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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **UTPB GETS APPROVAL FOR NEW ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS**

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The University of Texas of the Permian Basin has received the go-ahead on a plan that will help meet the needs of a growing student population while allowing faculty to focus on teaching and research.

Currently, UTPB is organized into the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education and the School of Business. The College of Arts and Sciences has three departments. The new plan calls for six additional academic departments in the college of arts and sciences (nine total) and for two departments in the school of education. The School of Business will retain its current structure.

"As enrollment grew, so did the demands on our departments for helping students with advising, registration and degree checks. We knew we needed to increase the number of departments for two reasons -- more departments would allow us to maintain high quality service to our students as well as enable our faculty to do high quality research."

First, UTPB looked at comparable Texas universities to see how many departments were typically needed to meet these goals. Then, the faculty was asked for their recommendations on how best to organize the departments.

The structure creates departments for biology, history, kinesiology, language and literature, math and computer science, physical sciences, psychology, social science, visual and performing arts, curriculum and instruction and educational leadership and foundations.

Fannin said he expects the changes to all be in effect by Jan. 1.

"We have lots of work to do to make the transition during the fall semester. That work will be worth it, however, since we believe the new structure will help us to better serve our students and maintain the quality of the university."

Fannin said the reorganization plan was submitted to the UT System administration before being approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The coordinating board oversees all degree plans and department structures for universities in Texas.

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