

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 22, 2024

9:00 am-11:00 am

[Zoom Meeting ID](#): 885 1099 1052

I. Call to Order

Jose Amieva, Parliamentarian

Called the meeting to order

II. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

David Guerra, Secretary

Roll call with 26 Senators Present and 3 Senators absent. Quorum is established.

III. Welcome & Introduction

Veronica Villarreal, Staff Senate President

Welcome and Introductory announcements.

IV. New Business

- a. November 2023 & January 2024 General Meeting Minutes

Staff Senate President Veronica Villarreal ask for a motion on the floor to approve November 2023 and January 2024 meeting minutes.

Staff Senator & VP Rolando Segovia moves to approve November 2023 and January 2024 meeting minutes.

Staff Senator Lesly Orozco: seconds

Staff Senate President Veronica Villarreal ask for all in favor of approving November 2023 and January 2024 meeting minutes to state AYE in Zoom Chat.

Staff Senate President Veronica Villarreal ask for all opposing of approving November 2023 and January 2024 meeting minutes to state that in Zoom Chat.

Staff Senate President Veronica Villarreal ask for any abstention from voting to approve November 2023 and January 2024 meeting minutes to state AYE in Zoom Chat

Voting results show the November 2023 and January 2024 meeting minutes have been approved.

V. Guest Speakers

- ✓ *Dining Services – Luis Guzman (see presentation material in Appendix B1)*
Shared with Staff Senate General Meeting latest information on Dining Services adds, deletions, and changes to the offerings and services.
 - Edinburg Dining Hall received an much needed facelift and new dining offerings
 - Valley Harvest (fruiteria style concept) opened in the Science Building
 - Crave Food Hall opened in School of Medicine building in Edinburg
 - Smokin' Thursdays at Brownsville location by La Mesa at El Comedor
 - GRUBHUB & Chartwells new ordering system at UTRGV Baseball Stadium
 - Cantina opened at UTRGV Baseball Stadium on the first base line side of stadium
 - Catertrax ordering process on how to order
 - Shared info regarding 02/29/24 Catering Showcase in Edinburg
 - Also shared that P-CARDS will now be accepted and moving away from Cost Centers
 - Credit Card Readers need to process properly to initiate services at Harlingen location.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

- ✓ *Campus Stores – Joanna Garza (see presentation material in Appendix B2)*
Shared information on the latest offerings and services at the Campus Stores.
 - Locations in Edinburg and Brownsville
 - Offering more than just books
 - Special events component
 - Works with UMC to address customization needs for departments/programs.
 - Employee discounts – 10%
 - Department discounts – 20%

- ✓ *MentoringU & Great Colleges to Work For Program - Nicole Englitsch (presentation material requested)*
Shared information on the latest from Human Resources – Organizational Development team and their initiatives.
 - Introduced MentoringU program (six-month program)
 - o Shared information on requirements to participate as a Mentor & Mentored
 - Shared information on the “2024 Great Colleges to Work For” initiative.
 - o Survey
 - o Voluntary and Confidential
 - VKind & Supervisor Excellence Series

- ✓ *UTRGV Cancer Center- Dr. Everado Cobos (presentation material requested)*
 - Spoke about the new Cancer and Surgery Center in McAllen
 - Shared information on why the Cancer and Surgery Center in the area
 - Shared information on cause of cancer and/or preventative measures

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....

Staff Senate

VI. Committee Reports

Communications Committee	Constitution & Elections Committee	Business Processes & Staff Support	Staff Success Committee
<u>Chair:</u> <i>Jeremy San Miguel</i> <u>Co-Chair:</u> <i>Cristina Rodriguez</i> <u>Members:</u> <i>Jake Gonzalez</i> <i>Cristina De Leon</i> <i>Kayla Buentello</i> <i>Dina Lopez</i> <i>Melanie Garza</i> <i>Rolando Segovia</i>	<u>Chair:</u> <i>Yesenia Carter</i> <u>Co-Chair:</u> <i>Krystal Chappell</i> <u>Members:</u> <i>Melanie Garza</i> <i>Monica Granado</i> <i>David Guerra</i> <i>Veronica Villarreal</i>	<u>Chair:</u> <i>Omar Nedzelsky Jr.</i> <u>Co-Chair:</u> <u>Members:</u> <i>Travis McAlpine</i> <i>James Martinez</i> <i>Jaime Miranda</i> <i>Dr. Mirayda Torres-Avila</i> <i>Van Slusser</i>	<u>Chair:</u> <i>Aliver Lozano</i> <u>Co-Chair:</u> <i>Lesly Orozco</i> <u>Members:</u> <i>Tim Odoms</i> <i>Claudia Garcia</i> <i>Mayra Garcia</i> <i>Jeannette Garcia</i> <i>Dina Guerra</i> <i>Marivel Mata</i> <i>Jose Amieva</i>

- Committee Chairs shared updated activity information.
 - Communications Committee
 - Results for Homecoming Workspace Door Decoration
 - Staff Senate Website update
 - Upcoming Initiative: comprehensive calendar
 - Upcoming Initiative: Staff Senate Marketing process
 - New Initiative: Cafecito with a senator
 - Constitution and Elections Committee
 - New member to the committee
 - Met w/Legal Team to apply changes to the constitution
 - Preparing for the upcoming elections

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

- Business Process and Staff Support Committee
 - Established new committee email for feedback responses & amplification request
 - StaffSenateFeedback@utrgv.edu
 - New Feedback request: Feasibility of having employee retired contributions go to pay on student loans instead.
 - Follow up comments on feedback
 - Bronc Trail maintenance
 - Staff Salary increase due to inflation – previously salary ranges have been adjusted.
 - New Co-Chair Dr. Mirayda Torres-Avila
- Staff Success Committee
 - Regarding Staff Appreciation week
 - Staff Appreciation event (Feb 29 – Mar 1)

VII. Public Comments & Questions

Jose Amieva, Parliamentarian

Meeting opened for Public Comments & Questions

- Nina Barrientos shared information on Team Excellence Awards Nominations period is open.
- Bravo Vaqueros Spirit Awards
- Service Awards info was presented

VIII. Adjourn

Staff Senate President Veronica Villarreal ask for a motion on the floor to adjourn.

Staff Senator & VP Rolando Segovia moves to adjourn Staff Senate General Meeting for February 2024.

Staff Senator Omar Nedzelsky, Jr.: seconds

Staff Senate President Veronica Villarreal asks for all in favor of adjourn the General Meeting to state AYE in Zoom Chat.

Staff Senate President Veronica Villarreal asks for all opposing adjourn the General Meeting to state that in Zoom Chat.

Staff Senate President Veronica Villarreal ask for any abstention from voting to approve to adjourn the General Meeting that in Zoom Chat

Results to the vote to adjourn the General Meeting February 2024 have been approved.

The meeting is adjourned by Parliamentarian Jose Amieva at 10:49am on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

APPENDIX A – WEB LINKS MENTIONED IN THIS SESSION

UTRGV

<https://utrgv.edu>

UTRGV STAFF SENATE

<https://utrgv.edu/staffsenate>

UTRGV HUMAN RESOURCES

<https://www.utrgv.edu/human-resources/>

UTRGV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – CANCER AND SURGERY CENTER

UTRGV NEWSROOM Press Release

<https://www.utrgv.edu/newsroom/2022/10/14-ut-health-rgv-breaks-ground-on-cancer-and-surgery-center-in-mcallen.htm>

UTRGV STAFF SENATE FEEDBACK

https://utrgv.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9meJmC4SHddG01n

Team Excellence Award Nominations

<https://www.utrgv.edu/human-resources/current-employee/staff-awards/index.htm>

Bravo Vaquero Spirit Award

<https://www.utrgv.edu/human-resources/current-employee/bravo-vaqueros/index.htm>

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....

Staff Senate

APPENDIX B1 – PRESENTATION MATERIAL – DINING SERVICES

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....

Dining Services

Presentation to the
UTRGV Staff Senate
February 22, 2024

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....

Dining Services

Edinburg- Vaquero Dining Hall

- Updated VDH during winter break
- New serving line featuring a 10' salad bar to increase healthy food options.
- New serving station called Delicious Without, provides menu options prepared without peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, soy, wheat, sesame and gluten.
- Yogurt & Fruit Bar served all day



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

Staff Senate



Edinburg- The Science Building
Formerly known as Sandella's

Valley Harvest features a fruteria style concept. Our menu includes smoothie bowls, fruit cups, and Mexican corn.



CRAVE

EST.
2023

A VIRTUAL
FOOD HALL

POWERED BY SOUS VIDE KITCHEN

Edinburg- The School of Medicine
Formerly Schunior Street

This concept, a sous vide kitchen, offers diners the opportunity to select from a variety of fast-casual menus from Eso Latin Grill, Veg 23, and City Mac. The food is prepared using an innovative technique by using circulating water around vacuum-packed food set to a certain temperature.



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

Staff Senate

UTRGV Dining Services

Smokin' Thursdays - Brownsville

Stop by La Mesa at El Comedor every Thursday for lunch to try premium cut Proteins that are smoked over mesquite wood by Chef Manager Frank Vazquez. All entrée's for this offer are complete with two sides and a beverage!



UTRGV Baseball Stadium

To improve the fan experience, we've implemented mobile seat ordering at Baseball Stadium and introduced Grubhub Self Ordering Kiosks to reduce wait times. We have also opened a new Cantina on the first base line!



Scan to see our menu!



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

Staff Senate

UTRGV™

.....
Dining Services

Catertrax

Catering Director
Maxine Plancarte
Maxine.Plancarte@compass-usa.com
(956)219-5513

Step by step on how to
use catertrax



UTRGV™

.....
Dining Services

Catering Showcase

Date: February 29, 2024

Location: BRONC Room

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/2a9ee58ea00d40ada7f670dcdc99a824>

Luis.Guzman@compass-usa.com



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....


