Plan II Honors Board of Visitors Statement of Purpose and Member Guidelines (est. 2021)

Plan II Honors Program Mission Statement
The Plan II Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin is an interdisciplinary major in the arts and sciences founded in 1935 by Dean H.T. Parlin. It brings together exceptional students from a broad spectrum of disciplines and interests to explore the world from a variety of perspectives and viewpoints. Committed to the highest principles of intellectual, social, and ethical engagement, our core curriculum in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences prepares Plan II students for leadership and success in an increasingly complex and global society. A Plan II Honors education emphasizes community, collaboration, and experiential learning in the classroom and beyond—on the campus, in the nation, and in the world. Our goal is to produce leaders for the 21st century with advanced skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and communication (reading, writing, speaking); graduates who can make connections beyond traditional boundaries and disciplines; and creative, engaged citizen-scholars who can help us work toward the greater good.

Board of Visitors Purpose
The Plan II Honors Board of Visitors (Board) is a vital part of the Plan II Honors Program’s (Program) success. The Board promotes the recognition, well-being, progress, and success of the Program by assisting the Director, Staff, Faculty, Students and Alumni by providing insight and guidance for Program priorities, and assisting with philanthropic fundraising for the Program’s needs.

Objectives
The Board will achieve its purpose through a membership of diverse individuals whose leadership and accomplishments bring credit to the Program and who individually and collectively:

- Engage with Program leadership, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends to broaden knowledge, understand university/college procedures, and to be an informed ambassador to their communities.
- Inform Program leadership of personal anecdotes, experiences, current trends, events, potential connections, and issues that may influence, enhance, and guide the good work of the Program.
- Promote Program priorities, accomplishments, and future plans and needs among their communities and across the state, nation, and beyond.
- Encourage private philanthropy and alumni engagement with the Program as a means to enhance public support to enact the Director’s vision and fulfill the Program’s mission.

Board Membership
The Board shall consist of no fewer than 30 and no more than 45 members who are alumni or close affiliates of the Plan II Honors Program, with at least 5 of these members consisting of alums who have graduated in the last 10 years. The financial gift of members who have graduated in the last 10 years will be optional. All members will be included in the Plan II
Director’s Circle, in recognition of not only their financial gifts but also their contributions of time and energy to the Board meetings and initiatives.

**Member Expectations**

To meet these objectives, Board members are expected to:

- Give an annual, minimum membership gift of $1,500 (per household), to support the Program’s most pressing needs and priorities, OR fundraise this amount for the Program, OR have their membership gift be sponsored by another Board member. While preference is for the annual gift to be used as part of the Director’s Circle discretionary funds, members may elect to direct their contribution to a Plan II student scholarship fund of their choosing.
- Attend at least one of two annual meetings (either in person or online/teleconference) set during the fall and spring semesters to meet fellow members and engage with the Program.
- Initiate meaningful, personal relationships between Program faculty and staff and members of their community, presenting the achievements and priorities of the Program to prospective donors, and exhibit a willingness to host and cover the costs of strategic events/gatherings.

**Member Terms**

Members will serve 3-year terms, with invitation to continue for a second term at the discretion of the Director. Board members who serve two consecutive terms and have met all member expectations may be invited to Life membership at the discretion of the Director. If any Member’s current term expires and he or she has not made a good faith effort to meet the expectations of Board membership, he or she shall be ineligible to continue serving on the Board for another term.

**Sub-Committees**

The Director may find it necessary from time to time to initiate a special committee or task force to fulfill the goals of the Program. Membership and priorities of subcommittees will be determined by the members and the Director as needed.