



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Executive Ticket One

Odalys A. Saenz: Candidate for President



Biography: Hello, Vaquer@s! My name is Odalys A. Saenz, and it is an honor to stand before you all once again, seeking support for my re-election as your Student Government Association President for the 2024-2025 academic term. I am originally from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico but have lived in the RGV my entire life. I am a first-generation Latina student majoring in Psychology with a Legal Studies minor. My passion for advocacy and law has inspired me to attend Law School after I graduate with my bachelor's to pursue criminal law and become an Attorney and fulfill my dream of becoming a Judge. My ultimate goal is to open a

pro-bono facility for services for the wrongly accused. Reflecting upon this past term as President, I am extremely thankful for all the opportunities that allowed me to progressively create change with my peers for the UTRGV community. From electing University of Texas Student Advisory Council (UTSAC) representatives, appointing students to University Committees, working with Auxiliary services to provide feedback in the transition of the new university food services, collaborating with the University Library to promote their wonderful free resources, meeting with College Deans to enforce representation in SGA from all colleges, collaborating with the Bicultural, Bilingual, and Biliterate Institute (B3) and enhance our Hispanic Serving Institute, and many more. Being an advocate for progressive and meaningful change has made this such a valuable experience, and I would appreciate our student body's vote to being able to continue. As we head into the future of UTRGV and its massive growth it is important to my Executive ticket and I to address concerns brought by the students and letting SGA be a vehicle to express change. And doing it with Honesty, Integrity, and Respect. If given the opportunity once again to serve our student body, my Executive ticket and I will effectively work on providing more change and keep providing the student body with a stronger voice on each campus (Edinburg, Brownsville, and Harlingen)! I appreciate you all and Vaquer@s don't forget to cast your vote to re-elect Odalys A. Saenz, Juana E. Jimenez, and Gregorio Zuniga as your SGA Executives!

Platform Statement: B3: Bicultural, Bilingual, and Biliterate Institute: Continue with the B3 Institute to establish more bilingual courses in the university. To further enhance the bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate opportunities for student success. Food Services: As we see the further transition in our food services, and students' concerns regarding prices on campus, it is important to address costs and accommodation to students. Housing: Addressing the concerns of living quality on campus. Collaboration: As our university grows, it is important to address our students the importance of SGA and the resources we provide. By collaborating with other student organizations, we can educate other student leaders about SGA and increase our numbers allowing for further opportunities and different perspectives that will allow for student concerns to be addressed more smoothly.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Executive Ticket One

Juana Elena Jimenez L.: Candidate for Vice President



Biography: Hello Vaquer@s, my name is Juana E. Jimenez Lopez, it is an honor and privilege to be upon you all, where I seek for your support to be re-elected as your 2024-2025 Student Government Association External Vice President. I am from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, but I consider Harlingen, Tx my hometown as my parents and I migrated to the U.S. when I was a child. I will always be thankful to God and my family for the immense number of opportunities received and for the accomplishments I have

achieved over the years, one of them is to be first-generation in my family. I'm the first one in my family to graduate high school, attend college, and first God be the first doctor in my family. Another accomplishment is to have been elected as your Student Government External Vice President for the current '23- '24 term. I'm a senior majoring in Biomedical Sciences, with a minor in Mexican American studies. My career goals have been inspired by my passion to advocate for my community. Sciences and my heritage are what fueled my interest to aspire to be in the medical field. I aspire to pursue a master's in health sciences with a concentration in Healthcare Administration. Upon completing this, I want to go to medical school in hopes of becoming a doctor to focus on pediatric medicine or obstetrics and gynecology. My end goal is to contribute and advocate for women's health, where I hope to create an impact in the lives of many people from my community. Growing up my parents instilled in me that with faith anything is possible and would always encourage me to keep going forward and to never give up.

As mentioned, my commitment to service and advocacy is deeply rooted in my personal experiences, and with those I hope to bring a unique perspective to the table once again. During my time as your External Vice President, I have advocated for the voices of the diverse student body, making sure that all students feel heard and represented. I have been an advocate for initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and the overall well-being of the student body. This past year we created change here at the university by working with the auxiliary department in providing feedback regarding the new dining services changes we saw in the fall semester. We worked with the University Library to promote the resources they offer to all Vaquer@s. We also attended events and had meetings with various University departments where we provided our feedback while at the same time information about what SGA is and what we do for our student body.

In seeking your support for my re-election, I continue to not only commit to serve and advocate for the student body, but to help make our university community a safe space for all Vaquer@s! My team and I will work to continue representing all UTRGV campuses in Edinburg, Harlingen, and Brownsville.

Once again, I am profoundly grateful for all the Vaqueros and Vaqueras and for the trust you placed upon me in serving you this year, I look forward to once again serve you all this next year as your External Vice President.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Continued Juana Elena Jimenez L.: Candidate for Vice President

Blessings to Everyone and don't forget to vote Juana E. Jimenez Lopez as your External Vice President!!!