Staff Senate

APPENDIX B2 – PRESENTATION MATERIAL – CAMPUS STORES



**The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley™**
.....
Campus Stores

Joanna Garza
Market Leader
igarza@follett.com
956-640-2683



Here for the UTRGV community!

From first day, until graduation, and everything in between. The Campus Stores are here to support **students' success**, faculty and staff. If you ever need assistance, don't hesitate to contact us
-we've got your back!

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

Staff Senate

Did you know?

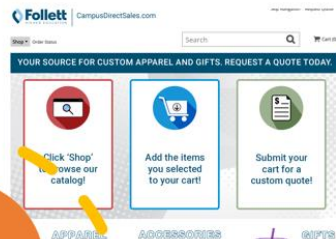
- Faculty and staff have access to educational pricing on Apple products.
- Get 10% off in-store on emblematic gifts items when you let us know you are faculty/staff. *restrictions apply *not valid on course materials
- Get 10% off your order when you shop in our Brownsville Campus Café.
- Department discount 20% off.
- Payment via IDT through our campus partners at the Auxiliaries office or with a purchasing card.
- Follow us on social media:
<https://www.facebook.com/UTRGVCampusStores>
<https://www.instagram.com/utrgvcampusstore/>

UTRGV™ Vaquero
Tech Center

Brand Right with Campus Direct Sales

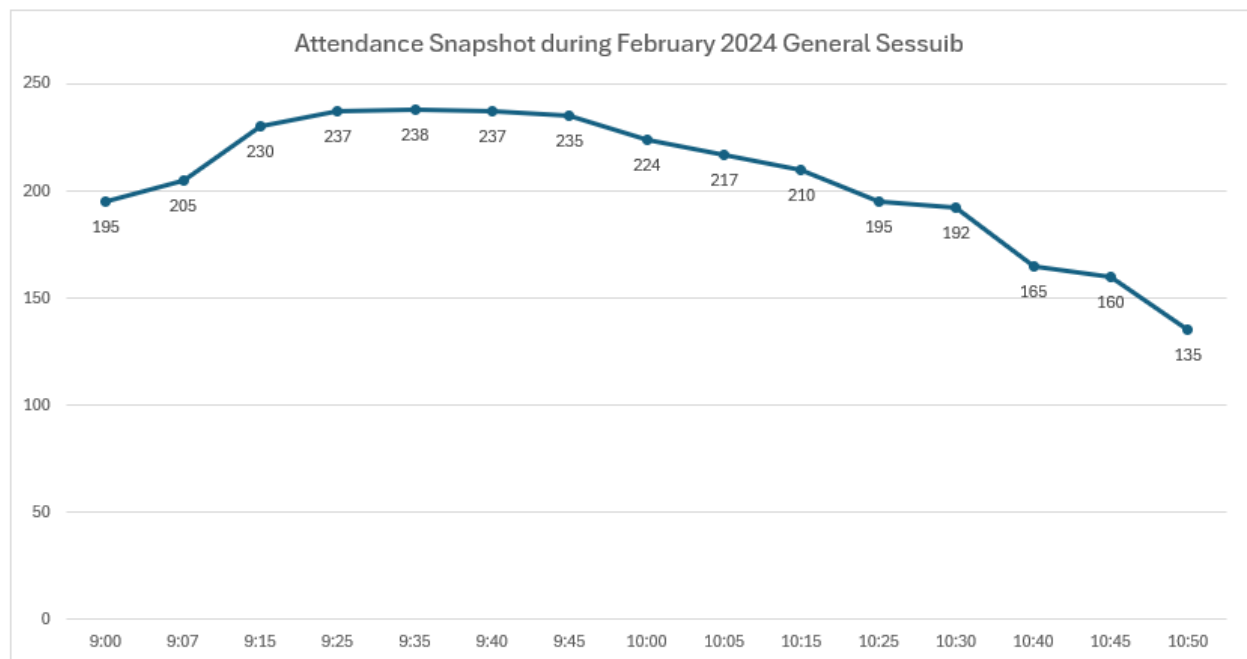
Add your logo and brand to:

- Welcome and Graduation Gifts
- Giveaways
- Event Swag
- Staff Anniversaries
- <https://fodcustom.merchorders.com/>



APPENDIX C – ATTENDANCE CHART

This chart is a snapshot of attendees via ZOOM at the time of the day mentioned at the bottom of the chart.



APPENDIX D – ZOOM TRANSCRIPT

[Staff Senator Jose Luis Amieva] 09:05:08

Good morning. I call this order at 905 a. M. We will proceed with roll call with mister David.

[Staff Senator Jose Luis Amieva] 09:05:15

Yeah.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:05:20

Alright, good morning everybody. I will now, proceed with roll call. Please. Indicate your attendance by stating I in the chat.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:05:29

Oliver Los Angeles. Claudia Garcia. Christina, Leon. Christine, Rodriguez.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:05:38

Dina Guerra. Dina Lopez, Hi, Jake Gonzalez.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:05:48

James Martinez. Janet Garcia. Jeremy, Oh, say, I'm Yeva.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:05:57

Caleb went to 8 one tail.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Helen Castillo] 09:05:58

No, no.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:06:00

Crystal Chapel. Lesley Orozco. Marty. Myra Garcia.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:06:09

Melanie, Alexis Ojo. Monica Oh, Mar, Netsuki, Junior.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:06:18

Rolando Segovia. Timothy Odams. Travis, Van Susser.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:06:27

Veronica Vieryon. Yesenia Carter.

[Staff Senator David Guerra] 09:06:37

Madam President. Roll call is complete and quorum is established.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:06:42

Thank you, David. Good morning, everyone. Happy Thursday and welcome to our Staff Senate General Meeting for February of 2,024.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:06:51

It is wonderful to have you guys here. We will begin our meeting with new business. Is there a motion on the floor for the approval of meeting minutes for November, 2023 in January, 2,024?

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator Rolando Segovia] 09:07:01

I am, I move to approve the, minutes for November, 2023 and.

[Jennifer Cahn (she, her, hers)] 09:07:05

Okay, more than the PI to sign up for. Good time.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:07:09

Is there a second?

[Lesly Orozco- staff senate] 09:07:15

Hi. Okay. Yes.

[Staff Senator- Melanie Garza] 09:07:15

I guess I can do. Leslie can second it.

[Staff Senator Rolando Segovia] 09:07:20

Okay.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:07:21

Thank you. All those in favor, please state I in the Zoom chat.

[John Simmons] 09:07:23

Okay.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:07:29

All opposed? Any abstentions?

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:07:49

Then November, 2023 in January, 2024 meeting minutes have been approved. To our first guest speaker of today's meeting, we have dining services.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:07:59

Louise Guzman.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:08:01

I see. Good morning, Lise. Can you?

[Luis Guzman] 09:08:06

Hello, good morning. Good morning, everyone.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:08:07

Good morning. Let me go ahead. Make you co-host so that way you are able to share.

[Luis Guzman] 09:08:12

Sure. Thank you.

[Luis Guzman] 09:08:44

Sorry, I'm trying to figure out the, A screen share. 1 s, please.

[Luis Guzman] 09:08:54

There we go. Can everybody see my screen? Okay, great. So good morning, everyone.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:08:56

Yes.

[Luis Guzman] 09:09:00

Thank you all for having me. My name is Luis Sneg, who's on the second and I am the general manager of UTRGB dining services with Chart Wells.

[Luis Guzman] 09:09:07

I'm happy to talk about some exciting things that we have. Done for you all over the winter break some concepts that have come to cafe some construction some new innovations so with that said I'll go ahead and get started.

[Luis Guzman] 09:09:24

So over the winter break. We had a very, very busy December here in Edinburgh.

[Luis Guzman] 09:09:32

The volcano dining hall underwent some extensive construction. We removed some equipment that was in the nature of 30 to 40 years old.

[Luis Guzman] 09:09:38

We brought in some new serving stations. These service stations include an allergy free, or friendly, menu concept called delicious without.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:09:50

Delicious without, service menu options. They're prepared with without the 9 major allergies, this is peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish.

[Luis Guzman] 09:09:58

Eggs, milk and soy, but it's really, really focused around being gluten friendly.

[Luis Guzman] 09:10:04

We have a 10 foot salad bar. We have a jelly station that has now is all you can eat before our sandwiches were made to order now you know our patrons can make their salad, sandwiches and salads to their liking.

[Ashley Sanchez] 09:10:07

Hi, how can I help you? Okay.

[Luis Guzman] 09:10:20

A yogurt and fruit bar served all day. There's some beautiful graphics. And it's a really, really refreshing space in the dining hall.

[Luis Guzman] 09:10:27

And for those who don't know, we do have a faculty and staff appreciation day.

[Luis Guzman] 09:10:34

Every Wednesday we're offering a discounted price to all our faculty and staff for the rest of semester.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:10:41

Every Wednesday that price point will be \$8 for all you can eat. All you can drink.

[Luis Guzman] 09:10:45

I was frescoes. Soda, water, flavored water. It's infused.

[Luis Guzman] 09:10:50

So come on by to the buck, dining hall and take advantage of these new service stations we have for you all.

[Luis Guzman] 09:10:56

A concept that we reopened this spring semester. There was some equipment that didn't get delivered to our liking.

[Luis Guzman] 09:11:04

So we opened for the first week of class and decided, you know, we're gonna do this concept, we're gonna do it right.

