting or professional services, where total compensation from System-wide sources to a single entity exceeded $250,000 during the fiscal year, for submission by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance to the Board of Regents at the first meeting of the next subsequent fiscal year (refer to Board Policy 55.01.4).
7.4 Construction Contracts: Each component is required by law to provide written notice to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) not later than the 10th day after the date on which the component enters into contracts for construction projects valued at over $14,000, including an amendment, modification, renewal, or extension of the contract (see Government Code §2166.2551).

7.45 Revenue-Generating Contracts: All contractual transactions for which revenues will be generated for the component university and/or any unit of the component university must comply with requirements set forth in this document, including review by the Office of Contracts Administration, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and/or Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration (or designee at each component university), the University of Houston Tax Director (to determine if unrelated business income tax might be affected and such review should occur prior to submission of the contract to the Office of Contract Administration), processing by the applicable contracting office, and execution by the appropriate component university official. Component university units are authorized to arrange for contractual opportunities that generate revenue, if the transaction is directly related to furthering the component university’s educational, research, extension, and public service or campus support functions.

7.56 Contracts for Legal Services: Originating units cannot initiate contracts for legal services. All contracts for legal services are initiated only by the Office of General Counsel and only after approval has been obtained from the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Texas (refer to SAM 01.D.02, Employment of Outside Legal Counsel).

7.67 Contracts for Major Information Systems: The component university is required by law (Government Code §2054.008) to provide written notice to the LBB, not later than the 10th day after the date on which the component university enters into a contract for a major information system. For purposes of such reporting, a “major information system” includes:

a. One or more computers that, in the aggregate, cost more than $1,000,000;

b. A service related to computers, including computer software, that costs more than $1,000,000; and

c. A telecommunications apparatus or device that serves as a voice, data, or video communications network for transmitting, switching, routing, multiplexing, modulating, amplifying, or receiving signals on the network and costs more than $1,000,000.

7.7 Contracts Awarded to Non-Resident Bidders: During January and July of each year, each component must file a report with the LBB that identifies each non-resident bidder (one who does not maintain a permanently staffed full-time office in Texas and as defined by Texas Government Code, Title 10, Subtitle D, Section...
to whom the component university awarded a contract that has a value of $25,000 or more for the purchase of supplies, materials, services or equipment during the six calendar months preceding the month in which the report is filed, if the component university awarded such a contract during the reporting period. For contracts with a value of $250,000 or more, the component university must include an explanation for the need to use a non-resident bidder.

7.8. **Texas Electronic MarketplaceState Business Daily (ESBD):** The System and its component universities may post notification on the Texas Electronic Marketplace ESBD of formal procurement solicitations for which the agency expects to pay more than $25,000, regardless of the funding source when any non-federal funds will be used to pay for the contract and more than $150,000 when only federal funds will be used to pay for the contract. The Texas Electronic Marketplace ESBD can be accessed at http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us. A unit that desires to post notification should contact the appropriate contracting office and/or the System Contracts Administration Office Purchasing Department for assistance with Texas Electronic Marketplace ESBD posting requirements.

7.9. **Vendor Identification:** The University shall report to the Texas Office of the Comptroller each vendor who is indebted to the State or has a tax delinquency. The report must contain information and be submitted in a manner and frequency required by the Texas Office of the Comptroller. The contracting unit must obtain the needed vendor information by accessing the Texas Office of the Comptroller at http://www.window.state.tx.us/; or by contacting the appropriate contracting office and/or the System Contracts Administration Office Purchasing Department.

7.10. **Agreements With Other State and Local Government Entities:** The System and component universities may contract with another state agency for the provision of necessary and authorized services and resources by Interagency Agreement subject to the requirements of this policy. Assistance may be requested from the appropriate contracting office and/or the System Office of Contracts Administration Office.

7.11. **Contracting With Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs):** The System and component universities will comply fully with the letter and spirit of Chapter 2161 of the Texas Government Code and Title 34, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 20 (refer to Board Policy 55.04 and System Administrative Memorandum 03.B.02).
8. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Responsible Parties: Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration

__________________________
Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance

Review: Every three years on or before May 1

9. APPROVAL

Approved: Carl P. Carlucci

__________________________
Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance

Renu Khator
Chancellor

Date: April 1, 2015

REVISION LOG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision Number</th>
<th>Approval Date</th>
<th>Description of Changes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>09/04/1990</td>
<td>Initial edition</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>05/15/1991</td>
<td>Revised Section 1 to include reference to Board of Regents’ Policy 01.04. Revised Section 2.3 to include the form of all contracts to be approved by the Office of University Counsel. Added facility construction and renovation to Section 2.4. Added Section 2.5 on professional service or consulting and Section 2.6 on goods and services. Added documentation to Section 3.1 (4) on subcodes for various professional and contract services. Added information to Section 4.2 for timing before the beginning of the fiscal year for delegation. Added Section 5 on central contract repository. Added Consulting Contracts and Service Contracts to Section 8, Indexing Terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>06/08/1994</td>
<td>Changed Board of Regents Policy to 52.01 in Section 1. Changed numbering to letters in Section 3.1, and removed subcodes. Changed title in Section 4 to Delegation of Authority for Contracts Not Requiring Board Approval. Added Section 4.5 on delegation of each System president. Added Appendix A, which contains all subcodes removed from Section 3.1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>05/01/1995</td>
<td>Added additional information to Section 2.4 on construction or renovation project definitions. Redefined Section 5.2 to emphasize requirements for all contracts</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>07/27/1996</td>
<td>Switched Section 2 and Section 3. Added Section 3.7 on specifications for consulting services or professional services. Changed Office of University Counsel to Office of Legal Counsel throughout document. Added Section 4.5 on responsibilities for the System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction. Added Section 4.7. Added Section 5.3 on compliance responsibilities. Added additional information to Appendix A on definitions of professional service and consulting service, and rearranged subcodes</td>
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<td>Interim</td>
<td>08/01/2001</td>
<td>Changed SAM template to reflect current operating requirements. Changed Board of Regents Policy to 47.01 in Section 1. Rearranged information throughout document, starting with Section 2, outlining general provisions. Added information to Section 3 (d) on the Professional Services Procurement Act. Changed references from Office of Legal Counsel to Office of General Counsel throughout. Added links throughout document. Changed review period to “as needed until June 1, 2001”</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>11/05/2002</td>
<td>Changed SAM template to reflect current operating practices. Rewrote document to reflect current operating requirements. Added references to Exhibit B (subcodes for professional services or consulting contracts) throughout document. Changed review period to be every three years on or before May 1st. Added delegated authority, professional services, and service contracts to Section 11, Indexing Terms. Added Exhibit A, Board of Regents’ Agenda Cover Sheet, and moved subcodes to Exhibit B in table format</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revision Number</td>
<td>Approval Date</td>
<td>Description of Changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interim</td>
<td>04/01/2015</td>
<td>Changed SAM template and added Revision Log. Changed all Board Policy references to reflect current documentation. Added links as applicable. Updated web site for Board of Regents’ meeting schedule in Section 4.2. Changed references to Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance throughout text. Added Section 7.1.c with additional criteria to be considered in determining best value. Updated web sites in Sections 7.8 and 7.9. Removed Section 11, Indexing Terms. Replaced Exhibit A with current form. This SAM will be part of the Quarter 1, FY 2016 review cycle to remove Interim designation, with all appropriate updates to the contents to meet current operating requirements</td>
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<td>Interim 2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Interim 2 release due to Texas Legislature changes to contracting by state entities. Added written policies to implement this policy to Section 2.2. Added rule of revised contract amount not exceeding 25% of total amount does not need to go to Board of Regents in Section 2.5; however, if revised contract amount exceeds $1,000,000, then Board of Regents must approve the amendment, change, extension or renewal. Included Section 3.1.c, for component universities to report all contracts exceeding $0.00 on its applicable web site after September 1, 2015. Excluded utility easements in Section 4.1.b. Added oil and gas leases with bonus exceeding $100,000 to Section 4.1.d, and removed investment agreements to Section 4.1.e. Added rule on $1,000,000 revised contract amount to Section 4.1.g. Indicated that template for Board of Regents’ agenda may be obtained from Board of Regents’ Office in Section 4.2, and removed Exhibit A. Indicated due date of delegation authority changes as September 1 of each fiscal year in Section 5.2. Removed Section 5.4, and added process for component Purchasing Director as Section 5.5. Added Section 5.6 on monitoring procurement contracts over $1,000,000 and reporting to Division of Administration and Finance in Section 5.6. Added Section 6.3.f on execution of other contracts not exceeding $300,000. Revised Section 6.8 for contracts being routed through the Office of Contract Administration. Removed Section 6.9. Added annual report of contracts exceeding $1,000,000 as information item to Board of Regents to new Section 6.9. Revised Section 7.2, removing requirements for state and local funds, and added System Office of Real Estate Services and System Office of Contract Administration to process of leasing space. Removed “executive” from Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance throughout text. Added Professional Services and Consulting Services parameters to Section 7.3.e on State Agency Reporting. Added Section 7.4 on parameters for construction contracts. Added UH Tax Director to process for</td>
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<td><strong>AM No. 03.A.05</strong></td>
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<td>revenue-generating contracts in Section 7.5. In Section 7.7, raised parameters for Major Information System contracts from $100,000 to $1,000,000. Removed Section 7.7 on contracts for Non-Resident Bidders. Updated Section 7.8 to reference Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) instead of Texas Electronic Marketplace. Changed contact information for Section 7.9 on vendor identification to the Purchasing Department. Added Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance as responsible party to Section 8. Removed Exhibit B</td>
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| PRESIDENT | Reza Khator | DATE: |
| SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR | Paula Myrick Short | DATE: |
| CHANCELLOR | Reza Khator | DATE: |
EXHIBIT B

Professional/Consulting Service PeopleSoft Account Numbers

Professional service or consulting contracts are defined as those that meet the qualifications set forth in the Professional Services Procurement Act (Texas Government Code, Section 2254). These services are defined as:

“Professional Services” are those services directly related to the professional practices such as accounting, architecture, landscape architecture, land surveying, medicine, optometry, professional engineering, real estate appraisal, or professional nursing. Services provided by professionals outside the scope of their profession, e.g., management consulting services provided by accounting firms, are not considered professional services for the purposes of this policy.

“Consulting Service” is the practice of studying and advising a state agency in a manner not involving the traditional employee/employer relationship. To “study” means to consider some aspect of the agency in detail. To “advise” means to provide a recommendation or identify options with respect to some course of action. Generally, a true “consultant” delivers information or provides assistance that enables the state agency to take some course of action. When a contract involves a mix of deliverables, it is considered a consulting contract only when consulting services, as defined above, are the primary objective of the contract.

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