Platform Statement: Working further with the B3 Institute to establish more bilingual courses in the university. As well as further enhance the bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate opportunities for student success. As we see further transition in our food services, students concerns regarding prices one campuses as well as accommodations to students, as executives we would continue to further work on establishing grounds with the food service department to address student concerns. As our university grows, it is important to address our students the importance of SGA and the resources we provide. By collaborating with other student organizations we are able to educate other student leaders about SGA and increase our numbers allowing for further opportunities and prospective that will allow for student concerns to be addressed more smoothly.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Executive Ticket One

Gregorio J. Zuniga: Candidate for Vice President



Biography: Hello everyone! My name is Gregorio J. Zuniga, I am so excited to have the opportunity to run as your Internal Vice President in the 2024-25 Student Government Association (SGA) elections! I hope to have your support for the elections coming up as I would do my best to ensure that all your needs as students are met!

Something about me is that I am one of the first people in my family to attend college and the first person in my family to study music. I am a sophomore studying music

education with a concentration in voice and I have recently started a minor in theatre. I hope to pursue a masters in vocal performance. In the future, after some performing, I hope to become a school choir director and eventually lead a Fine Arts program at the district level, all the while opening a voice studio for those who find that their passion is music. In my journey as a student here at UTRGV, I have been involved in the Student Government Association (SGA) since I started coming to school here. I first started out in the FYI program, where I learned about what it takes to be a senator; I got to see what it takes to be a representative. I was immediately intrigued; I applied to be a senator and was voted into the SGA my second semester here, where I had the honor of finishing out the 2022-23 term. When elections for the 2023-24 term came up, I ran for the position as Senator for the College of Fine Arts, then soon after I was elected by the senate to become the Chair of the Senate where I got to preside over all the senate meetings we have, so now I am here running for the position as a you Internal Vice President. In my time here at UTRGV I got to see the sense of unity that this university has expressed and the sense of community that only keeps growing, and I would love to have the opportunity to strengthen that sense of community even more. I hope you support our team in leading your official representation. Don't forget to vote for Team Always Together!

Platform Statement: Working further with the B3 Institute to establish more bilingual courses in the university. As well as further enhance the bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate opportunities for student success. As we see further transition in our food services, students concerns regarding prices one campuses as well as accommodations to students, as executives we would continue to further work on establishing grounds with the food service department to address student concerns. As our university grows, it is important to address our students the importance of SGA and the resources we provide. By collaborating with other student organizations we are able to educate other student leaders about SGA and increase our numbers allowing for further opportunities and prospectives that will allow for student concerns to be addressed more smoothly.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Executive Ticket Two

Noah Trstenjak: Candidate for President



Biography: I was born in the Valley and have lived here my entire life and have always thought it's a very special place, in spite of its problems. I see its problems as nothing more than opportunity for growth. I finished high school at the UTRGV Mathematics and Science Academy and entered UTRGV directly after graduation. I've enjoyed my time at UTRGV, in both capacities, and am excited for my future here, however much is left.

Platform Statement: Ability. Accountability. Accessibility. If I'm elected, I promise to bring ability to the job of President. I've worked in leadership for my whole life and have a ton of experience working in people-focused fields.

I'm a hard worker and the issues you bring to me I will know how to try to solve. For all of last semester, and all of this one, the SGA has not passed a single bill. That will not be the case when I'm President. When I'm President, SGA will work for you. If I'm elected, I promise to bring accountability to SGA in a sweeping way. When I joined SGA, last semester, I was shocked how little accountability there was or how little students could do to keep an eye on their representatives. The SGA I was a part of, until I was unfairly removed for working with a few other Senators to shine a light on the problems, had a history of unfairly appropriating student travel funds, keeping general students from knowing what was being done, and denying students from joining SGA who they were prejudiced against. I will help pass legislation trackers, so students can see what the senate is doing, and mandate the publishing of senate and committee meeting minutes on social media for all students to see. It's time for reform. If I'm elected, I promise to be accessible, to you, who are all my friends at UTRGV. We're all students here, and your problems I will make my problems. My campaign IG page will be a way for you to contact me directly about problems on campus and I promise to look into them as soon as I can to see what can be done. There is nothing worse than seeing or experiencing a problem, on campus, and not knowing if you can do anything about it. When I'm elected, I will be that first step you can always take to fight the problems you experience on campus.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Executive Ticket Two

Mikaela Johnson: Candidate for Vice President

Biography: I was born in Michigan and raised in Arizona. I moved to the valley when I was 15.

Platform Statement: Our executive ticket is dedicated to serving and improving our university community. We have three key goals: Enhancing academic support: Expanding tutoring programs, improving student-professor relationships, and advocating for resources in high-demand subjects. Promoting student well-being: Increasing access to counseling services, organizing stress management workshops, and enhancing fitness options on campus. Fostering a vibrant campus community: Creating inclusive spaces, organizing campus-wide events, and amplifying student voices. With your support, we can build a stronger, more inclusive, and vibrant university. Vote for our executive ticket to make a difference.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Executive Ticket Two

