

**Sam Houston State University**  
**A Member of The Texas State University System**

**Finance & Operations Procurement and Business Services Policy PUR-01**  
**General Purchasing Policies**

The responsibility and authority to purchase materials, supplies, goods, equipment, and services are granted by State law and the Board of Regents of The Texas State University System to the President of Sam Houston State University and to the Executive Director of Procurement and Business Services.

No employee of the University other than the President, the Executive Director of Purchasing and Business Services, University personnel delegated under the President's Policy PRE-05, or an individual expressly authorized by the President or the Executive Director of Procurement may obligate the University for the purchase of materials, supplies, goods, equipment, or services.

**THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING**

**GOALS:**

- Satisfy the needs of the University, its faculty, staff, and students.
- Spend the University's money wisely and secure the best products and services at the best price possible.

The purpose of the Procurement staff is to obtain the right item to satisfy a recognized need. The right item means buying the right quality in the right quantity and having it delivered at the right time. Emphasis will be on quality and user satisfaction.

The right item also means buying at the right price from the right supplier using the right method. There can be no doubt that price is an important factor in determining what item to buy; however, quality of the item and quality of the supplier are also important considerations. The right method means to obtain the needed goods and services in the most effective manner while maintaining control and honoring our fiduciary responsibilities.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Conduct purchasing without favoritism and without arbitrariness or caprice.
- It is the policy of the University to encourage the use of Small and Historically Underutilized Businesses by making a "Good Faith Effort" to increase purchases and award contracts through race, ethnic, and gender-neutral means.
- Acquire goods and services in an effective, efficient, and economical manner.

**SOURCE OF FUNDS**

It is the policy of the University to adhere to these purchasing procedures to obtain goods and services using any source of funds. Federal, state, local, contract, and grant funds will be treated the same.

**COMPETITIVE PURCHASING**

It is the policy of the University to use competitive purchasing whenever possible to obtain items or services using any source of funds. Federal and state laws mandate competitive purchasing whenever governmental funds are used and most sources of grant funds stipulate competitive purchasing.

The Supreme Court of Texas defines competitive purchasing as:

- due advertisement, giving opportunity to bid, and contemplates bidding upon the same thing

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- all bidders be placed upon the same plane of equality
- all bidders bid upon the same terms, conditions, and the same or substantially similar specifications. There can be no competitive bidding in a legal sense where the terms, conditions, or specifications prevent competition, favor a vendor or manufacturer, or increase the cost of the items going into the purchase. Further interpretations have determined that both product and price competition must be present and evident.

**CENTRALIZED PURCHASING**

The ultimate responsibility and authority to oversee the purchase, lease, and or rental of materials, supplies, goods, equipment, or services is placed with the Division of Finance and Operations, and the Department of Procurement and Business Services. Procurement and Business Services, while maintaining final authority concerning purchase, shall in accordance with University Policies delegate to University Divisions, Colleges, and Departments the ability to make purchases using BearKatBuy and the Procurement Card. Procurement shall review purchases to ensure compliance with University policies.

Procurement shall strive to:

- realize economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the procurement function;
- pursue quality assurance and standardization;
- maintain the highest standards of ethics;
- assure compliance with the Board of Regents, State, and Federal purchasing statutes, rules, and regulations; and
- provide information to the President, CFO & Sr. VP for Operations, and TSUS Board of Regents.
- maintain and expand a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program that will assist small, minority, veteran, and woman-owned businesses to do business with the State of Texas.

**SMALL AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB)**

Sam Houston State University has adopted the Statewide Procurement Division (SPD) rules as their own HUB rules as required by Texas Government Code §2161.003 – Agency Rules. It is the policy of the University to encourage the use of small and historically underutilized businesses by making good faith efforts to increase purchases and contract awards through race, ethnic, and gender-neutral means. The goal is to promote full and equal business opportunity for all businesses.

Good faith efforts include these actions:

- prepare and distribute information on procurement procedures in a manner that encourages participation in University purchases and contracts by all businesses;
- divide proposed requisitions into reasonable lots in keeping with industry standards and competitive bid requirements;
- assess bond and insurance requirements and design such requirements to reasonably permit more than one business to perform the work;
- specify reasonable, realistic delivery schedules consistent with actual requirements;
- ensure that specifications, terms, and conditions reflect actual requirements, are clearly stated,

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and do not impose unreasonable or unnecessary contract requirements; and

- the University shall refer contractors to the website list of certified HUBs for subcontracting, as provided by the SPD. The University will make good faith efforts to assist small and historically underutilized businesses in receiving a portion of the total contract value for all contracts for construction, services, including professional and consulting services, and commodities purchases. **Note:** All purchases or services, which exceed \$100,000.00, require a completed HUB Subcontracting Plan at time of bid opening.

**Purpose**

Sam Houston State University promotes full and equal opportunity for all businesses to provide the goods and services needed to support the mission, administrative, and logistical operations of systems components. The TSUS Board of Regents commits its components to a good faith effort to increase purchases and contract awards with Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) through race, ethnic, and gender-neutral means and consistent with the state's goals for HUB participation and overall social advancement and economic prosperity.

**Scope**

This policy applies to acquisition of commodities, professional and other services, and construction by SHSU, including auxiliary enterprises, regardless of funding source (treasury or non-treasury funds).

**Incorporation by Reference**

The Historically Underutilized Business Program rules and regulations promulgated and, from time to time amended by the SPD, are adopted into and shall become part of these Rules and Regulations as if fully set out herein.

See Texas Administrative Code – Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 20, Subchapter B  
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=5&ti=34&pt=1&ch=20&sch=B](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=34&pt=1&ch=20&sch=B)

Reviewed by:           Tessy Rappé, AVP Finance & Operations  
                              Reneé Starns, Exec. Director Procurement & Business Services

Review Date:           September 2020