



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

December 9, 2015
9:00-11:00 a.m.

Edinburg Campus: Education Complex, Borderlands Room 3.204

Meeting Summary*

1. Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Havidán Rodríguez, started the meeting by welcoming all members to the UTRGV founding Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and asked all to introduce themselves. Dr. Rodríguez emphasized the importance of the diverse constituencies and offices represented on this committee, including Vice Presidents, Deans, Faculty Senate, Women's Faculty Network, Staff, SGA, and external community members.
2. UTRGV President, Dr. Guy Bailey, charged the committee and highlighted four key priorities the SPC should keep in mind:
 - Enhance Student Success (which is at the forefront of what we do);
 - Expand Student Access to Higher Education (including the quality and variety of academic programs, many of which will be at the graduate level, thus also increasing student success);
 - Expand and Improve Health Care Access across the RGV (transforming the RGV); and
 - Become an Emerging Research University (which involves expanding our research portfolio, including research on issues impacting the RGV).
3. Dr. Bailey stated: "***A good Strategic Plan needs to be concise and to the point...***" Dr. Rodríguez later emphasized the importance of having a concise and effective strategic plan (SP). He mentioned it is easy to write a long SP, but it takes a lot of time and effort to develop a SP that is holistic and to the point.
4. Additionally, Dr. Bailey mentioned:
 - The SP should be "quantifiable and measureable" to show if we are successful.
 - Not everything we will do (or want to do) should be included in the SP. Just because a specific program is not mentioned, it is not unimportant.
 - The research strengths of our faculty will determine the success of our programs; research will be an important component of the SP.
 - We need to keep in mind broad institutional priorities and set the direction to measure the success of what we do.
 - In addition to research, other important areas include expanding financial aid, fundraising, advancement, etc., which will impact student and faculty success.
 - The SP process will work "hand-in-hand" with the Master Planning process, which will be guided by the SP. There will also be a SP for Athletics.

5. One key point Dr. Rodríguez emphasized throughout the meeting is the importance of actively engaging and communicating with our constituent groups, seeking feedback, and reporting back to the rest of the SPC. The SP should result from a robust and inclusive process; it should reflect our constituent groups. However, the SP is not intended to name every academic program/unit or office at UTRGV. The SPC is a committee that represents UTRGV and its various constituent groups.
6. Additionally, Dr. Rodríguez mentioned:
 - We have a unique opportunity to develop the SP for UTRGV.
 - The SP will serve to guide us to transform UTRGV and the RGV more broadly. Even five years from now, UTRGV will be very different from what it is today.
 - We can set the foundation and building blocks that will guide UTRGV.
 - A successful SP will be effective in guiding policies, including fiscal/budgetary policies, and should be a decision-making tool.
 - We need to consider opportunities and solutions in addition to issues and challenges.
7. Dr. Rodríguez went through his PowerPoint presentation (attached separately). It included the provisional mission statement, Guiding Principles, core priorities, summary of faculty and staff hires, Fall 2015 enrollment, a brief recap of the Working Groups, and a dynamic list of Strategic Planning ideas/concepts.
8. Next Steps
 - The Provost will form a small steering committee to help shape the direction of the SPC; this committee will likely include one representative each from the Faculty Senate, the WFN, staff, and other units.
 - We will plan for a one-day retreat in January.
 - UTRGV is part of the Educational Advisory Board (EAB), which will provide some support in the strategic planning process.
 - After the retreat, subcommittees will be formed.
 - Dr. Rodríguez expects to have the strategic plan finalized by the beginning of the Fall, 2016.
9. *Homework for the SPC before the Retreat*
 - Read Working Group Reports: <http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/about-utrgv/history/transition-plan/working-group-reports/index.htm>.
 - Reach out and engage your corresponding constituent groups.
 - Generate ideas/recommendations for the strategic planning process and the retreat.

*This document is intended to provide a general summary of the meeting.