[Luis Guzman] 09:11:08

So we grand opened Valley Harvest on the 20 ninth of January. Valley of Harvest is our . That kind of mimics in a sense tropical smoothie cafe in the corporate world, but we have our own South Texas twist because we have our own South Texas twist because we have some specialty items like Mango Nadas, walking Taco or Maranas, if you will, corner in a

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:11:28

cup, you lost it. Our always frescoes are seasonal, but one item that is very, very popular right now is our strawberry or Chata. I was frescoes.

[Luis Guzman] 09:11:36

That seems to be an item that we go through gallons of a day. The last Thursday of every month, we are attempting to have a student run farmers market, our retail director, David Rommel is in contact with those groups of hopefully they can be out next Thursday and the last Thursday of every month we'll be having a Buy 2, get one free so it could be buy either 2 smoothie bowls which are made from scratch with

[Luis Guzman] 09:11:59

with fruit in-house or 2 h frescoes get one free or 2 regular smoothies. So.

[Luis Guzman] 09:12:06

Valley Harvest is in the science building where Sandelas used to be, come on by V. You haven't tried Valley Harvest.

[Luis Guzman] 09:12:13

Hope you see there.

[Luis Guzman] 09:12:15

So the school of medicine. Once I had a concept called the senior street. We now have Craig food hall, which brand open on the 20 s of January.

[Luis Guzman] 09:12:26

This concept is a soupy kitchen. And for those not familiar with the cookie process of a souvenir, it's pretty much a machine that's a water circulator so you would put a vacuum packed protein inside water and it's sealed properly.

[Angie Gonzalez] 09:12:29

Okay.

[Luis Guzman] 09:12:44

And generally when you have in a conventional oven, if you're not using the proper probes or thermometers, There can be a big variance in temperature.

[Luis Guzman] 09:12:54

SUV does not allow that. There's some SUVs that can be up to half a degree, some even point 2 of a degree.

[Luis Guzman] 09:13:00

So you get a consistently cooked product. And in terms of proteins, especially with tougher proteins, such like a tri tip or a chuck roast.

[Luis Guzman] 09:13:12

When you cook those protein those proteins those muscle fibers generally contract when they hit high heat and in a conventional oven or grill.

[Luis Guzman] 09:13:18

There's hot and cold zones. A, being in a temperature controlled bath doesn't allow that.

[Luis Guzman] 09:13:25

So it allows those muscle fibers to contract slowly. So your end result in the protein. Is a very, very tender outcome.

[Luis Guzman] 09:13:32

So at Crave, we have 3 menus that. Have this style of cooking. So we have SL Latinx.

[Luis Guzman] 09:13:42

23 and City Mac, and they're all cooked in a sous v. But the pros to a suite also outside the consistent cooking temperature is there's very little cleanup.

[Luis Guzman] 09:13:49

They've gotten very, very popular over the last few years. They came, they got popular in 19 seventys by a French chef who made the machine popular and the term suited actually means under vacuum because you're cooking your protein in a vacuum.

[Luis Guzman] 09:14:02

So I highly encourage you all to try crave our virtual food hall at the School of Medicine, our hours of operation for that concept are 11 to 3 Monday through Friday.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:14:15

So something we did not touch on at the last ask Senate in the fall because this new initiative was not around yet.

[Luis Guzman] 09:14:22

So just a touch on smoking Thursdays in Brownsville. We had our Cowboy cook-off, which are executive chef Reese Bonkeeva and chef manager Frank Vasquez who runs our Brownsville campus.

[Luis Guzman] 09:14:35

Have a cooking competition The week of midnight madness and that was put to a student vote. One of the menu items on that menu was smoked ribs.

[Luis Guzman] 09:14:44

The menu items that the chefs created were supposed to be a childhood memory of their favorite dish growing up.

[Luis Guzman] 09:14:51

So Chef Frank, although he did not create the smoke to ribs menu, he decided to take a step further and he went outside and plumber Lord.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:00

There's a barbecue pit outside and he decided to smoke the ribs. There was such a positive response from the students.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Jose Ibarra] 09:15:05

Cool.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:07

That we decided, you know what, let's run with it. So smoking Thursdays was born.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:11

So every Thursday outside of full minority will see Chef Frank Vasquez fiction on the right smoking a protein.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:17

Today on the menu is pork underneath us. Last week we had Apple would smoke pork chops.

[Bianca Farrell] 09:15:20

Hello.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:23

Tasted many chops in my day and I will say that's probably the most delicious I am not just saying that really, really good menu out there.

[Bianca Farrell] 09:15:23

So. I don't need port.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:31

So all our menus. Items, our entrees are complete with 2 size and a drink.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:37

So go out there, see Chef Frank, he'll be out there, he's out there right now, smoking the pork underneath us.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:43

You'll hear them with the country music blasting and a cowboy hat. So if you haven't tried smoking Thursday's on Brownsville, I'll, on buying.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:50

Just to touch on L Mesa, we do have a 10% off every Wednesday for faculty and staff appreciation there too.

[Luis Guzman] 09:15:59

The URGB baseball stadium. So when I came on board to UTRGV, I was told that the concessions sometimes were a pain point as far as lines bottlenecking.

[Luis Guzman] 09:16:11

So we've been very internet innovated with our Grub Hub partner and now those attending the baseball games on the weekends or during the week, you now have the option to be able to order from your seat.

[Luis Guzman] 09:16:23

You can go ahead and scan the QR code pictured and you will see our menu. So if you are sitting on the first baseline you would order from your seat, download the Grub Hub app, we will text you when your orders ready and you will see the menu for first base concessions.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:16:37

Each concession has a pickup window if you're sitting on the visitor side down the third baseline you would would like to order from the Third base concession.

[Luis Guzman] 09:16:47

And if you keep on scrolling something we're also very excited about. We have a Contina menu.

[Luis Guzman] 09:16:52

We opened up a brand new container. Grand Open Sundays pass on day our double header where we do serve salty snacks, canned beer, ball of averages and hard liquor.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:02

So we do encourage everyone to drink responsibly. You will be ID. Really excited for that.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:08

We've had a great response this weekend. So with this Friday's festivities, the burning of the letters, we hope to see you all out there.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:14

Be able to order from your seat. Will text you when your orders ready and grab a cocktail from the container.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:21

Hey, to tracks. So. We've received some feedback that our arcade tracks ordering processes have been a little intricate, if you will.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:30

So our Arcadian director Maxine Plankart has Done a step by step on how to order and use cater. Track.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:39

So if you scan the QR code, pictured. You will be able to see how to order properly from our cater tracks menu.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:43

And our catering showcase, which we'll also touch on this cater tracks ordering process.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:49

Will be next week. Our catering showcase. It'll be at the Bronx room from 9 30 to 1130.

[Luis Guzman] 09:17:58

There is a link provided. You can take a picture of it or I've included my email. You can email me directly and I will get you out the smart sheet to be able to pre register.

[Luis Guzman] 09:18:08

You'll be able to see our catering offers that we have for you all so any project coordinators or event coordinators listening.

[Luis Guzman] 09:18:15

You Please sign up. We will love you all to come by to see our showcase. I will say our our catering department is taking a turn.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:18:21

We are going to be accepting, primarily P cards from each department as they form up payment. We are moving away from using cost centers and all that will be explained to you all at our catering showcase.

[Luis Guzman] 09:18:33

This is all I have for you all today. So thank you all for having me. Excited for everything our team has done.

[Luis Guzman] 09:18:38

I'm extremely proud of our team here at UTRGB dining services. So come on by, check this out, and we hope to give you the service that you all deserve.

[Maria Vega (Letty)] 09:18:42

That's the old one

[Luis Guzman] 09:18:46

Thank you.

[Maria Vega (Letty)] 09:18:49

Yeah, this serial number right here. Oh, this is.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:18:49

We do have a couple of questions here. So let's hear what's the price on the barbecue on Thursdays.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:18:56

Those prices they do vary. So today's menu, I believe is 1350 since you're getting a, premium protein, you know, there is a little cost added to it.

[Maria Vega (Letty)] 09:19:00

Hello, you know why? Because the finish, that finish your heads, it's all that. Do you remember 2?

[Luis Guzman] 09:19:09

It is a little labor intensive and our marinating process for a lot of these proteins take longer.

[Maria Vega (Letty)] 09:19:10

We're not going to see it because that's, you have to go It's like one of the internal or to see this your number. It like it's not posted on the outside machine.

[Luis Guzman] 09:19:12

So, but they do vary. I do know we had some brisade and rib sausage place so just depending the day of the look on the menu the price will vary.

[Maria Vega (Letty)] 09:19:18

I have to go to SETI. And the

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:19:20

Thank you. Another question is, will smoking Thursdays be implemented at the Edinburgh campus?

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:19:29

Right now that is not in our scope of work just due to the fact that we do have a barbecue partner at our community corner.

[Luis Guzman] 09:19:38

Concept in student union called queuing it up. They have a smoked brisket available. So, upon agreeing with this vendor, we agreed that we would not directly compete with them to allow them to operate properly.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:19:50

Thank you. We do have a 2 questions regarding food service and, we have an update on that.

[Luis Guzman] 09:20:00

Yes, we are currently working with cantaloupe card reader that has been the holdup on our end.

[Luis Guzman] 09:20:06

We need to transfer over ownership rights. From our regional district manager who was here on campus in early July to get our account up and running.

[Luis Guzman] 09:20:15

We just came on campus in July and a lot of these card readers are still tied to her name to be very transparent with those that listening as soon as that transfer takes place we've sent over all our banking information to make sure these card readers are processing properly.

[Luis Guzman] 09:20:29

We sent that over yesterday because I will say the cantaloupe customer service has not been the most responsive, but we do hope to have that resolved very, very soon.

Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:20:39

Alrighty, thank you. Is there any way that you can share the link to the catering showcase on our chat?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:20:46

And I think it is. Another one is, is there a new process for takeout at the Edinburgh dining?

