



June 5, 2014

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Ken Levine  
1501 North Congress Avenue  
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Dear Mr. Levine:

The UIL has reviewed the Sunset staff report that was issued in May. In reply, I have attached the UIL's written response to the Sunset report to this cover letter. Initially, as important as the substance of the staff report is, I want to note that the Sunset review process has been a positive experience for UIL that I directly attribute to the way your staff went about their work. UIL would like to commend Jennifer Jones, Emily Johnson, and Steven Ogle as each of them exemplified professionalism and fairness throughout this process. They have represented the Sunset Commission well.

Overall, UIL is quite pleased with the report. Recognizing a need for ongoing self-evaluation and improvement, UIL views the report, when taken as a whole, as being very constructive. We agree with all of the recommendations in Issues 1 and 2. We believe the recommendations in Issues 3 and 4 relate to legislative decisions; as such, UIL takes no position on these recommendations.

The UIL has served the school children of Texas well, evolving for over a century into a recognized leader among high school activity associations across the country. We have established this stature by, among other things, having fair, collaborative, and open processes for rulemaking and rule adjudication. That being said, we greatly appreciate your recommendations to further improve the UIL. Texas students deserve the best. Implementing the Sunset staff recommendations will further establish UIL as the best organization of its kind in the country.

Thank you again for your approach throughout this process and for the professionalism of your staff. We look forward to the next steps in the process and to implementing your recommendations.

Sincerely,

Charles Breithaupt  
Executive Director

## **Issue 1 - Agency Responses**

### **Agency Response to 1.1**

*1.1 Clarify UIL is a state agency within the University of Texas at Austin.*

UIL agrees with this recommendation.

Founded by the University of Texas over a hundred years ago, UIL has always considered itself to be a state agency and has conducted its business consistent with that view. The proposed statutory clarification should provide clear guidance on the relationship between UIL and local UIL-member school committees; preserving the positive aspects of local decision making while providing for appropriate UIL oversight.

### **Agency Response to 1.2**

*1.2 Direct UIL to rewrite and reorganize its Constitution and Contest Rules.*

UIL agrees with this recommendation.

The *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules* has served the UIL well for many years. However, with input from all of its stakeholders, the UIL is confident that a thoughtful review and rewrite of the document will lead to rules that are better organized and easier to understand.

### **Agency Response to 1.3**

*1.3 Direct the full Legislative Council to approve UIL's annual budget recommendations.*

UIL agrees with this recommendation.

While UIL strongly believes the budget approval process and financial reporting is transparent, we recognize that including the full UIL Legislative Council in the budget approval process will improve the budgeting process by providing for more opportunities for stakeholder input and lead to a better understanding of revenues, including fees, and expenditures. Like the *Constitution and Contest Rules* revision discussed above, UIL will undertake a similarly detailed and thorough review of the UIL budgeting process.

### **Agency Response to 1.4**

*1.4 Direct UIL to improve how it tracks and reports all contest revenues and expenses.*

UIL agrees with this recommendation.

UIL is committed to improving the tracking and reporting of all contest revenues and expenses with an emphasis on clarity and consistency. It will incorporate this approach into the overall budgeting process review. UIL will improve its tracking and reporting system and involve the full Legislative Council in the budgeting process. This will further improve transparency and opportunities for stakeholder input and awareness.

## **Issue 2 - Agency Responses**

### **Agency Response to 2.1**

*2.1 Direct UIL to establish detailed procedural rules for its enforcement hearings.*

UIL agrees with this recommendation. UIL believes the recommendation of Sunset staff is thoughtful, deliberate, and helpful.

UIL is confident in the effectiveness and fairness of the enforcement hearing processes that have served the League well for many years, but acknowledges that improvements to the processes can be made by strengthening the process for these hearings. As an organization supporting the education of children, UIL strives to establish processes that ensure that issues that students and parents face find a forum that is fair and just. As good and fair as UIL processes have been, UIL believes they will be improved further by implementing the elements of this recommendation.

### **Agency Response to 2.2**

*2.2 Direct UIL to create penalty guidelines and a precedents manual for its enforcement and eligibility determination processes.*

UIL agrees with this recommendation.

As with Recommendation 2.1, UIL believes its processes have been fair and effective. However, implementing the development of reasonable penalty guidelines and a precedents manual will further enhance the public's trust in the UIL.

## **Issue 3 - Agency Responses**

### **Agency Response to 2.1**

#### ***3.1 Abolish the Interscholastic League Advisory Council.***

UIL takes no stance on this recommendation.

While UIL respects the input of the Interscholastic League Advisory Council, UIL agrees with the findings of the Sunset staff that the Advisory Council has served its original statutory duties and purpose.

## **Issue 4 - Agency Responses**

### **Agency Response to 2.1**

*4.1 Discontinue the statewide steroid testing program.*

UIL take no stance on this recommendation.