

President's Report January 2014

Construction

Ferrell/Brown will provide us a formal update at the meeting. Del Rio project estimated completion date is Spring Break. We have tentative furniture delivery in early May for a June move in. We will be bidding out the existing portables that the college will not retain in order to proceed with the construction of new parking areas.

Future Expansion

Administration continues to work with architects and financial advisors on the proposed expansion project. We are evaluating the different site plans to make the most effective use of the monies and square footage.

Crystal City – I have visited with the City Manager and will be developing a proposal to present the city council regarding the Library project in Crystal City. We continue to work with architect to fine tune the size of the facilities and to possibly utilize an existing building to minimize the over cost of the project.

Eagle Pass – Architects have been working with staff on developing a classroom expansion plan for the Eagle Pass Campus. Our goal is to have preliminary site layout for the board by February 2014.

Uvalde – We continue to address the dorm rooms, tackling them a suite at a time. Our plan is to redo all of the dorm suites and upgrade the cafeteria/ballroom area.

Financing – Financial planners and bond counsel are working on the logistics for a revenue bond issue and the related bond ratings. We are looking at all three projects to arrive at a total dollar amount for the bond issue. Our goal is to have a recommendation for the Board at our January meeting. We will discuss the proposed scope of all three projects and related costs involved for each of them.

Partnerships/Community

Early January I met with Vice Chancellor Dr. Perry Moore of the Texas State University System, regarding the vacancy left by Dr. Ricardo Maestas. We had a great conversation and took the opportunity to share with him the history between both institutions working together to improve education in our area. He was pleased with our partnership and our willingness to work with Sul Ross RGC. He has asked me to work with his Board of Regents to help select the next president for Sul Ross State University. I believe that will be positive step in securing that the relationship between both institutions continues to move forward.

I attended the Sul Ross Rio Grande College graduation on December 14, and was on stage to congratulate our graduates as they received their diplomas.

Last month we met with Hondo Mayor Danner, the city manager, economic developer and representative of Texas State Technical College regarding the technical offerings at the Hondo site.

I will be participating in the Sul Ross Rio Grande College Graduation ceremony on December 14, 2013.

I also traveled to the City of Hidalgo over the break to meet with their city manager regarding their city of lights project. We are looking at the possibility of developing a Christmas light display for our campuses to help bring community traffic to our campuses.

Other

Strategic Plan – The Cabinet has scheduled a Strategic Plan retreat on January 23, 2014 to review and discuss the current plan (2011-2015) we are at the midway point. We will evaluate our progress and make recommendation for changes. We will present the results to the Board during the spring semester.

We would also ask if the Board would like to have a strategic planning retreat, during the summer.

Policy – The cabinet is working on several policy revisions. We should have ready for board consideration at the February 2014 meeting.

Enrollment – We have separate enrollment report for the Board. However, the cabinet has met and modified deadlines and taken extra measures to everything we can to help increase the enrollment. Registration deadlines have been extended by a week and late payment and late registration fees have been waived for the same time period. Enrollment is down across the state and across the nation. We have been aggressively recruiting via visits to high schools, community events, news papers, social media, and radio. We have sent emails, regular mail, robo calls, individual calls, social media notices to attempt to reach students. Given our decrease in enrollment, the cabinet has begun taking measures to reduce current year budgets to ensure that we maintain balanced budget with our decreased revenue.

Stock Shows – This month we have three stock shows that I will be attending to present Showmanship scholarships: January 10th – Real County, January 11th Zavala County, and January 25th Uvalde County.