RECIPROCAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

A. Purpose

This policy provides the general guidelines of the above named program pursuant to Section 54.060 (d) of the Texas Education Code and set forth by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part I, Chapter 21, Subchapter AA, Rules §21.901-§21.911. The purpose of this program is to encourage participants to better understand the culture, language, needs, and expectations of other nations and the State of Texas.

B. Definitions

1. Citizen of another nation: A citizen or permanent resident of a nation other than the United States who resides in the nation of which he or she is a citizen or permanent resident and who plans to return to that nation to live immediately after finishing his/her program of study in Texas.

2. Full-time enrollment or study: For undergraduates, the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours per semester or as defined by the institution. For graduate students, the equivalent of at least nine semester credit hours per semester or as defined by the institution.

3. Originating institution: The institution from which a participant is relocating as a participant in the exchange program.

4. Participating nation: A nation other than the United States with institutions that have entered into exchange agreements with one or more institutions of higher education in Texas under the provisions of this subchapter.

5. Receiving institution: The institution in which a participant enrolls or studies.

C. Eligible Institutions

An institution eligible to participate in the exchange program must:

1. be a public or private degree-granting institution of higher education located in a nation other than the United States whose programs have recognition of official validity; or

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2. be a public institution of higher education in Texas; and

3. designate a program officer who will be responsible for all transactions relating to the exchange program.

D. <u>Eligible Participants</u>

1. All participants must have enrolled in their respective originating institutions for at least one semester prior to participating in this program and be nominated by his or her institution.

2. All participants must be from an originating institution that has an exchange agreement with the University of Texas-Pan American.

3. To be eligible all participants must be citizens or permanent residents of a participating nation or an individual enrolled in The University of Texas-Pan American.

4. The participating institutions in the countries other than the United States can be either private or public.

5. Participants must enroll or study on a full-time basis at the receiving institution.

6. All participants must meet any admission requirements as established by the receiving institution.

7. Participants may not participate in the exchange program for more than 12 months.

C. <u>Tuition Rate and Other Fees for Participants</u>

1. If a reciprocal exchange program requires a tuition payment, the tuition rate to be paid by participants will be either the relevant rate normally paid at Texas institutions or the rate normally charged nationals or residents of other nations by their institutions. Tuition rates paid by participants will be defined by the agreements entered into by UTPA and the participating institutions. The method of charging and collecting tuition is negotiated between UTPA and participating institutions. The tuition rate and payment may be done by any of the following methods:

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a. pay the relevant tuition rate of receiving institution, paid the the receiving institution;

b. pay the relevant tuition rate of the originating institution, paid to the receiving institution; or

c. pay the relevant tuition rate of the originating institution, paid at the originating institution.

2. A participant no longer participating in the program but continuing to enroll at the receiving institution will be expected to pay the rate charged other nonresident students beginning with the first enrollment period after the participant discontinues his or her participation in the exchange program.

3. This policy only covers tuition. Various other fees may be charged by participating institutions and students will be expected to pay them.

D. Reciprocity

The number of units of instruction exchanged should ideally be equal in any given year. If a balance is not attained in any one year, and more students from other nations are participating in the program than are students from Texas**,** parity is to be established within a five-year period.

E. Review

This policy will be reviewed every five years or as legislation changes by the-Director of the Center for International Studies in consultation with the International Student Advisor.