

**I. Call to Order / Roll Call**

**Present:** Noelynn Llasos; Laura Ramos; Karen Dorado; Rogelio Chanes; Kevin Garza; Karina Herrera; Nicole Englitsch; Nayeli Garcia; Ashley Mercado; Maria Juarez-Serna; Orlando Castaneda; Tammy Munoz; Veronica Villarreal; Armando Garza; Marisa Campirano; Kelli Quin; Milagro (Millie) Resendez; Cordelia Rasa; Alisha Puentes; Teresa Villarreal; Irene Cardenas; Andres Chavez; Yadira Mejia; Caitlin Bruseth; Jacob Camacho

**II. Welcome / Introduction: Staff Senate President – Noelyn Llasos**

- Announcement of Nick and Matthew leaving Staff Senate and UTRGV; thank you to both for all their hard work.
- Alisha - Motion to approve May and June minutes; Karen - seconded; Motion passed.

**III. Guest Speakers**

**a. Veronica Gonzalez; Sr VP Govt and Comm Relations – Updates on Current 87th Legislative Session**

- Governor called special session that starts today; over 100 bills filed for this session.



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session – started in January and ended May 31st (140 days)

2 Chambers – House and Senate

The Big Three – Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker (new Speaker)

Strange session due to COVID-19; limited interaction; testing before could go into Capitol

Funding was strained at first due to COVID-19 revenue losses and the volatility of the oil markets, but Texas did a good job of recovering and federal stimulus dollars filled some of the gaps.

## BUDGET

**STATE BUDGET - \$248 Billion overall**

**\$8.6B – to Higher Education including \$1.25B for financial aid programs (\$100M is new additional funding for several financial aid programs, including TEXAS Grants.)**

**UTRGV - \$377.7 million budget**

**General Academic Institution - \$303.9M**

Formula funding went up by **\$22.3M** for the biennium;

We were **#7 overall**, one of seven with a \$20M gain or higher; in top 4 among UT institutions)

Non-formula – we kept all funding but with a 5% reduction (all schools took a cut with few exceptions)

**School of Medicine - \$73.8M**

Formula funding went up **\$4.6M** for the biennium in net revenue

Non-formula funding - **\$39.9M** (\$42 from last session minus the 5% reduction)

Cancer research funding - **\$1.9M** (5% cut from last session and funds returned to UTMB)

Graduate Medical Education funding increased overall by over \$48M

Strong support for telemedicine, mental health, financial aid.

- \$110M in GR for financial aid grant programs.
- \$118M for Mental Health Consortium



