

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Present: Noelynn Llasos; Laura Ramos; Claudia Dole Morrison; Karen Dorado; Rogelio Chanes; Kevin Garza; Karina Herrera; Juan Santos-Flores; Maria Juarez-Serna; Orlando Castaneda; Tammy Munoz; Veronica Villarreal; Marisa Campirano; Kelli Quin; Milagro (Millie) Resendez; Alisha Puentes; Teresa Villarreal; Yadira Mejia; Irene Cardenas; Andres Chavez; Caitlin Bruseth

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

- Caitlin Bruseth: Elections update: Link to nominate representatives sent out; only exception was Division of Strategic Enrollment with no openings; please submit nominations by end of day Monday.
- Team Excellence Award process to start in January with nominations.
- Rebekah Sepulveda – Holiday Calendar explanation: Some holidays will stay because they do not move; some holidays may fall on Saturday or Sunday (Christmas or New Year’s Day) so we may not get those due to the way the state statute works. The state statute allows certain days that the UT System does. In addition, it allows certain days to be observed if they fall within the week. For example, the day after Christmas can we observed when Christmas falls during the week. At UT System level, we are allowed six days. Usually, we will get those during winter break; next year will be the same as this year; we will get one week and a day; New Year’s Eve is not an actual holiday; basically, comes down to following the UT System statutes and depends on what days of the week the holidays fall on. If you need more information or clarification, please feel free to reach out to Staff Senate.

III. Guest Speakers

a. Rebecca Gadson – Dean of Students – Office of Student Life

- <https://www.utrgv.edu/studentlife>

WHAT DO WE DO?

We're here to help maximize student success. If a student's life gets complicated at UTRGV, we help to find a solution. If a student gets stuck in an administrative process; experiences an unexpected financial hardship, sudden illness or family situation; or in a complicated situation and are not sure where to start, WE CAN HELP.

>> MAXIMIZING STUDENT SUCCESS <<

DEAN OF STUDENTS | UT RIO GRANDE VALLEY

STUDENT SCENARIOS



STUDENT NOTIFICATION

A student emails you and shares they experienced a death in their family and need to travel out of town for a week. What are your next steps?



STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

A student informs you that they are having difficulty paying rent due to a recent loss of employment. How can you help?

STUDENT EMPLOYEE

A student employee does not report for two consecutive shifts for work without notice or communication. What will you do next?



STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

A student employee in your department mentions they are not sure when they will graduate. How can you get involved?



VAQUEROS REPORT IT

- www.utrgv.edu/reportit

- Students, staff and faculty who have a concern regarding behaviors such as the Student Code of Conduct, academic integrity, grievances, fairness and equity or concerns



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What happens when you make a report?

- SRR takes the lead in all Student of Concern cases
- Determine through a rubric who is a CARE case and who is a BIT case
- Coordinate case management among several departments
 - School of Medicine
 - Counseling
 - University Police Department
 - Residence Life
 - Reporter of the incident
 - Direct contact with student



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TEAM (BIT)

- Cross Functional Team trained in:
 - Threat identification
 - Risk assessment
 - Long term case management
 - Provides access to resources
- Coordinate the resources of UTRGV to address the needs of campus community members who are experiencing significant

CAMPUS ASSESSMENT AND RESOURCE EDUCATION (CARE)

- Cross Functional Team trained in:
 - Providing access to services
 - Follow up on injuries and classroom issues
 - Retention activities

SUPPORT FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

- <https://www.utrgv.edu/fosteringSUCCESS/>
- Foster Care Liaisons
 - Dr. Douglas Stoves
 - Ms. Rebecca Gadson
- Each student's story, needs, and path are unique. It is our commitment to foster your success as you transition to the university and pursue your career goals. We offer support, advice, coaching, and information; connect you to a network of resources should you encounter a challenge or crisis; and help you navigate university processes.

Fostering Success
Office of Student Life and Dean of Students

Home Program Resources Campus Frequently Asked Questions Request Info



DEAN OF STUDENTS | UT RIO GRANDE VALLEY

STUDENT FOOD PANTRY



- Provides nutritional education
- Helps students experiencing food

CENTER FOR DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AND DREAM RESOURCE CENTER



- The purpose of the **Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI)** is to support culturally-based affinity groups, enhance programming that builds cultural competence and civil discourse, and provide direct support to students.



- The **DREAM Resource Center** (which functions within the CDI) provides support services and resources for undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students.



CENTER FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



The Center for Student Involvement encourages students to engage in transformative experiences that serve as the foundation of their leadership identity through the creation of tailored programs to maximize student success.