[Luis Guzman] 09:20:55

We take out, we do have our Aussie boxes. They are we're trying to be very sustainable here the best way we can so we do have plastic green boxes faculty and staff or students are allowed to check them out.

[Luis Guzman] 09:21:10

If they do lose it, it is \$5 to replace, but we do have our green Aussie boxes or we don't use any type of paper goods as far as styrofoam or paper cups to go because we were trying.

[Luis Guzman] 09:21:21

Show our best ever to be sustainable.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:21:25

Alright, thank you. Is there any other? Questions?

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:21:31

Hi, good morning. My name is, and I actually do have a question for Mr. Guzman.

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:21:36

So for I know you mentioned catering is moving away from purchase orders and and stuff like that and will be paying with a credit card.

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:21:46

Now what happens to services that have already been provided and we have outstanding invoices. How can we clear those up?

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:21:56

In the meantime.

[Luis Guzman] 09:21:57

Right, yes ma'am. So the previous process to my understanding working with the Office of Auxiliary is those who use cost centers and past those.

[Luis Guzman] 09:22:05

Those outstanding invoices still get paid. We are working diligently on our end to get all those outstanding invoices collected.

[Luis Guzman] 09:22:12

By moving forward, the preferred method of payment will be P card.

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:22:17

Okay, thank you. Apart from vaccine because sometimes, communication goes back and forth, right?

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:22:24

I mean. From our end and There seems to be no response coming from. Then the catering side.

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:22:32

Is there somebody else that we should be reaching out to? Or

[Luis Guzman] 09:22:35

You, Maxine is a direct one of contact, but if I do know, I will say share, Maxine and her team are up and running.

[Luis Guzman] 09:22:43

Our, our catering department, you taken off. If there's ever a time where no one is responding as quick as you would like.

[Luis Guzman] 09:22:49

Feel free to CC me. Feel free to and I will be responsive. I'll do my best.

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:22:49

Okay.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Luis Guzman] 09:22:53

I know Maxine and her team, they're working diligently and her team, they're working diligently in all these events.

[Luis Guzman] 09:22:58

You know, this week they have so many events where our catering numbers are Really putting a stress on the team, but I guess it's a good problem to have but it by all means if you need someone to point contact the next person would be me and I would like be responsive the best way I can.

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:23:09

Okay, thank you. Appreciate that.

[Melissa Ramirez] 09:23:10

Right. Hi, you, UN. I'm, Melissa.

[Melissa Ramirez] 09:23:15

I mean, it's an auxiliary services. If there's a question

[Melissa Ramirez] 09:23:16

Billing or getting invoices paid. I'm happy to help also our office supports Maxine and getting those processed.

[Melissa Ramirez] 09:23:24

So, you know, please let me know if you have any questions on the billing side.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Yunuen Gutierrez] 09:23:28

Oh, thank you, Melissa. Definitely we will reach out to you.

[Luis Guzman] 09:23:30

Thank you.

[Melissa Ramirez] 09:23:31

Sure.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:23:36

Alrighty, is there any last minute questions before we move on?

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 09:23:42

Hi, Vital. I have a question. I'm sorry. Just real quick.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:23:43

Yes.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 09:23:46

Louise, will there be another opportunity to attend a catering showcase or is this the only one that you have?

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 09:23:51

Do you have them like per semester or because this is new? I asked because I really want to go, but we have a big event on that same day, same time.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 09:24:00

Across the RDV, so I won't be able to make it so just wanted to find out.

[Luis Guzman] 09:24:04

I understood, yes ma'am. Max and myself are currently working to see if we can do a smaller showcase in Brownsville before the semester ends.

[Luis Guzman] 09:24:14

But generally as for our company policy, these normally done once a year. But we are working diligently to see we can make one happen in Brownsville in the very near future.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:24:25

Alrighty, well thank you so much Lisa for coming on today and giving us an update. And if anybody has for further questions, please let us know and we can get in contact with you.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:24:36

Okay.

[Luis Guzman] 09:24:36

Yes ma'am, thank you for having me. Thank you.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:24:38

Thank you. Alrighty, up next. We have Joanna. Gersa from their campus stores.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:24:48

Hello. Good morning. Are you guys able to hear me fine?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:24:52

Yes.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:24:54

Great. Awesome. I was a advice for you to share my screen or did you have the PowerPoint?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:24:58

Yes, yes, I'm just trying to find you.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:25:01

Okay, great. No worries.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:25:05

No, let me see. Okay.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:25:12

Clicking away.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:25:13

Okay.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:25:19

Alright.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:25:22

I can share my screen if if you like.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:25:26

Yes, I'm just, do you have already co host abilities? I'm sorry.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:25:31

I think I was advised I was. No, actually not.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:25:33

Let me see. Try.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:25:38

Yeah. I'm trying it and it says now host disabled attendee screen sharing.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:25:43

I cannot find you. And the

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:25:50

Okay.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:25:53

Okay. Thank you.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:25:59

I did put, campus doors in parentheses for my name.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:26:15

Hmm. Maybe I'm going too fast. Thank you.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:26:26

There you are. Okay, there you go.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:26:30

Yeah.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:26:34

You should have.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:26:34

Okay. Yes, great. Now I'm seeing that.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:26:42

Great. Are you able to see my screen? Awesome, great. Thank you so much.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:26:45

Yes.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:26:49

Hello, everybody. Good morning. My name is Joanna Garza. I am market leader overseeing our UTRGB campus door operations, which we love now our campus stores as our name I know before people all used to refer to us as the bookstore but we want to just make sure we let you know we are more than just books.

[Jonathan Flint] 09:26:52

Okay.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:27:09

And here's my contact information also make sure to share it on the slide on the chat box for you all to have.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:27:15

If you have any questions or concerns, I'm available. Text call or shoot me an email at your convenience.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:27:22

And here. Oh, sorry about that. And here, I just want to showcase and share with you all that we are here for the UTRGV community here highlighting a few pictures of events where we've been able to set up shop and we're really here with students up until graduation and everything in between.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:27:43

We want to make sure that we're here to promote student success and we're here supporting our staff.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:27:48

Faculty and alumni really were here for the entire UTR. GB community if you're ever thinking of needing something, we just highly encourage you to reach out to us.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:27:58

As you can see, these are events that we've done on graduation. This is also an event we did at the recent barbecue event student activities I think put forward where we were able to set up shop.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:28:12

Here we have also some students visiting our stores when we're doing orientation a lot of the times when they'll do a little scavenger hunt and they plug the campus doors in.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:28:20

So that's what's going on there as well.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:28:24

And things I wanted to share with you all just in case if you didn't know is we are an Apple Approved campus store meaning we have Apple product at educational pricing for all faculty, students, staff and alumni.

School of Medicine

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:28:37

This is available on our website or in store. You can visit our website at Shop UTRGV. Com.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:28:45

You can see all the different prices that we have and look into the different promotions we offer, usually in the time of August when we're kind of winding back into back to school, Apple puts forward some really great promotions like purchase a device and you get free air pods or even an Apple pencil depending on the device you purchase.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:29:02

So these back to school promotions are usually in the time of August. To really get students prepared and geared with what they need to succeed, but these promotions extend to you all as well.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:29:13

Another great promotion, offer that we have for our faculty and staff is the 10% discount when you shop in store at our campus stores you get 10% off and emblematic gift items.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:29:26

It doesn't go towards course material books, but it is available for your hoodie, your t-shirt, so that's 10% off.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:29:34

And I highly encourage you all, to share this information with your student workers with everybody in your department.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:29:39

If you hear them saying, oh, I think I needed you to tear a GB shirt. That'll start you in GA.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:29:45

So tell them, and you get 10%, remember 10%. So share that with your team so that they know this is also extended to our student employees.

[Jonathan Flint] 09:29:49

Get like \$2.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:29:54

They're also able to take advantage of that. In our Bronzville campus, we do have our cafe.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:30:02

So the 10% staff discount also applies towards our cafe and are we probably serve Starbucks here on the Brownville campus.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:30:08

So anybody visiting Brownsville, make sure you visit through a visit to our cafe. I will share our cafe hours of operation on Monday through Thursday 8 a. M. To 2 PM. And Friday 8 a.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:30:18

M. To one PM. Ready maximizing our breakfast and lunchtime for students and those are you know the times that we're most busy in our cafe.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:30:27

And if you're interested in purchasing something not just personally for you, but we need something for the department.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:30:34

There is a department discount that's 20% off. So those are also if it is a department discount and it's 20% off it's tax exempt.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:30:45

So that's something for you to really keep in mind if you're needing to get something for your department, you can shop with us.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:30:50

We're on campus where you're approved. On campus provider to showcase that brand. And we can accept payment via IDT through Campus Auxiliaries.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:31:02

There are great partners to help us this process or preferred method as well with VAP card purchase if you have a purchasing card for the department you can come in we scan everything and we can just have that P card transaction that be a deal as well.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:31:15

Or if there is something that needs to be set up on the IDT side, we can do that.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:31:20

I also highly encourage you all to please follow us on

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:31:24

We are really trying to leverage our social media to reach a bigger broader audience. We are usually promoting drink specials for our probably serving cafe in Brownsville or will show case that we dropped in a new item that way you can see it.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:31:38

So we really highly encourage you all to please follow us on Instagram and Facebook. So that you can get any news updates.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:31:47

We'll also maybe even run giveaways last semester. We did an airport giveaway and it is also open for our faculty and staff, not just students.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:31:57

So please make sure to follow us.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:31:58

And I think that I'm most excited to share with you all really it's, you know, brand right with Campus Direct Sales.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:32:07

Campus direct cells is something you put forward and it's powered through followed on demand. If you were thinking of adding your logo or your brand to a welcome or graduation gift, an orientation item, giveaways, event swag, or a staff anniversary.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:32:26

