

President's Report

September 2020

Strategic Plan

Prior to covid-19, we began our mid-plan review of our strategic plan. We have completed the review of what we accomplished. The second phase of that review is to evaluate our current mission statement, conduct an internal/external analysis (SWOT – strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats), and make modifications to our strategic plan. We will update the board on our progress monthly and request your input in each of those phases. Our expectation is to bring a completed document for board consideration in January 2021. The Strategic Plan Leadership Team (Myself, Mark Underwood, Randa Schell, Robert Ayala, and Blaine Bennett (consultant)) meet every Tuesday mornings then again with Cabinet on Thursday mornings.

Debates

The college has partnered with Sul Ross State University to hold several political debates. Dr. Munoz (VP & COO Sul Ross) will moderate and faculty from both institutions will ask candidates questions. Events are scheduled for the Tate Auditorium, a limited social distance audience, and will be broadcast via social media.

10/1	Texas Senate Pete Flores & Roland Gutierrez
10/8	College Board Tony Moreno & Bryan Hernandez – possible UCISD Board Candidates
Pending	TX-23 Congressional race Tony Gonzales & Gina Ortiz-Jones

Enrollment

I want to congratulate our entire team for the tremendous job in working on enrollment. We will have a full report for the board meeting, but here are preliminary totals.

Headcount	6,679	down 6.2%
Semester Credit Hours	57,393	down 3.1%
Contact Hours	1,161,392	down 3.1%

You will recall that our budget was based on an estimated decrease in semester credit hours of 10%. We are encouraged by the fall enrollment totals and have added courses to our 12-week and 8-week terms to help students that were unable to register in time for the regular 16-week term. Our staff has worked throughout the summer to retool student support services to help students in a remote learning environment (virtual tutoring, virtual writing lab, chat box, how to videos, etc.).

Covid-19

We continue to experience staff members testing positive for covid-19; however, none to this point have been acquired at the college. We continue to improve our mitigation protocols and audit procedures to make sure they are being followed. The latest involved our nursing programs in Uvalde, we transitioned them to remote learning for a 2-week period. Each technical program is in effect functioning as its own bubble, where actions in one program will not necessarily impact other programs.

Del Rio Roofs

We continue to go back and forth with TASB on the value of the claim for the roof damage from the hail storm. Staff feels we have reached the end of our capacity and recommended we proceed with the assistance of a private adjuster. We hired Alamo Public Adjusters that will reevaluate the wind and hail damage from April 20, 2020. They will arbitrate with TASB on our behalf for a fee of 10% of the additional dollars secured for the claim.

State Legislature/Appropriations

Earlier this year the State announced 5% appropriation reduction, and thanks to the Governor, Speaker and Lt. Governor, community colleges were spared this reduction. We are now in the process of submitting our Legislative Budget Request for the next biennium and have been instructed to submit a flat request. It looks to be tough session for legislators and the downturn in the economy has had a significant impact on the state revenue stream. We are bracing for potential funding decreases from the state as they figure how to move forward with limited revenue for the 2021-2022 fiscal years. The legislative session begins in January and covid will have an impact in the traditional hearings and testimony before their committees.

Upcoming Meeting/Events

9/17	September Board Meeting
9/21	12-Week Term First day of class
10/1	Texas Senate Candidates Debate
10/8	College Board & UCISD Board Candidates Debate
10/13-30	Early Voting for November 3 election
10/15	October Board Meeting
11/2	First day to register for Spring 2021 Term
11/3	General Election Day
11/19	November Board Meeting
11/25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
12/15	Offices close for Christmas Break