Alexis Uscanga Cadena: Candidate for Vice President



Biography: Howdy UTRGV Vaqueros! My name is Alexis Uscanga Cadena, and it would be my honor to continue representing you in the Student Government Association as I am running for Vice President for the 2024-2025 SGA legislative session. I'm originally from Harlingen, Texas and a proud graduate of Harlingen High School South. I am a current sophomore, the current Senator At- Large for Edinburg, a first generation college student, and I'm also currently majoring in mass communication with a concentration in public relations and advertising while also minoring in political science. I am proud of being a first-gen student, and I come from deep Hispanic roots, with God, family and hard

work being the core principles that drive me as a person and my passions, including for public service. I have been blessed to work in different governmental jobs, standing firm as an advocate for the people of South Texas. I have also been grateful to meet with countless leaders, on the community, state, and national level in advocating for more resources and opportunities here in the RGV. I will continue to work to represent all needs of Students and be a strong and active voice. I aim to engage our University to be more open to the public, and embrace a sense of community on campus to further the goal of a vibrant college life. Continuing to advocate for the student body and to help pass pieces of legislation to have our Student Government be your vehicle for advocacy continues to be one of my many priorities, but I also wish to advocate for the University on a bigger level, and be able to continue to put us on the map. Our University is getting larger every year, and I want to drive resources and opportunities for all students to enjoy campus life and make UTRGV the top choice in the State of Texas! I will devote my full time to you, and that is why it would be my honor for you to cast your vote for me as your Vice President of this amazing University and it's student body. Let's Advance the Future of UTRGV and be Proud Vaqueros United!

Platform Statement: Top priorities of ours for this upcoming session will be to provide more quality accessibility to all students, and to make our Student Government more transparent to give students more information at a glance, where anyone can view pieces of legislation passed by their Senators, to see how their representatives are working for them, and giving students a greater chance at getting further involved in decision making through community policy workshops. We aim to push forward new traditions and engage our Student body to be more active on campus, advocating to bring an entrepreneurial and vibrant spirit through further community involvement. We will prioritize bringing awareness to current issues across our campus, such as parking and transportation, and acting on those issues by helping pass legislation that will advocate for resources that will continue advancing a greater campus life experience and a higher quality education for all students. Lastly, we want to work to remove any confusing barriers that students stumble upon so they can access the maximum amount of resources they need to make their college experience a lot more enjoyable, and stress free.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Academic Senators

Otweduampong-ba Ewuradwoa Nketiah: Candidate for Senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship



Biography: Allow me to introduce Ewuradwoa Nketiah, a remarkable freshman at UTRGV. Possessing a plethora of admirable leadership qualities such as loyalty, perseverance, punctuality, and discipline, Ewuradwoa shines brightly in all her endeavors. Her social nature and compassionate spirit create an environment of harmony and joy, as she values and considers the opinions of others. Originally hailing from Ghana, Ewuradwoa brings a rich cultural heritage to her experiences. It's fascinating to see her love for K-pop, a unique blend of interests that showcases her intelligence and astuteness. Ewuradwoa Nketiah is a true force to be reckoned with, ready to conquer the world with her exceptional qualities and diverse passions.

Platform Statement: I will focus on legislature to improve the learning experience of all students in the business school in effect boosting academic performance and the overall quality of students at the business school. Improve the student teacher relationship to foster a healthy and enjoyable learning environment for all students by proposing programs and activities aside classes that would aid the goal. Ensure that the college of business is the best business school in the UT system when it comes to preparing students for success in the outside world. Push for a remodeling of the classrooms that will attract students to attend classes.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Laura Reyes: Candidate for Senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship



Biography: Hello everyone! My name is Laura Reyes, and I am currently in my fourth semester as an Information Systems major. As a sophomore at the University of Texas Rio Grande, my experience in leadership can be traced back from my years in high school. Throughout high school I was part of organizations and clubs like Robotics, Theater, Student Council, Spanish Honor Society, and wrestling, where I held positions like secretary, vice president, and president. Beginning my freshman year of college I started seeking to expand my skills by taking an active commitment to serve in my local church as a preschool teacher, where I was able to further my communication and planning skills. This took me

a step further so that at the end of my second semester I was already starting my journey in SGA and in the media team at my local church. My first term at SGA I took an active role as secretary of the senate. In addition, I practice my collaboration skills by working with others to advise and construct legislation aiming to serve and bring prestige to the university itself and its students. Basically, I am passionate about fostering inclusive and innovative environments that aim to hear and serve the student body. If elected as senator for the College of Business, I will take an active stand on advocating for policies, student success, and professional development.

Platform Statement: I aim to focus on professional development, innovation, and student success.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

David Salinas: Candidate for Senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship



Biography: Hello Vaquero Nation! My name is David Salinas. I am a senior at UTRGV and I'm currently majoring in Business Management with a minor in Entrepreneurship. As a member of various student organizations, like Senator-at-Large in Edinburg for the Student Government Association, President for CEO "The Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization", I would like to invite the students to join a student organization as the opportunities that each club offers will contribute to your career development by offering you Internships, Conferences, Volunteering, and Social Events opportunities along with developing personal skills. As a student leader seeking a position in student legislation, my goal is to make a change for a better student experience as a I

have witnessed the necessities students need to improve a better college experience. I am a co-author and sponsor of various courtesy resolutions, and legislations that are pending approval by our Internal Affairs Committee. Furthermore, I plan to provide various opportunities in collaboration with the Voice Office and Career Center to help seniors be well prepared and most importantly to have a job secured before graduation.

Platform Statement: As a senator, I will work towards providing opportunities for students to get hands-on experience in their business field, support student organizations, College Equity and Equality, Accurate visibility for students, and campus resources.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Ximena Larios: Candidate for Senator for College of Education & P-16 Integration



Biography: Hi, my name is Ximena Larios, I am currently a Sophomore majoring in Early Care and Early Child Stu . My dream is to become a pediatric surgeon, though it may not be easy I am ready to face any challenges that come my way. I am not one to give up easy especially when I am have set goals in mind.

Platform Statement: I would like to focus on making tutoring sessions or a class to better understand the information in Biology, I have met many students who leave class very confused and many don't have a chance to teach themselves due to after school activities and homework. I would also like to focus on figuring expanding better

internet connection in the class rooms, I have noticed that several rooms and parts of the science building do not work stunting productivity especially those of us that have online lessons. I also feel that we need to make students more aware of the learning center, im sure there are many students who know of it but are not aware of how beneficial it can be.

Students should be taking advantage of it at all times not just when they want to leave there rooms or wait for their next class.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Norma Escalante: Candidate for Senator for College of Engineering & Computer Science



Biography: My name is Norma Escalante, and I'm a junior majoring in computer science with the goal of becoming a software developer in the future. As a student at the university, I am constantly pushing myself to higher standards and seeking ways to improve my skills in every aspect of my life. Communication is key is something that I personally live by, and I believe being able to efficiently communicate and understand different perspectives is a very valuable tool in life. I love programming and solving seemingly hard problems. I enjoy the challenge it brings, and I try to do more projects in my free time. I also love playing video games, mainly RPGS, since it fuels my love for strategizing. I have three dogs

that I love and enjoy playing with since they help me relax. I strive for not only personal growth but also meaningful connections with others. Whether it be in my personal life or in a professional academic setting, I make sure to be dedicated to everything I do.

Platform Statement: As a candidate, my platform centers on crucial goals aimed at enhancing the overall educational experience for all students such as advocacy for student support. I am committed to advocating for the implementation and expansion of programs that cater to students' academic, social, and mental/emotional well-being. Recognizing the importance of a holistic approach to education, I will work tirelessly to ensure that students have access to the necessary resources and support systems to thrive in all aspects of their lives. I will work hard to amplify student voices since every student deserves to have their voice heard and their perspectives valued. As a leader, I will prioritize creating platforms and opportunities for students to express their ideas, concerns, and aspirations. I will strive to ensure that every student feels represented, acknowledged, and empowered to actively participate in shaping their educational journey. As well as provide an emphasis on curriculum enhancement since education must evolve to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world. I will advocate for curriculum improvements that prioritize relevance, inclusivity, and comprehensiveness. This includes promoting the integration of current events, diverse perspectives, and practical skills into the curriculum to better prepare students for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter beyond the classroom. By focusing on these goals, I am dedicated to fostering a supportive, inclusive, and forward-thinking educational environment where every student can thrive and reach their full potential.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Ingridy Foltran: Candidate for Senator for College of Engineering & Computer Science



Biography: In every challenge, I see an opportunity; in every obstacle, I perceive a path to growth. My journey to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering represents determination, passion, and the unwavering spirit of a woman dedicated to creating a better future. As an International Student-Athlete from São Paulo, Brazil, I credit my success to the constant support of my mother. Raised in humble circumstances, I learned the value of resilience and the significance of addressing difficulties with hope for a brighter future, as well as embracing every difficulty as an opportunity to progress and become the best version of myself.

Choosing civil engineering was more than a career decision; it was a call to action. My early interest in numbers drove me to engineering, and a strong desire to promote sustainability fueled my ambition. Being on the UTRGV volleyball team has provided me the chance to participate in more than just the sport; as a D1 athlete, it has allowed me to come to US and study Engineering at the number one University in Texas(Washington Monthly).

I am the new President of Tau Beta Pi (The Engineering Honor Society) for the upcoming semester Fall 2024-Spring 2025, which demonstrates my commitment to UTRGV and my efforts to promote the engineering program here at UTRGV. I'm also enrolled in the Honors College to further develop my studies and underline my dedication to continuing growth.

Receiving support from the Student Government Association (SGA) will be an investment in a future where innovation, sustainability, and empowerment connect, and I will work hard to make it happen. I had the privilege to be awarded the Outstanding International Female Student 2023 with the esteemed support of the Dean of Engineering, Dr. Ala Qubbaj. Additionally, I was recently selected as a 2023-24 WAC Student-Athlete Emerging Leader, serving as the sole female representative from the WAC conference at the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Leadership Forum. Balancing athletics, academics, and professional responsibilities as a video producer at UTRGV presents both challenges and gratifying experiences.

As I stand here today, I am more than just a student pursuing a degree; I am a woman engineer driven by a persistent pursuit of excellence, ready to make a lasting mark on the world—one bridge, one project, one empowered woman at a time. **My goal is to build a future where the term 'impossible' loses its significance, allowing dreams to flourish.** Thank you!!

Platform Statement: Using a dynamic approach, I aim to present projects that positively impact our academic environment by connecting with the particular challenges and goals of us engineering and computer science students.

- Promote Diversity and Inclusivity: Create activities that recognize and welcome all of the backgrounds and cultures of the College of Engineering & Computer Science, providing equal opportunity for all



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Continued Ingridy Foltran: Candidate for Senator for College of Engineering & Computer Science

- students, regardless of gender, race, or nationality, consequently promoting an inclusive environment.
- **Enhance Academic Support Services:** Collaborate with faculty and administration to address specific academic challenges faced by us students, ensuring a supportive learning environment.
- **Implement Sustainable Practices:** Promote the integration of sustainable practices across the university, such as eco-friendly activities and raising awareness about the importance of environmental responsibility in engineering and computer science.
- **Promote Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Discuss the resources for mental health that UTRGV provides, which are critical for us students due to the demands of STEM areas, such as stress management meetings and workshops.

These goals demonstrate my dedication to the overall growth, sustainability, and general well-being of us students in the College of Engineering & Computer Science.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Jose L. Tabarez Jr.: Candidate for Senator for College of Engineering & Computer Science



Biography: I am an Honors student pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering with a minor in Business Management at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, set to graduate in Fall 2024. My objective upon obtaining my degree is to advocate for and effectively communicate the perspectives and needs of the student body to the administration, faculty, staff, and relevant entities across all UTRGV campuses. Outside of academics, I am actively engaged in volunteer work and immersed in the vibrant culture and traditions of UTRGV. I have contributed my time and efforts to various student organizations, including the Student Government Association, The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, The American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Tau Beta Pi Honor Society.

Platform Statement: As a candidate for student government, I am committed to enhancing the student experience and amplifying student voices at UTRGV. My platform focuses on three key goals: 1. Increase participation in Student Organizations: - Foster better communication channels between faculty, staff, and students to disseminate information about student organizations. - Encourage club leaders to engage with the Student Advisory Board on University Life to represent their members' interests effectively. - Promote student organization involvement fairs to maximize student engagement opportunities. 2. Continue to bring student concerns to the Senate for action: - Act as a liaison between students and the Senate to address concerns regarding school policies, facilities, and other relevant issues. - Collaborate with administrators to advocate for implementing a university policy permitting alternative forms of transportation on campus, such as skateboarding, cycling, and scooters. 3. Promote transparency throughout Student Government and UTRGV: - Utilize student-run communication platforms to raise awareness about pertinent issues, campus events, and more. - Enhance campaigns to increase awareness of the Student Government, enabling students to express their questions, comments, and concerns through proper channels. - Develop an online survey to give students an accessible avenue to submit their concerns if they cannot attend Student Government meetings for the Public Forum. Through these initiatives, I aim to foster a more inclusive and transparent campus community where student voices are heard and valued. Together, we can create positive change and enhance the overall student experience at UTRGV.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Dante Solano: Candidate for Senator for College of Engineering & Computer Science



Biography:

Platform Statement:



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Sergio Gonzalez-Eymard: Candidate for Senator for College of Health Professions



Biography: Greetings, my name is Sergio Gonzalez-Eymard, I am a UTRGV sophomore running for the senator position for the college of health professions. Before election day, I would like to illustrate a few things about myself as a candidate. I am in my second year as a BMED student, working diligently to complete the semester and learn more about the field of medical science and the associated research that comes with it. I volunteer weekly in a research lab, in which I front a small research team that investigates the catalytic effects of novel chemical complexes. As I spent time in my lab, my skills brought me to leading a small division of the UTRGV outreach program that invites high school students to visit our

campus and explore the various STEM scholarship options available. Since starting at UTRGV I have been keeping up with our newsletter The rider and have been focused on events that impact our students. Events such as the origination of the new major, school of integrative of biological and chemical sciences, the events surrounding the formation of our new football team and talking to students about the inequities between our sister campuses and how buildings, such as the Arts building, needs attention. With your support it would be an honor to use what I have learned as a research leader and BMED student to represent the voices of our student body.

Platform Statement: I believe in making a clear platform statement that reflects my intentions as a candidate, without obstruction. I will work to expand the utility and spending power of V- bucks for our living on-campus students. I intend to investigate the ability to provide more spaces on campus that can be used for study. Lastly, I hope to facilitate the passing of legislature that focuses on making sure the Brownsville campus regains the status of being an institution that supports a learning modality for juniors and seniors, rather than being a campus for a majority of freshman and sophomore classes.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Andrea Maldonado: Candidate for Senator for College of Liberal Arts



Biography: My name is Andrea Maldonado; I am currently a sophomore double majoring in Political Science and Economics and a minor in legal studies with a Pre-Law Honors track. I am an ambitious student seeking a career in the legal field as a future litigation attorney. I would describe myself as outgoing, with strong interpersonal communication and writing skills, willing to take risks, and always looking to educate myself on diverse interesting topics. If I could define myself in one word, it would be curious, I have an innate desire to ask questions, research, and evolve my understanding of life as we know it. I am passionate about being an advocate for community members with a similar background to me, I am taking ongoing action to be the voice of underrepresented communities such as Latinas and disadvantaged students from troubled backgrounds.

Platform Statement: I would like to have the opportunity to serve my second term as Senator for the College of Liberal Arts. If I were to be re-appointed I would not only continue to be the voice of members from CLA, but also continue pursuing planned resolutions related to campus safety, such as a plastic cover on the metal platforms of the Brownsville Campus bridge, as well as other initiatives concerning student organization funding among others.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Eliseo Zavala: Candidate for Senator for College of Liberal Arts



Biography: Raised in Ft. Collins, CO Graduated from McAllen Memorial High School Army Veteran Vaquero Radio DJ Internship San Juan Cultural Arts District as historian Veteran Student Organization member

Platform Statement: School wifi access on all campus grounds. Easier access to parking and shuttle services. Ease of disability access in all buildings and restrooms. Provide a cohesive and spirited campus environment.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Juan Pablo Hernandez: Candidate for Senator for College of Sciences



Biography: Hello Vaqueros! I'm Juan Pablo Hernandez, a proud Venezuelan-American & a junior majoring in Biology with a minor in Music, and I'm eager to represent you as a senator at UTRGV. Graduating from the Mathematics and Science Academy right on campus, my deep involvement in the UTRGV community since the age of 15 has shaped my commitment to fostering a thriving academic environment. Currently serving as the Founder and President of the Neuroscience Society, I've played a pivotal role in establishing a platform for students passionate about neuroscience. My research in the Engineering Department for the Partnership for Research and Education in Materials Science

reflects my dedication to interdisciplinary collaboration, working on integrating graphene, biosensors, and nanofibers. And as a member of the Vaqueros MD program, I'm committed to pursuing a future in Neurology, shadowing physicians, volunteering in the community, and preparing for a career in healthcare. Beyond academics, I enjoy playing the piano, staying informed with scientific and political articles, and honing my cooking skills. My varied experiences and unwavering dedication make me a strong candidate for the senator role at UTRGV. If given the opportunity, I will actively contribute to the culture at UTRGV, advocate for student concerns, and commit to the success and integrity of our university and its students. Your vote for Juan Pablo Hernandez for senator will be a vote for a passionate and dedicated representative, no doubt about it! V's Up everyone!

Platform Statement: As Senator for the College of Sciences, my commitment will lie in addressing key concerns and fostering positive changes within our community. I advocate for the implementation of collaborative research initiatives, providing students with more opportunities to engage in cutting-edge scientific exploration. Furthermore, I aim to enhance networking opportunities by organizing industry-connect events, creating a bridge between students and professionals in the field. I also propose the establishment of a comprehensive academic support system, ensuring students have access to tutoring services and resources tailored to their scientific disciplines & individual needs. Your support will enable me to vigorously advocate for these initiatives & contribute to enhancing the student experience within the College of Sciences.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Kayla White: Candidate for Senator for the School of Nursing



Biography: My name is Kayla White, and I am a Second-Degree Nursing student. I am passionate about being involved in the community and making a positive impact when given the opportunity to facilitate change. Along with being a full-time student I serve as the Resource Chair for the Student Nurse Organization. When I'm not studying, attending class, or at a school related function, you can find me playing pickleball at the Rec center with my husband or hanging out with my toddlers at the park. I hope to represent and serve the School of Nursing as one of the 2024-2025 Senators.

Platform Statement: Maintaining representation for the School of Nursing in the Student Government Association is my first goal. Upon learning that the School of Nursing has 1 Senator who will be graduating this semester, I knew I wanted to run for the 2024-2025 school year to ensure the continued representation of our nursing students. My second goal is related to the needs of student parents. As a second-degree student who is no longer eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, certain student resources related to childcare assistance are limited. This brought to light an issue that affects student parents like me who may be pursuing additional degrees. My goal is to research what resources are currently available and to expand upon them to create opportunities for current and future UTRGV student parents to be able to comfortably pursue a degree without the struggle of securing safe and affordable childcare. The third goal I would like to focus on is health awareness on campus. As the School of Nursing, I feel it is our responsibility to educate our fellow students about the healthcare resources available on campus like the Student Health Center that provides free office visits and the Counseling Center that offers free counseling services. Other resources I hope to promote are seminars related to sex education, proper nutrition, and the important of being proactive about our health. Lastly, I would like to work on supplementing the resources available to current nursing students. One of my focuses in this department would be finding or creating additional scholarship opportunities specifically for second-degree nursing students.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Samsunnahar Bipasha: Candidate for Graduate Senator



Biography: My name is Samsunnahar Bipasha. I'm from a very small country called Bangladesh which is in the South Asian region. Currently, I am doing my masters in "Computer Science" at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). I have completed my undergraduate from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, majoring in International Relations. I did my first masters in "International Affairs" from the Missouri State University, USA. My goal is to foster women inclusion in the the society and to have a tangible impact on women's lives more directly. I believe that educating women is the strongest weapon to promote women inclusion in every sphere of the society. Providing women and girls with

access to quality education and training will pave the way for economic empowerment, leadership, decision making etc. I have a dream to open an online learning platform (like Khan Academy) where every female child and woman will be able to access the contents without any fees. Besides the traditional teaching, the aim of my online learning platform will be to pave the way of acquiring skills, developing values, generating knowledge, and initiating sense of belongingness among the young female generation.

Platform Statement: Three main goals I will focus on: 1. Enhance Graduate Student Support and Resources: Improve the accessibility and quality of resources available to graduate students, including mental health services, career development programs, and financial aid options. In this respect, we will collaborate with university administration to assess current support services and identify areas for improvement. 2. Strengthen Graduate Community and Networking Opportunities: Foster a stronger sense of community and networking among graduate students across different departments. We can organize interdisciplinary events and social gatherings to encourage networking and collaboration. Moreover, we can establish a mentorship program pairing new graduate students with advanced students or alumni. 3. Advocate for Policy Changes Benefiting Graduate Students: Represent graduate student interests in university governance and policy-making processes to ensure their needs are met. We will serve as a liaison between the graduate student body and university administration, presenting student concerns and proposals for change.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Khondoker Hossain: Candidate for Graduate Senator



Biography: Embarking on a dynamic leadership journey, my role as the Creative Consulting Services Manager allowed me to cultivate visionary partnerships and facilitate substantial growth, collaborating with industry titans such as PepsiCo and Coca-Cola. Throughout my executive tenure at the Ukrainian start-up, I consistently demonstrated a keen ability to reshape consumer engagement, leaving an indelible mark on esteemed brands including Bvlgari and Elle. This experience honed my strategic acumen and further solidified my commitment to driving impactful outcomes within the corporate landscape. Beyond the professional sphere,

dedication to education manifested in my role as a GRE and IELTS Faculty at Mind Ray Academy. Here, I actively nurtured educational aspirations, fostering an environment conducive to learning and growth. Additionally, my commitment to societal well-being found expression through online activism with renowned organizations such as Amnesty International and Save the Children. This engagement allowed me to contribute meaningfully to causes that resonate with my values, showcasing a holistic approach to leadership that extends beyond traditional professional boundaries.