Here is our followed on demand link that I'll be sure to also share shortly on the chat box.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:32:31

This is a website that basically gives you access to a blank canvas of items that you can put your logo on.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:32:39

So I just want to reiterate and let you all know that what you see when you come in the campus doors, it's not all we have.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:32:46

We can do a lot more and you'll be surprised with the things that we can do. If you ask.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:32:53

I can maybe get it for you. So if there's something that you need, we've been able to provide things like.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:32:58

Would chairs with the logo on or if you want like a better brand anniversary gift we can partner with our vendor, Jardians, who can make sure that they can provide better end product for that nicer and anniversary gift or if you need tabletop items.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:33:15

For an event and you just really need to give out some plastic bags, plastic cups, pencils that have your logo.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:33:22

This is radio website where you can see all the items we can basically customize for you or your department.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:33:31

So it's just something that's really exciting. It's something new that we're just kind of bringing up, bringing up and I want to make sure that I'm sharing that with the bigger broader audience and that you know that we're here.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:33:43

And you don't need to outsource. Again, if there's something that once you have that time to check out that fall in on demand site and you think, maybe this is something we need or you don't find something that you're looking for.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:33:56

Shoot me an email and maybe we can see on getting it added. Here on the screen you can see we have the tablecloth.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:34:03

We just recently provided a tablecloth for the Office of the Provost. That is not an item listed in our phone, on demand, our campus direct sales website.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:34:13

Excuse me, but it's something that we were able to make. So if there's something that again, you're not seen, but you would need, we gladly can make a quote if you need a quote.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:34:23

On this website, you are going to have the capability to see the pricing for those items. So pricing is there.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:34:30

It's a blank canvas and there is no added fee to put your logo on. So that price on there is the price with your 20% discount because if it is a department approaches where you need a hundred bags.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:34:44

And it's a department purchase, it'll be 20% off. On that item. So I highly encourage you all if you need to get any giveaways, gifts, items, and you're looking for something more than what you're seeing in the stores to please do check out.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:34:59

Our site. You can click on on the shop icon and it'll drop down all the different types of items we can do, gives all that jazz and it's really, really exciting.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:35:13

And here on the top we have our homecoming shirt that we actually still have in stock at both campus stores.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:35:17

We have a few sizes. So we're still having our bringing of the letters this Friday. If you haven't gone in your homecoming t-shirt or crew, I highly encourage you all to please.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:35:30

If you haven't gone in your homecoming t-shirt or crew, I highly encourage you all to please visit us or shop online.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:35:31

This item is up on our website and just to give you a little backdrop, this is actually a UMC created custom piece for homecoming.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:35:38

So it's super exciting that we were able to collaborate with you and see to get this going and the auxiliaries team a lot of the UMC team, everybody really kind of collaborated to have this item featured in the stores.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:35:51

So there's a few left, so make sure you grab yours while you can. Before they're gone, and just to kind of retract again on our campus direct site.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:36:01

We will make sure that we cross all of our T's, everything does go through UMC.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:36:06

I'll make sure to take care of making sure that it's approved through UMC and before our FOD production starts it also goes through licensing.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:36:15

So we are crossing all the right channels. You provide the logo that you want to use on that item.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:36:20

We get it to UMC for approval. We get it into licensing, it goes into production.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:36:26

That whole process, ideally we could have 4 to 6 weeks. That would be really, helpful because that's kind of starting the process of the quote approving the quote and all all their steps that I said.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:36:42

But if it's something that you need on the fly, we've been able to really work some miracles, on a one-off basis.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:36:45

So if there's something that it needs to be rushed, I will do, you know, everything I can to make sure we get that in a timely manner for your event.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:36:52

But just keep us in mind planning forward. You know, there's no need to outsource. Let us know what you need and we can try to make sure we can provide that for you all.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:37:02

And really that's, that's all I have. So, I can do, unless if there's any questions, if anybody has any questions or concerns, I, I can answer that.

[Karina Esparza] 09:37:05

Hmm.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:37:19

So there's a couple of questions. Can we use an Apple card for purchase at store?

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:37:27

If it is an Apple credit card that you're able to use. Anywhere it should be something that we're able to accept and store?

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:37:38

Yes, I know there's an Apple credit card that's just through Apple. We don't have Apple, POS implementation, but if it is an open credit card, Apple the provider, it should be available for store.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:37:51

Thank you. Will you carry the Apple Vision Pro in the future?

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:37:52

Thank you

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:37:58

Possibly, I think that's something that we don't really have up on our demo tables now if it is an item that you are interested in.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:38:06

I highly think we can get it ordered. But at the moment it's not something that we are planning to bring on to our demo tables now.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:38:15

Another comment, is that there's visors or sun visors for the car windshield, but they're not in the bookstore is that something you special order.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:38:27

That's something that we don't have in the store. It's very true and it's a good point that we don't have in the store it's very true and it's a good point I can follow up to see I can also double check it maybe we have that item on our on our FOD side sometimes we have online only items where we can expand but I think that's something

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:38:42

we can look into adding into our assortment.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:38:45

Joanna, just to recap, UMC does need to approve on these requests, right?

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:38:48

One.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:38:53

Whenever you're doing any branding, correct?

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:38:54

That is correct. We do go through UMC. So I deleted you just pick the item your department local we get that to you just pick the item your department local we get that to UMC.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:39:07

You're department local, we get that to UMC they approve and then we go ahead and submit that to to our licensing and production

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:39:09

Thank you. Hmm. Is there any other questions?

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:39:10

Okay.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:39:20

Not. Thank you so very much, Joanna, for joining us today. Anybody else does have any other questions just drop them and we can contact you on on your behalf.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:39:24

Thank you.

[Joanna Garza (Campus Stores)] 09:39:32

Thank you so much.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:39:34

Thank you. Okay, up next, we do have Nicole English. To discuss mentoring you and the great colleges to work for programs.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:39:47

Hey, Veronica, if you can give me access to share my screen.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:39:51

Yes, let me just. Thank you. Out there, I see you.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:40:07

Okay, You should receive access.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:40:09

Thank you. Alright, thank you everyone. I'm so happy to be here and back with my favorite people in St.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:40:13

Senate. Thanks for having me. I'm so excited to be talking about a few.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:40:29

Initiatives that are coming up in the next few weeks, for free to post your questions in the chat and I'll make sure to address them, as soon as I can.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:40:34

So let's get started, with some exciting programs that are coming actually starting on Monday. You may have seen this on Messenger yesterday and today, but we are so excited.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:41:32

To finally be rolling out our leadership mentoring program. I know a lot of people have asked for it.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:41:33

I know on the faculty side there's a faculty mentoring program, but so far we have not have this for staff.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:41:38

And so I'm extremely excited, to be announcing our mentoring you program, our leadership ment What you will find on Monday on Messenger and if you're in a current supervisory role, you will also receive it via email is

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:41:51

Along our email introducing.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:41:54

Entering you this upcoming Monday.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:00

You will be sleeping.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:06

Okay.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:07

Applications will open. On Monday, specifically. So let me show you the flyer on what you will see.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:12

It's not live yet, but it will be on Monday. So just a few more days. What is mentoring you?

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:15

It's really a that is targeted, is targeting. Leaders earlier on their career journey and we left this as vague as possible.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:16

If you feel like you could benefit from having a mentor more experienced.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:30

Assigned for free to apply as a NT. Applications will be open to both mentees and mentors starting on Monday.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:35

We'll do our best based on the form that you won't fill out to find your Right.

[Samantha Allen] 09:42:35

Yes.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:38

And so over the next few weeks after we get those applications in, we'll be hard at work matching mentees and mentors Just because you apply, unfortunately, doesn't mean that we'll find the right match for you. So even if you don't get selected or

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:43

Over would then be working on the next cohort of the leadership mentoring program. But for this time around applications open on Monday.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:44

It will be open for about 3 weeks. So the application deadline is March 20 s after that. We will try our best to

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:46

He's and mentor. So we.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:50

That goes out.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:54

To everyone that was successfully matched and then starting in May will have a kickoff event for both mentors and mentees.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:42:59

It's a 6 months program so you will have guided support by us in HR. There will be resources and trainings available for how to be a good mentor, what to how to make the best.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:43:07

Of your mentee and mentor relationship.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:43:14

And hopefully those relationships don't stop after 6 months. It is just that our support and our resources and our program will stop after 6 months but we're hoping that most of them will then find a meaningful relationship and continue that relationship beyond this.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:43:25

6 months as well. Just a few program expectations. As I mentioned, there will be a kickoff event, but there would also be a mid mid program, check in after a few months and then at the end we'll kind of do a closing and recap.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:43:37

In between, there will be virtual resources provided to our mentors and mentees. There's a little training in the beginning that has to be completed.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:43:46

But other than that, you know, we are asking that you meet at least 6 time. 6 times in those 6 months.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:43:54

So how you however you want to do this but 6 months 6 times would be the minimum. That you would have to meet.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:44:00

So really looking for people that are committed. They can commit that time, when they apply some other program requirements, both will have to be in a supervisory role, right?

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:44:11

So the mentee as well as the mentor both need to be actively supervising someone. That could also mean supervising student employees, right?

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:44:20

So no matter if it's a full-time employee supervised or student employees you supervise. If you feel like you want to be a mentee and you could benefit from having a mentor and you feel like you're kind of already on on your leadership journey or you are a leader that's new to you TRGB.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:44:39

You may have a lot of leadership experience, but this is your first time leading a UTG. We would also like to pair you up with a seasoned leader that has been working at you tear to be for a while.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:44:48

For mentors we ask that you have at least 2 years of leadership experience and at least one year working with UTRG.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:44:56

So those are the only requirements, other than that asking to be in good standing, I feel like, you know, you know that phrase by now, but we are looking at obviously do you have a satisfactory performance appraisal on file?