# GENERAL ACADEMIC INSTITUTION - FORMULA

| Institution                            | Total Formula General Revenue | % share of formula | Total Formula General Revenue | % share of formula | Total Formula General Revenue | % GR Variance | change in formula GR Share |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 UT Dallas                            | 158,591,073                   | 4.40%              | 189,307,438                   | 4.86%              | 30,716,365                    | 19.4%         | 0.45%                      |
| 2 UT Austin                            | 391,036,720                   | 10.86%             | 418,513,050                   | 10.74%             | 27,476,331                    | 7.0%          | -0.12%                     |
| 3 University of North Texas            | 183,615,273                   | 5.10%              | 209,845,796                   | 5.38%              | 26,230,522                    | 14.3%         | 0.29%                      |
| 4 UT San Antonio                       | 164,858,238                   | 4.58%              | 190,680,665                   | 4.89%              | 25,822,427                    | 15.7%         | 0.31%                      |
| 5 Texas Tech University                | 249,343,251                   | 6.92%              | 274,827,064                   | 7.05%              | 25,483,813                    | 10.2%         | 0.13%                      |
| 6 Texas A&M University                 | 524,806,338                   | 14.57%             | 549,741,418                   | 14.10%             | 24,935,080                    | 4.8%          | -0.47%                     |
| 7 UT Rio Grande Valley                 | 132,483,579                   | 3.68%              | 156,210,226                   | 4.01%              | 23,726,647                    | 17.9%         | 0.33%                      |
| 8 University of Houston                | 265,807,921                   | 7.38%              | 285,505,443                   | 7.32%              | 19,697,522                    | 7.4%          | -0.06%                     |
| 9 UT Arlington                         | 201,519,596                   | 5.60%              | 216,854,076                   | 5.56%              | 15,334,480                    | 7.6%          | -0.03%                     |
| 10 Texas Woman's University            | 84,920,708                    | 2.36%              | 97,839,794                    | 2.51%              | 12,919,086                    | 15.2%         | 0.15%                      |
| 11 Lamar University                    | 70,945,485                    | 1.97%              | 81,274,603                    | 2.08%              | 10,329,118                    | 14.6%         | 0.12%                      |
| 12 UT El Paso                          | 121,486,458                   | 3.37%              | 129,849,294                   | 3.33%              | 8,362,837                     | 6.9%          | -0.04%                     |
| 13 Texas Southern University           | 35,474,750                    | 0.98%              | 43,274,878                    | 1.11%              | 7,800,128                     | 22.0%         | 0.13%                      |
| 14 UH-Clear Lake                       | 41,326,907                    | 1.15%              | 47,120,506                    | 1.21%              | 5,793,599                     | 14.0%         | 0.06%                      |
| 15 Texas A&M International University  | 34,406,125                    | 0.96%              | 39,868,449                    | 1.02%              | 5,462,324                     | 15.9%         | 0.07%                      |
| 16 Texas A&M University - Corpus       | 54,926,916                    | 1.53%              | 59,220,309                    | 1.52%              | 4,293,393                     | 7.8%          | -0.01%                     |
| 17 University of North Texas at Dallas | 20,516,349                    | 0.57%              | 24,142,408                    | 0.62%              | 3,626,060                     | 17.7%         | 0.05%                      |
| 18 UT Permian Basin                    | 19,298,944                    | 0.54%              | 22,880,278                    | 0.59%              | 3,581,334                     | 18.6%         | 0.05%                      |
| 19 Texas A&M - Commerce                | 68,071,275                    | 1.89%              | 71,561,568                    | 1.84%              | 3,490,293                     | 5.1%          | -0.05%                     |
| 20 Tarleton State University           | 61,930,520                    | 1.72%              | 65,021,093                    | 1.67%              | 3,090,572                     | 5.0%          | -0.05%                     |
| 21 UT Tyler                            | 44,243,556                    | 1.23%              | 47,222,860                    | 1.21%              | 2,979,305                     | 6.7%          | -0.02%                     |

## LEGISLATION SPECIFIC TO UTRGV



### Expansion of Graduate Medical Education to include Podiatry HB2509

- UTRGV is opening the first School of Podiatry in Texas (Fall 2022)
- UTRGV educated podiatrists will be able to remain in the state for residencies
- Before this legislation, only MD and DO programs could apply for this funding



### Fees Clean-up & Restructuring SB1467

- Updated 13 sections of Education, Gov't & Health and Safety Code
- Separated out athletics fee to be its own freestanding fee
- Deducted from Student Services Fee amounts being transferred to athletics
- No increase to current fees

## SIGNIFICANT STATEWIDE LEGISLATION



**HB 5** by Ashby / Effective 15 JUNE 2021 - Expansion of broadband services to certain areas. Creates a Broadband Development Office that will be able to award grants, low-interest loans and other incentives to expand access to broadband services.



**HB 1927** by Schaefer / Effective 1 SEPT 2021 - "Permitless Carry" - allows people to carry handguns in Texas without a concealed handgun license. No handgun training necessary.



**HB 3979** by Toth / Effective 1 SEPT 2021 - Relating to the social studies curriculum in public K-12 schools, banning the teaching of critical race theory and limiting what public school students can be taught about the United States' history of subjugating people of color.



**SB 8** by Hughes / Effective 1 SEPT 2021 - Bans abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected, which proponents say can be as early as six weeks. Also permits lawsuits by private citizens.

## LEGISLATION IMPACTING HIGHER EDUCATION

### ATHLETICS

**SB 1385** by Creighton / Effective 1 JULY 2021

Allows student athletes at Texas institutions of higher education to earn compensation for their name, image, and likeness and to obtain professional representation in making related contracts.

### TEXTBOOK/COURSE MATERIALS TRANSPARENCY

**HB 1027** by Parker / Effective 1 SEPT 2021

Requires IHEs to post course schedules and information on course material including price, international standard book numbers, author, associated fees or charges such as technology, library, printing, etc. Also need to post any provisions that allow a student to opt out of a fee or charge. Directs IHEs to provide a searchable list of courses and sections of courses that require or recommend only open educational resources.

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE EXPANSION

**HB 3348** by Pacheco / Effective 16 JUNE 2021 -

Amends the Education Code to raise the general cap on the number of baccalaureate degree programs a public junior college may offer from three to five.

## LEGISLATION IMPACTING HIGHER EDUCATION

### TITLE IX

**HB1172** by Howard / Effective 1 SEPT 2021

Improves the survivor experience by guaranteeing that sexual assault victims have the right to an advocate's presence during law enforcement interviews and any forensic medical examinations. It also prohibits the use of polygraphs on victims.

