AOD 1 – Space Plan for Health Sciences

**Year 4 Accomplishments**

- A comprehensive research space plan was developed that relies on a model of tenancy rather than ownership of space. Both *A&Spire* and *Illuminate* point to aggressive faculty growth in STEM disciplines as the university strives to achieve R1 status. To accommodate expected growth of faculty counts within BSB, finished research space that is currently assigned to existing faculty will need to be reallocated. The space plan summarizes an approach for evaluating research space and identifying laboratories that could justifiably be reassigned to new hires. The plan represents only a short-term (perhaps 5-7 year) solution and does not address the larger space challenges that will arise as faculty whose labs are reassigned approach retirement. As these faculty need
to be replaced, the availability of research and office space beyond BSB will be of paramount importance.

- Baylor Science Building (BSB) Capacity Study. During 17-18, the College performed an analysis of teaching lab space for undergraduates in the Baylor Science Building. This collaborative project involved six science Chairs, UPDs, IRT, Registrar and the Dean’s office. The results of this study will continue to inform how we schedule and assign lab spaces to best meet the needs of the college and the university.

- This Act of Determination is completed.

AOD 2 – Taskforce for Administrative Structure of Health Sciences

Year 4 Accomplishments

- The dean’s office has been working with the Director of the Office of Prehealth Studies (OPS) to help reorganize and better staff their operations.

- This Act of Determination is completed now that the plan for the Office of Prehealth Studies has been developed and submitted to the Office of Human Resources. Further developments will be incorporated into the Arts & Sciences response to Illuminate, specifically the second Pillar, Transformational Undergraduate Education, and in the first Signature Academic Initiative, Health.

AOD 3 – Achieving a more Favorable Student-to-Faculty Ratios in the Sciences

- This Act of Determination will be incorporated into the Arts & Sciences response to Illuminate, specifically the first Signature Academic Initiative, Health, and two of the Pillars: the enrollment management aspects of Transformational Undergraduate Education and Research and Scholarship Marked by Quality, Impact, and Visibility.

AOD 4 – Creating a Faculty Structure for Clinical, Research, Joint Appointments

Year 4 Accomplishments

- The scholarship of Baylor faculty is often enhanced by affiliation with collaborators from beyond the University. The dean’s office continues to review and approve Visiting Scholar requests (Associate Dean Chambliss). The dean’s office also receives from departments requests to appoint off-campus collaborators as auxiliary research faculty; applications approved by the dean’s office are forwarded to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research for appointment (Associate Deans Wilkins and Kellison). Such auxiliary research appointments enable these faculty to be eligible as investigators on extramural funding proposals submitted with regular Baylor faculty. Professionals who support Baylor students and faculty in our internship and clinical outreach programs
represent yet another category of collaborators; their involvement is principally through the Office of Prehealth Studies, directed by Dr. Rich Sanker and supervised by Associate Dean Blake Burleson.

- Several departments and programs (GEO, MH, PSY/NSC) already have developed guidelines for clinical faculty that will enable these academic units to identify and appoint appropriately-credentialed professionals.
- This Act of Determination is completed. Future developments in this area will be addressed within the departments as part of the Arts & Sciences response to Illuminate, specifically the third Pillar, Research and Scholarship Marked by Quality, Impact, and Visibility.

**AOD 5 – Enrollment Management for the Health Sciences**

**Year 4 Accomplishments**

- The Science Research Fellows major has received all necessary University approvals and has accepted its inaugural class, matriculating Fall 2017. Dean Nordt has appointed Dr. Riz Klausmeyer as Director, complementing her continuing role as associate director in the Office of Prehealth Studies (http://www.baylor.edu/shllc/index.php?id=933826).
- The Office of Prehealth Studies (OPS), working with Lynn Wisely, implemented the Premedical, Pre-dental, and Pre-veterinarian designation policy beginning in January 2017.
- The OPS also reorganized the B2B selection process to allow more high-ability applicants participate in what is known as the B2B Interview Day.
- Student Ambassadors (17 selected high-ability undergraduates in BIO, CHE and PSY-NSC) helped with recruitment of prospective science/prehealth majors, as well as provided peer mentorship to assist with retention and success within the major.
- Efforts are being sustained to recruit Premed students into Humanities and Social Sciences departments. These include: (1) development of an interdisciplinary Medical Ethics Minor, (2) PreMed Tracks in the Humanities Freshman Orientation Sessions, (3) brochures advertising alternate paths to medical goals (e.g. Sociology and Health), (4) Perhaps most significantly, should the set of recommendations on a new core curriculum in A&S be approved with a reduction in the number of hours to 49/50, Premed students will more easily be able to major in Humanities and Social Sciences majors.
- The A&S Transfer Credit policy (approved in 2016 but delayed by the Provost for further study) was given the green light and will be implemented beginning August 2018. This policy provides bench mark indicators (e.g. GPA) for transfer students seeking to major
in the oversubscribed departments of Chemistry, Biology, Psychology/Neuroscience and Medical Humanities.