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:45:09

Are you in compliance with all mandate trainings and things like that? So this goes through an HR review as well and then based on the the applications that we receive you will see on the forms questions such as on the Minti side.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:45:23

What do you would like to work on? Rich, which I areas they would like to learn from you mental from and then on the mentor side we're asking those mentors in the application what are your strength?

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:45:31

Based on the leadership competency model. Where do you feel like your top 3 are on that model? And then what areas are you comfortable mentoring in?

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:45:39

Right? What's your experience? And based on that, will then met you. There's also a question that asked about, preferences.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:45:47

Some mentees might have a preference to stay within the division. Or you have a specific area. And if we find a mentor from that area, we'll try our best to met you.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:45:57

So there is a space at the end to also give preferences specifically if it's a background let's say you're a veteran and you would like a leader that has also a veteran background, then that is also something that you can, mention if you would like to.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:46:12

So those are the main, I guess expectations and programs. So I'm gonna see if there's any questions in the chat about this program specifically before switch over.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:46:24

So let me see, were there any questions that weren't answered yet, Veronica?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:46:29

Not at the moment, I think. Both 4. Okay, there's one more. What is the criteria or types of leadership which will count towards the 2 years needed.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:46:30

Okay.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:46:38

Okay, so any, type of direct supervision of, employees will count towards that.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:46:45

So, that is what we are asking for.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:46:50

I hope that helps. And then I also saw in the chat, and I'll introduce him here, as well as Marco Moreno, who is our newest addition to the OD team, he'll be taking the lead on on matching and rolling out this program.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:47:05

So thank you for addressing some of those questions here. I also want to give a shout out to Katherine Vela who was our did to her practicum during the masters of higher ed.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:47:19

And so she is one of the graduates from that program. And she actually did the practicum with us in HRD and she was tasked to start this program.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:47:27

So I want to give a shout out to her because without her and her contributions we would not be ready to roll this out right now.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:47:34

So just wanted to give a shout out to her. We're extremely, you know, proud and excited and I want to give her a big kudos as well because she started it all and a lot of what you see here and what you will see in the program is something that she created.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:47:47

And came up with a while ago. So, yay to department cross collaborations. We're extremely excited that, we're able to roll this out.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:47:57

If there's no other questions about mentoring you at this point, I will switch over to another.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:48:05

Initiative that I wanna point out and this is the 2024 great colleges to work for program. If you have been with you, Tier, for a while, every 3 years we are participating or rolling out, campus climate survey.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:48:19

Some of you are very familiar with that. We have always worked with Modern Think. This year it will be a little bit different.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:48:26

And, modern thing was the same vendor that we have always worked with for campus climate surveys is also the one in charge of the great colleges to work for a program.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:48:34

And if you remember in our last survey we had unheard of results and we did so well you know we had positive increases in every single statement on our campus climate survey.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:48:49

We should have gone for great cultures to work for and we would have received the designation. But back then, we didn't participate.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:48:54

And so we thought that UTRGV is ready now and we're officially throwing our name in the ring and so it will be a great colleges to work for Ser that looks very similar to the service that we have done before.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:49:07

You will recognize a lot of the statements if you have participated in the past. A few. Differences from this survey to the ones that we've done previously.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:49:18

First of all, if this is only a random sample of full-time employees before the survey will go to every employee on campus.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:49:26

This time it is only a random sample. Had nothing to do with this. We have a random sample full time employee, so faculty, non-exempt, and administration were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:49:41

The other difference is that it also includes school of medicine. In previous years, School of Medicine has done their own survey with the WMC where we work with Modern Think.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:49:51

They may still do their double EMC serving in the next year, but in this great college is to work for a program because we are one school of medicine employees are being included in that random sample.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:50:04

It's again voluntary and voluntary and, confidential, nothing different from the previous service.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:50:13

We don't have access to what you said if you were selected. I will not be able to or no one of you TARGE will be able to identify who you are and who gave us the feedback.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:50:21

So please, if you are being selected, you will receive an email on March fourth. The survey runs 3 weeks.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:50:28

What I do see is where we are in our response rates. The individuals that were selected will be contacted directly from modern things so it's not an email from us but it's coming from great colleges to work for a program and they are collecting the data.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:50:41

You may get emails for me saying, you know, if you've been selected and our response rate is only 20% and we need more people responding.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:50:50

So I will do that, but I will not be able to see what you all responded. And so just wanted to share that as well.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:50:59

So again, there is a message coming out from the president probably sometime next week with more information, but I wanted to give staff Senate a heads up that that is coming and it's also around the corner.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:51:09

So starting March fourth. Is when the surveys will go out. Wanted to see if there's any questions about that.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:51:16

How are they selected? Yeah, they're selected at random, so their instructions, right, on how to do this.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:51:22

We are uploading email addresses and then there's a random sample. It is based on there's 600 that we're randomly selected and based on our university size, they are picking, they're saying if you have more than 5,000 employees, then it's 600 and then they're also looking at how many faculty do you have, how many exempt, how many

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:51:46

non-existent, how many administration do you have? And then there is a quota and based on that they selected random sample.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:51:52

Okay, talking about, response rates. We've had, around 50% response rates in the past and that is a good response.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:52:04

Right? However, now we are now only serving a sample of 600, right? So if we want data because we will get, reports and data again.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:52:11

Obviously I would like to have it to be a hundred percent, right? And I want everyone that receives that survey to respond.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:52:17

So I want to get as close as possible to that 100% this time around, so we can actually get a better picture of what people at the university think about youTOGB and if we are a great college to work for.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:52:31

Was there any other question that I missed or someone? Not responded to it.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:52:40

Okay, the question how and why they're selected again. It's random. So there's a list of all except employees and they say Excel pick 100.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:52:51

And so it's completely random. Who is being picked at which level they are. The only, categories that exist are non-acent, except faculty and administration.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:53:00

And so, based on that, then there's a random sample of those listed email addresses.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:53:06

I'm not even we're not even providing departments or divisions at this point. It is just email addresses, random email addresses based on the classification of the employees.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:53:14

Again, including School of Medicine as well. Yes.

[Staff Senator Rolando Segovia] 09:53:17

I. Would you be able to provide a sample of what the email will look like just in case if they employees won't think it's a phishing email.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:53:29

Yes, so yeah, there will be an email coming out from the president. Next week that will, explicitly say like this is the subject line, but just to give you a heads up, it will come from modern thinking.

[Staff Senator Rolando Segovia] 09:53:29

Okay.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:53:42

I believe the subject line is great colleges to work for, faculty, staff, survey, and there will be an email from the president that will also tell him we also worked with IT so that email should be whitelisted, so that email should be whitelisted.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:53:55

In the next few days, we're getting a test email to IT so they know what it looks like so they're not they're not. In the next few days, we're getting a test email to IT so they know what it looks like.

[Staff Senator Rolando Segovia] 09:54:01

Yeah.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:54:04

So they're not they're not putting it in spam. And so at least on that side, we should be good to go.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:54:09

But obviously, as staff senators, but it also everyone that is on the call today, even if you don't get the survey.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:54:12

Your colleagues may. And so just reach out and say, hey, do you get the survey? Please make sure you fill it out, right?

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:54:16

We want to hear your honest opinion. Your voices matter. You represent the entire university at this point. So, you know, even without saying, well, did you get it or not?

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:54:26

Just saying, hey, if you got it, please make sure, you know, we're all one.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:54:31

We all wanna represent UTRTV. We wanna hear your voices and we are getting reports at the end.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:54:35

And those reported reports will go to leadership and similar to last time we will be transparent about this and we will share our reports that are being shared with you TRGB as well.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:54:45

So please take a time if you get that email on the March fourth. Take your time and, complete that survey.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:54:53

Alrighty, well thank you so much Nicole for coming in and presenting today. Is there any last minute questions before we move on?

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:55:01

Just wanted to share real quick that we also have our V kind initiative. So if you have not joining us on Teams, yet we have a group, UTH, to be, the kind, great resources about, creating, a community that values kind of stability and respect. So join us there.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:55:43

And another shout out that we have, surprise, the excellent series currently running for the last time in this format.

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:55:46

So we just kicked it off this week, so we're just in the beginning of it. So feel free to join us for our upcoming sessions, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and it runs until April.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nicole Englitsch] 09:55:53

So please check out the training portal for

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:55:53

Thank you. Alrighty. But next we do have. Dr.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:55:56

Evarado Gobos, who is a board certified internist, hematologist, and medical oncologist at the UT Held RGB.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:56:04

He additionally serves as the professor of medicine, chair for the Department of Internal Medicine and the cancer center line director at the UTRGE School of Medicine.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:56:12

Dr. Yes, we can. Morning.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:56:16

Yes, I'm here, Veronica. Can you hear me? Okay. All right, good morning.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:56:23

Let me share my screen if I can.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:56:26

Is it?

[Everardo Cobos] 09:56:33

Can you see?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:56:34

Not yet. There we go. Coming up. There it is.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:56:40

Okay.