Platform Statement: Khondoker Sayeed Hossain's journey began in Bangladesh, fueled by a passion for knowledge and a desire to create positive change. With a background in marketing, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Marketing at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Embracing a new culture, his commitment to diversity left a lasting impact on his peers and the community. From Bangladesh to UTRGV, Khondoker's path showcases the power of education, resilience, and leadership, inspiring others to realize their potential. With a Bachelor's and Master's in business administration from Bangladesh, and experience in a Ukrainian start-up and a Bangladeshi research consultancy firm, his journey reflects dedication. Khondoker's passion for consumer behavior aligns with his research focus on consumer well-being, exploring loyalty across cultures, cognitive processes, materialism, and mindfulness.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Courtney MacNeil: Candidate for Graduate Senator



Biography: My name is Courtney MacNeil. I am an educator who is running for SGA Graduate Senator to help graduate students develop a sense of community within the school. There is a whole spectrum of graduate students attending UTRGV. There are people of all ages and backgrounds. Many graduate students will never step foot on campus, but they still need to be represented and supported. It is important that SGA Graduate Senators consider all graduate students to best represent such a diverse group of

people. I'm in the online accelerated MBA program, but I am looking to help unite and represent all graduate students attending UTRGV.

Platform Statement: I am running for Graduate Senator because I would really like to help elevate UTRGV's grad school experiences for all graduate students. I want to help by creating more events for the different graduate colleges, working with the staff and students from each of them to curate more meet-up opportunities for students. I would like to ensure that UTRGV remains an inclusive and safe environment. I want to ensure that students understand and can use all the perks that come with being a proud Vaquero!



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Candidates for Senator-At-Large

Christian Alvarado: Candidate for Senator-at-Large Brownsville



Biography: I graduated from Los Fresnos High School in 2022. Following graduation I refounded the UTRGV Rotaract nonprofit chapter. I am currently a Junior and History Composite major.

Platform Statement: I hope to make it easier for student organizations to operate, create more event opportunities for students to build connections with each other, and lower useless student fees.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Juan Longoria: Candidate for Senator-at-Large Brownsville



Biography: My name is Juan Longoria. I am 19 years old. I'm currently a freshman, and my major is political science. I am Brownsville based and biased. One of my favorite hobbies is golf even though I may not be the best at it.

Platform Statement: Three goals I would like to focus on would be to improve the involvement of the Brownsville Campus in student activities, expand outreach and public engagement, and promote collaborative research initiatives. Since I am Brownsville based, I may have some biased in improving the

involvement of the Brownsville Campus. Many clubs and activities are Edinburg based. Personally, one of my clubs only have meetings in the Edinburg Campus. The club requires that each member attends a certain number of meetings, but I have class at the same time the meetings are taken place. The hour drive to Edinburg then an hour back wastes time and causes me to miss out on my class to attend a mandatory club meeting. Many events are offered in the Edinburg campus and not the Brownsville Campus. As the Brownsville Campus continues to grow, I believe it would benefit the students to have equal activities in both campuses. The second goal I would like to focus on would be expanding outreach and public engagement. I would like to increase the outreach efforts to K-12 schools and prospective students to raise awareness about UTRGV programs, resources, and scholarship opportunities. I am currently in my 2nd semester of college. I have discovered a plethora of opportunities at UTRGV. In high school, I was not aware of this information and would have helped me a lot if I had known about these opportunities. My third goal is to promote collaborative research initiatives. I would like to foster interdisciplinary collaborations with external research institutions, industry partners, and government agencies. For example, if you were a pre-med student, if UTRGV had a partnership with Valley Medical Hospital wouldn't it be great if you could do an internship with them. I would like to promote those type of relationships since it is difficult to find internships and jobs that correlate with your field of work.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Hannah Martinez: Candidate for Senator-at-Large Brownsville



Biography: Hello! My name is Hannah Martinez, and I am a Biomedical Sciences major, with a minor in Art History. During my time here at UTRGV, I've been actively engaged in various organizations such as the Freshman Leadership Academy, Eta Omicron Nu, and the Pre-Medical Society. Recently, I had the privilege of completing the First-Year Internship program, where I gained valuable insights into how our SGA functions under the mentorship of Vice-President Jimenez. Currently serving on the Pride and Traditions Committee, I am eager to expand my involvement and make a meaningful impact across our student body. As senator, I aim to act as a voice for all UTRGV students, no matter the major or college, in hopes to advocate for positive change.