- The University Course Repeat Policy, effective August 2017, will limit the number of times a student might repeat a course. This will help by lessening demand on A&S’s taxed science departments, but also by increasing migration to better-fit majors more quickly.

- With the implementation of SSC (Student Success Collaborative), Advisers, effective Fall 2017, are better able to monitor the PMDV (Premedical, pre-dental, pre-veterinary) flag on student files for accuracy, thus enabling better management in the health sciences.

- Dr. Klausmeyer met her recruitment goals of 10 Science Research Fellow (SRF) students who began in the 2017 fall semester. She has also developed and attained the curricular approval for the two freshmen SRF’s courses that are critical for the success of the program. The SRF Program inaugurated its first class last fall and everything looks to be on track with the goals set forth in A&Spire.

- This Act of Determination is completed now that the plan for the Office of Prehealth Studies has been developed and submitted to the Office of Human Resources. Further developments will be incorporated into the Arts & Sciences response to Illuminate, specifically in the enrollment management aspects of the second Pillar, Transformational Undergraduate Education, and in the first Signature Academic Initiative, Health.

AOD 6 – Building Collaborations Across School Boundaries/Medical Schools

Year 4 Accomplishments

- The Department of Biology is collaborating with the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, to develop a 4+1 BS/MS dual-degree program in Tropical Disease Biology.

- The A&S Enrollment Council (EC) has added two new members this past year in an attempt to collaborate across school boundaries. The Director of the University Scholars (Honors College) and the Associate Dean for the College of Health and Human Services (Robbins College) now serve as ex officio members of the EC, and both attended the May 2018 meeting of the Enrollment Council which covered, in part, management of students with healthcare interests.

- In collaboration with Erich Baker and other faculty from the School of Engineering and Computer Science and the Hankamer School of Business, a strategic proposal for a new Data Science initiative was submitted to the Provost’s office for consideration as part of ongoing university-level strategic planning. “Data Science” has been identified as one of five “signature initiatives” included in Illuminate, the University’s new academic
strategic plan. The initiative will support interdisciplinary research and grantsmanship, graduate education, professional education, undergraduate education and faculty hiring focused around three key areas: (1) Bio/Biomedical Informatics, (2) Cybersecurity and (3) Business Analytics.

- The Department of Environmental Science is collaborating with the Department of Public Health in Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences to develop a new Master of Public Health (MPH) degree specialization in environmental health sciences. A new clinical faculty line has been approved to assist with program implementation and management, and the search for this individual is in process.

- A strategic proposal for a new “Cancer Collaborative” was submitted to the Provost’s office for consideration as part of ongoing university-level strategic planning. The collaborative is highlighted in the Biomedical section of the signature “Health” initiative in Illuminate. The envisioned initiative is expected to support new faculty lines, primarily in the Departments of Biology and Chemistry & Biochemistry, as well as increased research expenditures tied to fundamental and early-translational research focused on human diseases, including cancer.

- A strategic proposal for a new Integrated Global Environment and Health Research center (InGEHR) was submitted to the Provost’s office for consideration as part of ongoing university-level strategic planning. This proposed center is highlighted in the Environmental Determinants section signature “Health” initiative described in Illuminate. The proposed center would facilitate and incentivize national and international engagement of Baylor faculty and students researching in the general area of environment and health, including infectious/tropical diseases. The proposal also describes a planned formal partnership with the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine to strengthen research emphasis in these areas.

- This Act of Determination will be incorporated into the Arts & Sciences response to Illuminate:
  - Addressing bioinformatics research through the Signature Academic Initiative, Data Science;
  - Collaborating with the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences through the Signature Academic Initiative, Health;
  - On-going cooperation with BCM and Scott & White Health through the second Pillar, Transformational Undergraduate Education, and the third Pillar, Research and Scholarship Marked by Quality, Impact, and Visibility. This will include formal approval of 4+1 BS/MS dual-degree program in Tropical Disease Biology, a collaboration between Baylor Department of Biology and the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, with curriculum available to students beginning Fall 2019.