CENTER FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- Students can participate in Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student Government Association, or in one or more of the over 250 other student organizations
- Involvement Ambassadors help students get involved in various ways.
- Provides opportunities for students to strengthen their leadership skills:
 - Freshmen Leadership Academy
 - Student Leadership Academy
 - National Society of Leadership and Success
- Hosts diversity and intercultural programming and community service opportunities
- Provides transition services for parents and family members



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Student Activities creates experiences which instill pride, by uniting students with the community through spirit, traditions, culture and social responsibility.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Coordinates the Distinguished Speakers Series, civic engagement initiatives, and events for students
- Plans campus traditions like UTRGV Madness, Homecoming, Best Week Ever and oversees cheer, dance, and mascot program
- Students help plan and implement campus events as members of the Campus Activities Board (CAB)

STUDENT MEDIA



- Produces The Rider newspaper, KVAQ TV, Pulse Magazine and Vaquero Radio
- Prepares students to be leaders in their future careers
- Prepares students for careers across diverse media platforms



CHESS

Back to Back Champions



UTRGV Chess Team defeats rival Webster University to win President's Cup

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS – April 8, 2019 – The UTRGV Chess Team successfully has defended its title as national champions of the President's Cup, during the Final Four of Collegiate Chess this weekend at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City.

The Vaqueros again defeated six-time champion Webster University, as well as UT Dallas and Harvard University.

UTRGV Just Won Its Third Consecutive National Chess Championship



The UTRGV Chess Team competes at the highest level at state, national and international tournaments and receives training from a prominent coaching staff. The Chess Program recruits students from across the globe, sharing their knowledge and culture with locals. The program offers outreach through local and international tournaments, camps, trainings, and presents community chess classes for local community members on a regular basis. We also support the Chess Club at UTRGV, a student organization reaching over 180 chess enthusiasts.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

- Ensures students with disabilities are able to participate in the full range of college experiences.
- Facilitates students' equal access to all university programs and services.
- Students with disabilities (including temporary disabilities such as broken bones and recent surgeries) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for confidential discussions of their individual needs.

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Informs students of their rights and responsibilities as UTRGV community members.
- Educates campus partners and students on community standards and institutional policies.

SUPERHERO PROJECT

- Promotes the idea that individual students have the power to prevent high-risk behavior and harm
- Student Assistants work to promote the project across campus through marketing and presentations
- Provides active bystander training across campus to students, faculty, staff



- b. Christian Corrales – Assistant VP of Community Engagement; Doris Mendiola – Director of Community Engagement

<https://www.utrgv.edu/community/index.htm>

The Office of Community Engagement

focuses on sustainable community-university relationships to enrich scholarship, research, teaching, learning, and creative activities, while addressing critical societal issues and contributing to the public good.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Community engagement describes the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in the context of partnership and reciprocity.

Source: <https://public-purpose.org/initiatives/carnegie-elective-classifications/community-engagement-classification-us-5>

A UTRGV CORE PRIORITY

The distinct profile of UTRGV as a distributed university in a region of great economic vibrancy, but also great public need, demands that community engagement be embedded in the UTRGV culture. Therefore, community engagement has been designated as a core priority of our institution.

OFFICE RESOURCES

ENGAGEMENT ZONE

The Engagement Zone is a centralized online platform that enables UTRGV students, faculty, and staff to connect with community-based organizations that have volunteer needs and service learning opportunities across the Rio Grande Valley.



NONPROFIT RESOURCE CENTER

Build. Connect. Promote.

The Nonprofit Resource Center (NRC) provides tools and resources to advance the growth, sustainability, and impact of the nonprofit sector in the Rio Grande Valley.

We help **BUILD** organizational structures that foster performance and success.

We help **CONNECT** organizations to develop collaborative alliances.

We help **PROMOTE** partnerships.

UTRGV AND THE COMMUNITY

Connect with key institutional



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UTRGV AND THE COMMUNITY
Connect with key institutional stakeholders leading UTRGV's community engagement programs.

UTRGV and the COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION
UTRGV was one of just 119 colleges and universities in the United States to receive the prestigious designation in 2020. The classification honors an institution's commitment to community engagement and its collaborations with local, regional, state, national and global partners.

Carnegie Foundation
Elite
Community Engagement
Classification

IV. Committee Updates

I. Staff Success Committee – Claudia Dole Morrison, Chair

- Collaborated with School of Social Work for Toy Drive – delivered toys yesterday





V. Public Comments / Questions

- Reminder to use Staff Senate Feedback Form:
https://utrgv.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9meJmC4SHddG01n
- Noelyn: Thank you to all Staff Senators for staying on board and the work you have done. Encourage everyone to follow Staff Senate on our social media platforms.

VI. Meeting Adjourned: Laura Ramos – 11:22 a.m.