Platform Statement: As Senator-at-Large for Brownsville, I aim to make the Brownsville Campus more involved on a grander scale. As we anticipate the upcoming football season in 2025, I hope to bridge the gap between Brownsville and Edinburg, fostering a sense of unity amongst students through new events and traditions. By planning ahead how Brownsville can be involved, school spirit and involvement would be increased. Additionally, I hope to establish more opportunities for students from different colleges and majors to interact and collaborate face-to-face. By expanding networking options for students, I believe it will help in their future endeavors. This idea also applies to upperclassmen and underclassmen of the same college to provide guidance from what they have learned from their previous years. Lastly, I hope to improve students' overall college experience by addressing any persisting issues that may arise during the academic year and by encouraging them to participate in any Brownsville events that will be taking place.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Andrea Gaytan: Candidate for Senator-at-Large Edinburg



Biography: Hello Vaqueros! My name is Andrea Gaytan, and I am a sophomore here at the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, pursuing a degree in finance. Since relocating to Edinburg, Texas in 2022 to pursue my education at UTRGV, I've been impacted by the wide range of businesses and personal growth opportunities in the community. I am actively involved in various campus organizations, including being a member and volunteer for the Baptist Student Ministry, serving as the Special Affairs Director for Beta Alpha Psi, and holding the position of Vice President for the Student Parents Success Organization. Through my

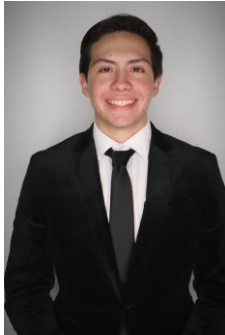
involvement in these groups, as well as through campus outreach initiatives, I am committed to serving as a voice with the primary goal of ensuring that the concerns of all students are not only heard but also addressed, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where every student can thrive academically.

Platform Statement: My goal is to establish networking opportunities for students, forming connections with professionals and alumni to unlock future success. Through guest speaker series and industry panels, I aim to provide direct access to sources that can offer invaluable guidance based on their personal career journeys. Additionally, I would like to collaborate closely with the university's career services to expand workshops and internship programs tailored to students' needs, empowering them with essential tools and resources to flourish academically and professionally. Together, building a supportive environment where students can thrive and confidently enter the professional world upon graduation.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION **SGA ELECTIONS**

Skyler Howell: Candidate for Senator-at-Large Edinburg



Biography: Introduction: My name is Skyler Howell and I am currently the Senator for The Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship. I am from Weslaco, TX and I currently serve as an executive director for The City of Mercedes Chamber of Commerce, CEO of Howell Insurance, and Vice President of The Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization. All these experiences have helped me develop my passion for public service and making an impact. During my time as Senator, I have been committed to serving and representing all students attending UTRGV. Although I am involved in many university activities, my dedication remains towards the students and improving their experience at The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley. My belief is that positive impact is made through

action, and so I intend on continuing to take action so that the students attending this university can feel that positive impact. My ultimate aspirations are to leave this university better than when I entered, and the first step is by continuing to serve as Senator.

Platform Statement: My name is Skyler Howell, current Senator for The Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship. As your Senator, I am committed to fostering a more inclusive and transparent environment between the Student Government and our student body at UTRGV. My platform centers on four key goals: 1. Improving Student Government Relations: I will work tirelessly to strengthen the relationship between the Student Government and our students by actively seeking and valuing their input on critical issues affecting campus life. 2.

Increasing Transparency: Transparency is vital to building trust and accountability. I will advocate for increased transparency within the Student Government, ensuring that students have access to information about decisions and processes that impact their university experience. 3.

Instilling University Pride: I am dedicated to fostering a sense of pride and belonging among our student community. By celebrating our university's achievements and promoting campus spirit, we can create a vibrant and supportive environment for all students. 4. Effective Representation: As your representative, I pledge to advocate for your interests and concerns to the best of my ability. Drawing from my experience as Vice President of The Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization, Executive Director for The City of Mercedes Chamber of Commerce, and as a current Senator for UTRGV, I am well-equipped to navigate the complexities of student governance and effectively represent your voice. Throughout my tenure as a Senator, I have witnessed the power of collaboration and advocacy in driving positive change. From drafting legislation to ensuring students are informed and engaged, I have stood firm in representing our collective voice. As your elected representative, I am steadfast in my commitment to amplify your concerns, champion your aspirations, and advocate for the betterment of our university community.

Together, let's forge a path of progress, unity, and pride at UTRGV. Your trust and support empower me to lead with unwavering dedication and integrity. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and let's embark on this transformative journey together. That is why I ask for your vote to continue our road to a better future at The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley. With Skyler, the sky is the limit for UTRGV!



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ***SGA ELECTIONS***

Richard Reimer: Candidate for Senator-at-Large Edinburg



Biography: My name is Richard Daniel Reimer, and it would be my honor to represent you in the Student Senate, so I am running for Senator-At-Large of the UTRGV Edinburg campus for the 2024- 2025 legislative session. I'm originally from Monterrey, Mexico, but I was raised in McAllen. I am currently a freshman, double majoring in History and Political Science. I am looking forward to representing the needs of all students and to being your voice. I aim to expand the sense of community on our campus. I plan to advocate for us the student body and to pass pieces of legislation that align with our priorities and our needs. It would be an honor for you to vote for me as your Senator. Let's make it our UTRGV!

Platform Statement: I want to bring a voice to all, I want a campus that encourages greatness for all and, last but not least, I want to be part of a student government that is willing to work together for the benefit of everyone.