[Christine Martinez] 09:56:46

Do.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:56:47

Can you see it?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 09:56:48

Yes, yes we can.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:56:50

Okay, alright. Well, thank you. Happy to to be here and get an opportunity to speak with you as Ronika mentioned, I'm Dr.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Everardo Cobos] 09:57:01

Kobos. I'm a professor of medicine. Both haematology and oncology physician I'm in chair of the Department of Medicine.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:57:11

I'm happy to be here at UTRGV. I've been here almost 11 months.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:57:15

I came here from the UCLA health system where I was at for 8 years. But I'm from Texas.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:57:24

I grew up in El Paso. Went to medical school. At the UT San Antonio got my training in San Francisco and you know prior to my last at the UCLA health system I spent almost 24 years at Texas Tech health system.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:57:42

I spent almost 24 years at Texas Tech up north. At the school of medicine and prior to that I spent 13 years in military medicine.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:57:48

So I've been around but I am so happy to be here. I jumped at the opportunity.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Everardo Cobos] 09:57:52

When, I heard that UTRGV was developing. A cancer center and I'm happy to contribute and I'm very excited as to what we're going to be doing here in the next few months and I wanted to share that with all of you.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:58:12

This is the, drawing, of the cancer and surgery center that is, you know, being built.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:58:22

Currently I think it's, up, in, in Mcallen, on commerce, street.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:58:27

Yeah, this was announced in November of 2022. When the, UTRGV, broke ground on the cancer and surgery, center.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:58:40

It's part of UT Health, RGBs commitment to expanding health care offerings in the region.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:58:48

It's going to be a 3 story facility. That will include access. To some of the underserved specialties.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:58:56

And the clinical services that are lacking in the Rio Grande Valley in both medical radiation and surgical oncology.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:59:04

And then we'll have additional opportunities. To expand cancer research that's already being conducted by our cancer research.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:59:13

Scientists here at the school of medicine. The the building of this cancer center is being done in collaboration.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:59:24

With MD Anderson as all of you know, MD Anderson is a world leader in cancer care and research.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:59:32

And they provide oncology advisory services. To us to help us develop and launch the cancer program. Here in the valley we meet with them almost every single week.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:59:45

And we've been meeting with them for the past year. And so we're very fortunate that they're part of the UT.

[Everardo Cobos] 09:59:53

System, there are sister institution and our big sister if you will and they're guiding us so that we can replicate the policies and procedures that they have in place there, which is one of the world's greatest cancer center and to be able to reproduce it here in Vereo Grande Valley.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:00:13

Why a cancer center an academic cancer center here in the valley and I'm gonna give you just one example of why this is the liver cancer rates.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:00:27

That are seen in the nation. Versus Texas. any comparison, Texas, Latino, Hispanics versus, those Latinos in the Rio Grande Valley.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:00:43

And down here at the, bottom where you see the the dotted lines Those represent the incidents of cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:00:58

I've liver cancer per a hundred 1,000 across the United States. In Texas. White non-Hispanic individuals.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:01:10

And South Texas White. Non-Hispanic and you see that the incidents is very low from 1995 to 2,010.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:01:21

It's about 4 cases per a hundred 1,000. The middle solid line. Represents the incidents of liver cancer in Latinos in the United States.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:01:32

And you can see that it's significantly higher. Then what we see with the rest of the population.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:01:38

And if you, look at the line above that, That is the, incidents.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:01:45

Of liver cancer. In Latinos in Texas And then the top line is the incidence of liver cancer in Latinos here in the Rio Grande Valley.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:01:59

As in as you can see, it's it's higher and it stops at 2010 if you were to look at the numbers from 2020 from the Texas Cancer Registry, it has continued to climb and now it's approaching 30.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:02:16

Cases per a hundred 1,000 and that is the highest incidence of liver cancer in the United States And just to put it in perspective, it approaches that.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:02:26

Some of the incidents where liver cancer. Has been known to occur. Very common. For example, the country of Thailand, the incidence is around 29.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:02:41

Patients per 100,000 and so our incidents continues to increase rapidly for reasons that we don't truly understand.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:02:52

A lot of it has to do with metabolic syndrome. And there is still no effective.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:02:58

Treatments for this disease. And so that's just one example of what we're dealing here in the Valley.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:03:08

If I was to show you the curves for cervical cancer, it would be very similar on the other hand the incidents of cancer of other cancers such as breast cancer, lung cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:03:22

Colorectal cancer may the incidents are lower But the mortality is higher, which means that while we see less breast cancer, in our population compared to the rest of the country, our mortality is worse because the patients are presented at an advanced stage.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:03:42

So as you can see there's a lot of work to be done. There's a lot of research that needs to be conducted, new treatments that need to be developed.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:03:52

Oncology colleagues here in the community are busy. Taking care of these patients and so UTRGV is going to also be seeing patients but doing the research.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:04:08

To try to develop new cancer treatments for these. Cancers for which we're having a significant problem so that's just the why as to why we are doing what we are doing.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:04:22

Just a little bit in terms of what is an oncologist. And colleges are doctors who diagnose and treat cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:04:29

They often act, we act as the main health care provider for someone with cancer. We design their treatment plans.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:04:37

We, provide supportive care. We coordinate the treatment with other specialists And oncology is a study of cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:04:48

So we specialize in managing and treating patients throughout the course of the disease from the time that they're diagnosed all the way up until the end.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:04:57

We can confirm a patient's initial diagnosis or make the initial diagnosis. We, stage the cancer, we explore all the possible treatment plans and we offer recommendations.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:05:09

We oversee the course of treatment. And we help patients manage their symptoms and side effects both of the disease.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:05:16

And the treatment plan. When I say that I'm a haematologist, on colleges, hematologists are, our board certified to practice.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:05:31

Hematology in addition to oncology and hematology is treating patients with blood conditions.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:05:40

Such as the various types of anemia. Sickle cell disease, hemoglobinopathies.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:05:46

Patients with clotting problems, patients with bleeding problems. And so we have both hematology and oncology here within our staff.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:05:56

Searchical and colleges are cancer doctors that treat. Patients via Surgery radiation oncologist or patients that use radiation as the treatment modality and in general the education of these physicians includes of course 4 years of college.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Everardo Cobos] 10:06:14

Then 4 years of medical school. 3 to 5 years of residency. 3 additional years of what's called a fellowship and then a board examination and then we can go out and practice into the community.

[Cynthia Chrastil] 10:06:23

Okay.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:06:31

This is what we have been doing. Since, August, October, November when, the, UT.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:06:41

Board of Regents approved over a hundred 45 million in funding. For the new cancer center we broke round in October of 2022 as of this month, we're 50% complete.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:06:55

We are scheduled to complete the building in 2,024 and we plan on opening in January. Or February of 2025.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:07:05

Although while the center is not open. We have been actively recruiting. Our staff, for example. Our surgical and colleges are in place in our department of surgery.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:07:20

Please are cans, these are surgeons that treat cancer via an operation. Very complex cancer surgery, of course, medical oncology with myself and other medical and colleges that are being recruited.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:07:32

Radiation oncology is going to be coming on board later on this year. We have oncology pharmacists.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:07:39

Oncology administrative directors I'm, nurses that are in place and we are continued to.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:07:47

To recruit and we already started our clinics we have a clinic at Wesley Coat in Nap Medical Center.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:07:58

We have another clinic and the Harlingen campus. At the Institute of Neurosciences. We are scheduled to begin.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:08:08

Chemotherapy administration probably in March or April. Of this year within the next month or 2.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:08:14

And we're in the process of establishing and developing clinical trials. Currently, we've been talking with MD Anderson, for clinical trials.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:08:24

In leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, these are new state of the art medications for some of these cancers and of course we're integrating the cancer researchers that we have.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:08:36

Within the School of Medicine to work closely with our clinicians so that we can develop. Newer treatments.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:08:44

I show this like just to, show you the various types of cancer treatments that are available, of course, surgery, radiation, which is, you know, very sophisticated equipment that can develop, that can deliver.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:09:02

Radiation very specific to where the cancer is in a part of the body. Chemotherapy which is the infusion usually through the vein.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:09:14

Of chemicals to kill the cancer. Targeted therapy, our oral chemotherapy pills similar to an antibiotic that targets a specific enzyme or protein.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:09:29

And affecting the cancer only and trying to spare other side effects. Bone marrow transplants for some types of leukemia and the one that I have there in the middle.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:09:40

Is immunotherapy, which is the newest form of how to treat cancer. And this has been very exciting.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:09:50

Because what we do is that we administer medicines. And usually through the vein. To our body.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:09:57

That, reprogram our wide blood cells, our immune, our immune cells. To attack.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:10:06

The cancer. So this does not require a drug. You know that that kills the cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:10:16

It's it's a drug that turns on our immune system, reprograms our immune system, it's our own.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:10:23

Why blood cells that attack the cancer and this is revolutionized. Cancer treatment and it's, resulted in tremendous, successes.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:10:33

In cancers that were very difficult to treat. In the past. This is just kind of an example there in orange.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:10:42

Is a cancer cell. And in in yellow is a T cell which is a type of white blood cell.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:10:51

And you can see now that the white blood cells have recognized the cancer cell. And are attacking the cancer cells.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:11:03

They actually go in, poke holes within the cancer cell and cause the cancer cell to explode and died.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:11:09

So it's not requiring radiation. It's not requiring a toxic chemical. It's our own white blood cells.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:11:15

That are able to recognize the cancer and attack it. Thank you's another example where there's in yellow is the cancer cell.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:11:24

And you can see in blue, it's the white blood cells that have identified the cancer cell.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:11:30

And are the process. Of attacking the cancer cell and that cancer cell, is not going to be a life, you know, much longer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:11:41

These are just examples. Of what these medications can do. Here at the baseline, the, the, the patient has a type of cancer that is growing through the scalp.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:11:54

You can see all of the tumor nodules that he has on the scalp. He had him on the back.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:12:00

They were growing. They were causing severe ulcers. And you can see just with 2 treatments here is at week 6 the cancer is dying and we did not have to admit toxic chemicals.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:12:15

We did not have to, do an operation and remove his scalp. We did not have to, give him any toxic radiation.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:12:25

It was just his own immune cells. Attacking the cancer. So very dramatic. Here's another.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:12:32

A patient also and then you can see just 8 weeks later the cancer is is is dying. And then here's another example, the one where all the little black dots that's cancer inside the body all over this patient and on the right you see that it's all gone.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:12:58

The Little uptake in the middle is the heart and in the bladder. But the rest of the cancer is, eradicated.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:13:06

So these are some of the type of immune therapies. That have been developed and our cancer researchers, we have about 10 cancer researchers that we brought from other parts of the country.