**HB 2706** by Howard / Effective 1 SEPT 2021

Enacts certain recommendations from the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force to increase access to SAFE-ready facilities for survivors, clarify the reimbursement process for forensic medical exams, and codify the state's commitment to survivors by removing the word "alleged" when referencing a sexual assault or other sex offense within state statute.

**SB 1371** by Huffman / Effective 7 JUNE 2021

Protects a victim's identity by providing that a campus peace officer who receives information regarding an incident of sexual harassment, assault, dating violence, or stalking from an alleged victim, who chooses to complete an official pseudonym form in making the required report, shall state only the type of incident reported and is prohibited from including the victim's name, phone number, address, or other information that may directly or indirectly reveal the victim's identity.

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## LEGISLATION IMPACTING HIGHER EDUCATION

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/WORKFORCE ED. PROGRAMS

**HB 4361** by Raney / Effective 14 JUNE 2021

Authorizes an institution of higher education to enter into an agreement with an employer to provide a

## LEGISLATION IMPACTING HIGHER EDUCATION

### GOVERNOR'S UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE (GURI)

#### SB 1525 by Creighton / Effective 7 JUNE 2021

Expands the GURI to allow funds to be used to recruit talented mid-career researchers rather than only Nobel Laureate researchers and those from national honorific societies such as the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, or the National Academy of Medicine.

### ENROLLMENT/STUDENT SERVICES/FINANCIAL AID

#### SB 165 by Blanco / Effective 14 JUNE 2021

Provides exceptions to dropped course limitations at public IHE for courses dropped during a disaster that results in a bar or limit on in-person course attendance. Goes into effect beginning 2021 fall semester. Good reasons include a severe illness or other debilitating condition, responsibility to care for a sick, injured or needy person that interrupts ability to complete coursework, death of a family member, active-duty service, disaster declared by the Governor that affects ability to participate in coursework, etc.

## LEGISLATION IMPACTING HIGHER EDUCATION

### DUAL CREDIT

#### SB 1277 by West / Effective 30 MAY 2021

Provides for academic advising to students enrolled in a dual credit course before the student begins the course. Applies to an agreement entered into or renewed on or after September 1, 2021.

### SUICIDE PREVENTION

#### SB 279 by Hinojosa / Effective Immediately

Relates to the inclusion of suicide prevention information on certain student identification cards issued by a public school or public institution of higher education.

## NOTEWORTHY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

#### DR. ELUTERIO BLANCO JR. (HR 188)

CONGRATULATING DR. ELUTERIO BLANCO JR. ON HIS SELECTION AS A 2021 EMERGING SCHOLAR BY THE JOURNAL DIVERSE: ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

#### MONICA REYES (HR 371)

CONGRATULATING MONICA REYES ON HER RECEIPT OF A 2020 UT REGENTS' OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD.

#### DR. CRISTINA VILLALOBOS (HR 377)

CONGRATULATING DR. CRISTINA VILLALOBOS ON HER RECEIPT OF A 2020 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING MENTORING.

#### TERESA FERIA (HR 378)

CONGRATULATING TERESA FERIA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY ON HER RECEIPT OF A 2020 UT REGENTS' OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD.

#### DR. JOHN KROUSE (SR 492)

RECOGNIZING JOHN H. KROUSE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

## LEGISLATION IMPACTING HIGHER EDUCATION

#### SB1860 by Powell / Effective 1 SEPT 2021

Delays implementation of the electronic TASFA to applications submitted for the 2023-24 academic year to support a more efficient and seamless implementation (to align with the FAFSA Simplification Act). Students will continue to have full access to the existing fillable PDF TASFA for the 2022-23 academic year.

#### SB 1227 by Taylor / Effective Immediately

Relates to the granting of undergraduate course credit at public IHE for certain scores on examinations administered through the College-Level Examination Program. It adopts a uniform statewide credit-granting policy for CLEP.

### HAZING

#### SB 36 by Zaffirini / Sent to the Governor

Creates a higher education task force focused on mental health services and the offense of hazing. Provides immunity to persons/entities who voluntarily report hazing incidents and fall under certain criteria.

## NOTEWORTHY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

#### UTRGV Chess Team (HR 651; HR 1471; SR 289)

CONGRATULATING UTRGV ON WINNING THE 2021 PRESIDENT'S CUP, ITS THIRD CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

#### UTRGV CHAPS PROGRAM (HR 1720; SR 512)

HONORING THE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT WITH SCHOOLS PROGRAM ON ITS RECEIPT OF THE 2020 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

#### VALLEY LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (HR 1772; SR 490)

COMMENDING THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM DURING THE 87TH SESSION.

