

UTRGV ACADEMIC AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

1:30PM – 4:30 PM

EDINBURG CAMPUS, COE DEAN'S
CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT	Havidán Rodríguez, Nina Young, Marcy de Leon, Lisa Smith, Alexander Domijan, Javier Kypuros, Patricia McHatton, Parwinder Grewal, Michael Lehker, Dora Saavedra, Bobbette Morgan, Mark Andersen, Walter Diaz, Paul Sharpe, Ala Qubbaj, Marie Mora, Jeff Graham, Dave Jackson, Maggie Hinojosa, Mark Kroll, Kristin Croyle, Juan Sanchez, Steve Block
MEMBERS EXCUSED	Steven Lieberman, Cynthia Brown
OTHERS PRESENT	Veronica Gonzales, Richard Sanchez, Veronica de la Garza
REVIEW OF MINUTES	December 15, 2016 Minutes Approved

AGENDA TOPICS

PROVOST'S UPDATES

HAVIDÁN RODRÍGUEZ

DISCUSSION	<p>Frontier Set – UTRGV was selected as one of six AASCU institutions to represent regional (state) comprehensive colleges and universities in the Frontier Set. The grant project is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The UTRGV Team is made up of Provost Rodríguez, Kristin Croyle, Maggie Hinojosa, Susan Brown, Jonikka Charlton, and Nick Weimer, and Lisa Smith; Nick and Lisa serve as project coordinators. http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/about-utrgv/news/press-releases/2017/february-21-utrgv-selected-to-participate-in-national-student-success-project/index.htm.</p> <p>2017 Convocations – UTRGV Convocations are taking place soon: August 21, Edinburg; August 22, Brownsville.</p>
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VERONICA GONZALES

DISCUSSION	Veronica Gonzales, Vice President for Government and Community Relations, presented an update on the 85 th legislative session, including the ongoing budget discussions and projections. The Senate Bill proposes the elimination of all special items from the budget, but the House Bill reduces funding for them. It is too early to determine what institutional budgets will look like at this time. Two of the Rio Grande Valley legislators are in key positions under the House and Senate.
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HIRING FREEZE AND SALARY ISSUES

GUY BAILEY / HAVIDÁN RODRÍGUEZ

DISCUSSION	<p>Hiring Freeze: The hiring freeze does not affect faculty searches for positions starting in Fall 2017; these searches should continue as planned. UTRGV has requested waivers to fill key positions while the freeze is in effect (such as for student employees, student services, and medical education).</p> <p>President Bailey and the Provost met on February 15th with the Women's Faculty Network to answer questions related to SACSCOC and salary adjustments. The faculty salary gender equity adjustments are moving forward. The faculty salary inversion and compression study has begun and will be completed over the summer. It is anticipated that the salary adjustments will not be affected by the state budget cuts.</p> <p>State Budget Cuts: While it is too early to project the types of budget cuts, UTRGV does not plan to have "across the board" budget cuts. UTRGV anticipates to offset some of the cuts through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing special line items • Offering a voluntary separation incentive program for faculty and staff • Increasing student enrollment and retention, especially at the graduate level • Philanthropy • Expanding research infrastructure • Examining ways for departments/schools/colleges/units to find savings and share costs
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NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM PROPOSALS

DAVE JACKSON

DISCUSSION	Dave Jackson, Dean of the Graduate College, gave a presentation about the process and issues in developing new graduate programs. Deans need to discuss potential proposals with the Provost before faculty develop them. Guidelines can be found at http://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/for-faculty-and-staff/index.htm .
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GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH SPACE UTILIZATION (ATTACHMENT)

ALA QUBBAJ

DISCUSSION	A draft of the guidelines for research space utilization was provided. The approved document can be found at http://www.utrgv.edu/files/documents/provost/faculty-resources/guidelines-for-research-space-utilization.pdf .
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UPDATES

DISCUSSION	<p><u>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</u></p> <p><u>STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT</u> Spring 2017 enrollment reports can be found online at http://www.utrgv.edu/student-enrollment/reports/index.htm.</p> <p><u>STUDENT SUCCESS</u> Engaged Scholar Symposium abstracts are due March 1, 2017.</p> <p><u>FACULTY AFFAIRS & DIVERSITY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Faculty Portfolio Tool (FPT) is being used for the tenure-track reviews of new faculty. • The Provost's Office has received tenure/promotion guidelines from the majority of departments/schools. All departments/schools are strongly encouraged to submit their guidelines as soon as possible. All guidelines must be officially approved and in place by the beginning of the Fall, 2017. • The first annual UTRGV Teaching and Learning Symposium will be Friday, May 5th from 8:30-4pm. Dr. James Whittenberg, CTE Faculty Fellow, and the CTE team anticipate 20 break-out sessions and 100 conference participants. <p><u>FACULTY SENATE</u> The "Blue Ribbon Committee" designed to expedite the review and recommendations for key HOP policies was launched with two productive meetings.</p> <p><u>WOMEN'S FACULTY NETWORK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the February 15th WFN meeting, the WFN hosted a special guest, Dr. Cecilia Conrad, Managing Director of the MacArthur Foundation, at its February 3rd meeting. • Both the WFN Wellness Committee and the Women of Color Committee recently conducted surveys to better guide activities and events that will best serve our members; they are currently reviewing the results.
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ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm
NEXT MEETING	March 23, 2017, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm