

## President's Report to the Board

May 18, 2020

### **Board Meeting**

After consultation with Board President Flores, we have elected to cancel the regular May Board meeting. We hope the environment will continue to move in a direction where we can safely have a regular June Board Meeting. However, I have instructed our team to develop the necessary modifications and layout for the Bluebonnet Room to have the capacity to perhaps have a regular meeting or combination with Zoom.

### **Commencement**

As we prepare for our Virtual Commencement Ceremonies, we have an opportunity for up to five board members to present our conferring of degrees via a recorded video. We are in the process of setting up a stage in the Ballroom to be available to record the videos. If you are interested in doing this, please let me know and we can schedule a time to make the recording. It would be a short video segment like the conferring of degrees at a traditional ceremony. We will have the short script available.

### **Summer Enrollment**

We were a bit concerned about the early registration numbers for Summer 1, but as of last week, we are about 100 students shy of where we were same time last year. It is looking more positive. We are actively recruiting students and trying to capitalize on our low-cost tuition versus high-dollar university tuition, and the fact that the Fall semester may end up being online again.

### **Financials**

On the financial side, our current year finances are looking good. I have included the April financial statement for you. We are about \$750,000 better than where we were at the same time last year.

## Re-Open Status

Our Re-Open Committee continues to work on evaluating return to campus plans. Our priority is on those technical programs that need access to campus facilities in order to complete the program requirements. In addition, I have charged the committee to begin evaluating what a fall return to campus would look like, with the following priorities.

- Prioritize which programs require campus access for course work
  - Law Academy, Health Programs, Tech Programs, Workforce Training, AEL, Science labs
  - What modification will be necessary for priority access programs (limited enrollment, flexible lab hours, reconfigure labs, etc.)
  - Develop specific protocols for both faculty and students
- Assist our Academic departments in evaluating hybrid schedules for academic students
- Establish protocol for Library, Computer Labs, and Testing Center access
- Develop a plan for limited access to dorm rooms
- Develop protocols for cafeteria operations
- Develop a plan for the Day Care reopen (adjusting capacity and protocols for staff/children/parents)
- Help VP's assess the reopen plans for each department (office interactions, safety modifications, flex work schedule, remote work options and component of re open
- Work on a plan to modify and layout the Bluebonnet Room to accommodate future board meetings while observing the required social distance and provide technology for streaming.
- Analyze the anticipated technology and maintenance support required in anticipation of an extended remote work environment and a possible re open and return to remote work in the future.
- Evaluate the possibility of targeted reopen/remote operations by campus (spike in cases in one community but not others) and the potential disruption to operations having campuses at different levels of open.

I wanted to share this information to keep you apprised of our thought process for re-opening our campus and some of the necessary steps before we can bring staff and students back on campus. In addition, I have attached the CTE certification statement that was submitted to the state to restart the following CTE programs: Law Enforcement Academy 5/18, Radiology Technology 5/26, Registered Nursing 5/29. We will supplement this certification as our Re-Open Committee approves the plans for additional programs.

## **Budgets 2020-2021**

Our teams are busy working on budgets for the next year. We will be in the second year of the State budget, we know what we should be receiving from the State. However, with this downturn in the economy as well as the oil market we need to monitor the state revenue. The State Comptroller should revise his estimates on state revenue sometime in June. We have heard rumors of the state cutting agencies anywhere from 5% to 15%. However, on Friday I was on a call with TACC presidents and Senator Creighton was our guest, he did not believe we would have to face any changes to state appropriations.

We have adopted a conservative approach to the budget and incorporated contingencies for various levels of state appropriations, tax collections, and enrollment levels. It is too early to know with any certainty, but we are planning for various scenarios, nonetheless. I expect by the time for our June Board meeting will have better indications as well as know final Summer 1 enrollment figures.

## **Roofs**

Roofing contractors have set up staging areas to begin work on Wagner and Garner Science Building. They will work on the Wagner building first. Also, our Del Rio Campus sustained some roof damage from the hailstorm several weeks ago. Our insurance adjuster has inspected the damage and we are waiting for their report. We have \$50,000 deductible per claim. Our crews replaced and waterproofed the areas that needed attention and we will proceed once the insurance claim is processed.

## **Sul Ross**

Sul Ross has named Pete Gallego as sole finalist as president. I expect it to become official sometime in June. We have already spoken and look forward to working together to advance higher education for our region. We have begun working on a couple of options to collaborate as we move forward. Sul Ross has also hired Dr. Robert Munoz as the Vice President for the campuses in our area. Dr. Munoz and I have also been in contact and have begun collaborating, his official start date is June 1. I asked him to join a Middle Rio Grande Development Council Education Committee Meeting as my guest and I will introduced him to some of our local leaders. I believe with this Sul Ross team, community relations will improve, collaboration with SWTJC will improve, and together we will be able to make a significant improvement to education in our region.