#### COACH LEW HILL (HR 339; SR 111)

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LEWIS DANIEL HILL SR., HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY.

## SPECIAL SESSION(S) ITEMS

### AND JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS OVER . . .

Only the governor can call a Special Session and he did.  
One started today, July 8; another on redistricting will be in the fall.

There is a LOT on this call:

- Voting Legislation
- Bail legislation
- Critical Race Theory
- Social Media Censorship
- Border Security
- More abortion restrictions
- Transgender Sports Ban
- Article X funding
- Family violence prevention
- 13th check for TRS
- Property Taxes
- Foster care system
- Cybersecurity

- Make sure to tell your legislators how you feel on the issues and be engaged in the processes.
- Will find out if bills will affect TRS.
- To see results of session: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>
- <https://senate.texas.gov/members.php>
- <https://house.texas.gov/members/>
- If you are contacting senators or representatives as a UTRGV rep or for UTRGV issue, go through Governmental Relations office.

**b. Mike James, Chief HR Officer – Updates on Staff Merit, Market Value Salary Adjustments**

- Annual Enrollment for Benefits will be coming up July 15 – July 31.
- Base minimum wage will go to \$13.00 (classified staff).
- Market and Equity will require help from departmental leadership to determine education levels and years of relevant experience (as per job descriptions) and if what is on file and in resumes is correct. Supervisors are currently working on those spreadsheets to send back to HR this month.
- Important to note this is not a one and done fix. This will be a multi-year process for market and equity to get us to our goal (about the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile; we are currently at 17<sup>th</sup> percentile).
- 2% Merit program for classified/A&P; guidelines have been drafted and are with leadership for review. Will likely require full time employment since September 2020, be in good standing (overall appraisal score of 3 or better) and not in discipline cycle.
- Deadlines will be communicated out; for completion of equity and market data, supervisors are to get that to HR by July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Working to get all years of service data updated into the PeopleSoft system so that we don't have to do adjustment spreadsheets on this scale again.
- If you need to send updates on education, years of service, etc. – email those to [HR@UTRGV.edu](mailto:HR@UTRGV.edu)
- Metrics for market value is provided by PayFactors which gives market data.
- HR will take info from supervisors and see where in pay scale people should be; an overall amount will be determined as to what funding is needed; then decision will be made as to what is feasible for everyone.
- Everything must be loaded by September to be effective in October paycheck.
- Everyone will receive a personalized letter that will provide an outline and detail of increases.
- If you are getting reclassified as of September 1, you will still be eligible for merit.
- Market is independent of the merit program.
- Will be taking comprehensive approach to market and equity.
- For institutional Pay Plan: <https://www.utrgv.edu/hr/compensation/pay-plan/index.htm>

**IV. Committee Updates**

- I. Communications Committee - Senator Millie Resendez, Chair / Senator Rogelio Chanes, Co-Chair**
  - Launching Wellness Wednesday campaign soon (recipes, exercises, photos etc.) open to staff if they would like to participate; send emails to staff senate!
- II. Elections & Constitution Committee - Senator Caitlin Bruseth, Chair / Senator Irene Cardenas, Co-Chair**
  - Main project is getting staff list to use for voting on amendment proposals / revisions & elections.
- III. Feedback Committee - Senator Karen Dorado, Chair**
  - Encourage all to use Staff Senate Feedback Form: [Feedback Form](#)
  - Teresa Villarreal will be new co-chair for committee.
  -

**V. Public Comments / Questions**

- Jayshree Bhat - Asst VP Prof Edu Workforce Dev; LinkedIn Learning platform is now available; email has gone out to all staff. Use UTRGV credentials to sign in. [LinkedIn Learning](#)

- Jaime Vasquez – IT; Microsoft Authenticator to begin rolling out next week July 13th. IF you haven't registered for MFA, please do so. [MFA info](#) Do not delete your DUO app just yet. Still being used in some capacity.
- Nicole Englitsch – Senator; Return to Campus Roundtable session today at 2 pm (register on UTRGV training portal).
- Carlos Munoz – Athletics; Payroll deduct is going to be available in October for tickets to any athletics events. All needed is basically an employee ID to sign up.

**VI. Motion to Adjourn: Cordelia Rasa; seconded from Teresa Villarreal; Meeting adjourned.**

Approved Minutes