[Cynthia Chrastil] 10:13:11

Yeah.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:13:19

2 UTRGV, this is the type of work and the type of medications that they are developing.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:13:26

And, so we're very excited of what the future holds for us. Here so You know, this is, some of what we're gonna be doing.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:13:38

We're gonna be able to do surgery. On an ambulatory basis where you don't have to be admitted to the hospital, we'll have laboratory services, we'll have diagnostic imaging where people can go in and get CAT scans, MRIs, mammography.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:13:53

Will be able to infuse chemotherapy, will be able to see the patients in one stop, all of our surgeons, medical oncologists and radiation oncologists are gonna be there.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:14:06

We're gonna have rehab and physical therapy. And so it's just something, unique, to the valley, where, we're replicating what is done at other academic medical centers.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:14:21

And of course, all of this is being guided by our colleagues at MD Anderson. are sharing their expertise.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:14:28

And the lessons that they've learned over the last, you know, 70, 80 years that MD Anderson has been in existence.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:14:36

And so, you know, I think the future is, is exciting for those of you that have family members, friends, relatives that have cancer, you can start reaching out to us.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:14:51

And then of course, here in the next 6 months, will have an opening, it'll be open, you will be able to tour it and, you know, please, split, spread the word in terms of what's what's going on.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:15:07

And I think that this cancer center is something that has been talked about for decades and that is needed and I'm happy to tell you that it will soon be a reality.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:15:21

So, thank you. I have, if you have any questions, I'm happy to.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:15:26

To answer so Veronica that's that's that's what I have

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:15:31

Alright, well thank you so much, Dr. We do have a couple questions in the chat. One of them says, questions in the chat.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:15:39

One of them says, what could be contributing to these higher cases here in the

[Everardo Cobos] 10:15:40

Yeah, well, there are several, there several reasons. In some cases, I think that we have to, emphasize, you know, early detection.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:15:53

You know, cancer prevention. There's always some genetic component to it, but it's also lifestyle changes, you know, the high incidence of obesity.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:16:05

That we have in in this region the high incidence of diabetes they're linked together, but for a lot of patients, it's just been lack of access.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:16:16

You know, we're a rapidly growing population and we're under served. And that is the mission of UTRGV is to is to address, you know, those specific.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:16:29

Problems for some of the cancers, for example, liver cancer. You know, I think a lot of it is metabolic syndrome.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:16:38

That's why it's going up. It used to be related to hepatitis.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:16:42

C or B, it used to be related to alcohol. But now at least in our population in this part of the country, it's from metabolic syndrome, from the diabetes and metabolic syndrome.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:16:55

In other cancers such as cervical cancer, you know, it's, it's, we have an effect.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:17:01

Early detection which is pamps near. So it's a simple solution. There's also a vaccine, the HPV vaccine.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:17:10

And so, you know, in those particular cases, it's lack of education, maybe lack of access.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:17:16

Okay.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:17:16

And bringing the the knowledge. But for other cancers, that's a great question. For example, the incidents of colorectal cancer across the country and across the world.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:17:29

It used to be a disease of older adults. That is going down, but we see a higher incidence of colorectal.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:17:38

I can in young individuals in their fortys and sometimes in their thirtys and we're trying to understand why.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:17:47

Thank you for that. Are there any preventative strategies that can annually? Someone's risk for cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:17:54

Yes, and I wish I could, had a slide, but really, You saw the slide that I showed of the medications that we're using to manipulate our immune system.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:18:09

To attack the cancers. So you can you can understand how important the immune system is. And trying to prevent.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:18:21

I can't say if it's important. And eradicating cancer when when it's very advanced, what can we do to our immune system when the cancer is just beginning with just a seed.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:18:32

And a lot of it has to do with nutrition. A proper diet enhances our immune system.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:18:40

We know the science from that. And then also exercise. Exercise stimulates our white blood cells, shifts our white blood cells.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:18:53

To be more alert to pathogens. And so it's something that we've known all forever of eating the proper food, less refined foods and getting exercise.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:19:09

And the exercise does not. You wouldn't have to be marathon runners, new Crossfit.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:19:13

It's just. Is something as simple as walking. Dancing, swimming, you know, just some type of movement, stimulates the immune system.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:19:22

That's important for all of us here in that we do a lot of sitting. You know, so we need to get up every every couple of hours and walk up and down the stairs or, instead of taking the elevators or just getting some type of activity.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:19:37

When we do that, it stimulates our immune system. And since our the cells in our body are constantly dividing and repairing.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:19:46

That's when mutations occur and that is what

[Everardo Cobos] 10:19:53

That leads to a different

[Everardo Cobos] 10:19:57

Dangerous cell that could develop into cancer. And

[Everardo Cobos] 10:20:01

Properly. Exercising. That's enough for our immune system to attack those

[Everardo Cobos] 10:20:12

There.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:20:16

Okay.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:20:17

So I think I think the the to me the less

[Everardo Cobos] 10:20:22

Is activate my immune system every single

[Everardo Cobos] 10:20:32

Day even if it's a little bit because that little bit is detecting and killing the cancer cells when it's just developing.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:20:36

So those are, you know, brain prevention strategies.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:20:38

Another question is, is the counselor center gathering data for the healthcare data base for the South Texas area or is the data used in the research coming?

[Everardo Cobos] 10:20:52

Or both, you know, because I think, I think as we see, cancers, for example, as we see cancers in at what stage, what treatment was given.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:21:07

But was the outcome demographics in terms of the population. In that a that's important so they

[Everardo Cobos] 10:21:11

Direct our clinical efforts, but of course our researchers also want to know that as well. So when you have a cancer center, you know, obtaining all of the data that you can about.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:21:21

Community.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:21:26

About the cancers that you're seeing will allow us to be able to shift left or right and address the issues that's

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:21:28

Okay.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:21:30

Thank you. What type of treatments or research are available that affect women specifically ovarian cancer, uterine cancer?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:21:36

And breast cancer.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:21:44

Which

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:21:45

And affect both genders.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:21:47

Yeah, well, In regards to breast cancer, I mean it it's one of the most common cancer 28 women is you know are gonna develop breast cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:21:52

And so there's full-fledged efforts in understanding that genetics.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:02

Got it.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:03

Terms of possible prevention, early detection and refining the treatments whether whether it's refining the surgical techniques, the radiation techniques.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:09

The targeted therapy, the immunotherapy, you know, that, that is.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:19

You know, there's a tremendous efforts.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:26

Done in that in that region to the point that if someone has metastatic breast cancer today It's very different than if someone had metastatic breast cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:30

30 years ago. You know, now it can be a chronic disease.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:41

As if someone had, you know, diabetes or high blood pressure and in fact someone with metastatic breast cancer today at 5 years lives longer than someone that has congested heart failure.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:49

And you know, a lot of people don't need quite congestive heart failure as being a fatal disease.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:22:54

It, it can be.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:01

The.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:05

And I make it.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:05

Is that cancer has succeeded. You know the outcomes of other devastating diseases such as heart disease in regards to ovarian cancer, for example, or uterine cancer, We don't have a an early detection.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:22

Model.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:32

For those cancers like we do for cervical cancer for cervical cancer the pap smear is is an excellent tool to be tech that early.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:35

There is still some research in terms of trying to develop.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:45

Similar test for ovarian cancer, similar test 4, uterine cancer, uterine cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:48

It's also important because it's increasing rapidly. It's just like the slide that I showed you for liver cancer, okay, whereas with cervical cancer across the country, it's been going down.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:23:54

Here the incidence is high for cervical cancer because of lack of early detection and the HPV vaccine.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:24:02

But for uttering cancer, for reasons that are completely not 100% clear the incidents. Is increasing.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:24:10

And so, you know when you look at the types of cancers that we saw 40 years ago and 30 years ago, it's evolving in some cancers.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:24:23

We're very happy to see that it's gone down, but also for reasons, maybe it's environmental lifestyle reasons, maybe new medications, maybe other toxins in other cancers, the opposite seems to be occurring in that some cancers are increase in an incidence that in uttering cancer is of course one of them.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:24:45

Thank you. I have 2 more questions and then, we'll let you go.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:24:50

Will the MRI machine will be an open style MRI.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:24:55

I don't think that that the MRI machine is open. There are conveniences to having an open MRI for cancer sometimes some of the sophisticated cancer it requires a different type of an MRI machine but I have to kind of look into it but as far as I know I don't think it's an open and open air MRI.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:25:17

Okay, thank you. It's there's another question. What about environmental factors such as pollution in our water system that originate from the real Grande River.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:25:29

Yeah, I mean, I haven't, I haven't seen specifically, you know, that data.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:25:34

I'm relatively new, but just in general, yes, of course, you know, environmental. Toxins along with our personal environmental you know, exposures.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:25:48

And in our genetic predisposition, all of that interact. So there's always a gene.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:25:57

An environment interaction. Okay, so for example, I may be genetically prone. To develop lung cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:26:05

Okay, maybe because I don't metabolize. Smoke or other toxins that I inhaled as effectively as you would.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:26:16

Hmm

[Everardo Cobos] 10:26:17

Okay? However, if I don't smoke, it lessens my risk. And I may not smoke, but I'm breathing, you know, a lot and I'm drinking.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:26:20

Okay.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:26:25

You know, you know, water that, that, that may contain a lot of chemicals.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Everardo Cobos] 10:26:32

So of course, you know, all of that is, is, is all, and interrelated.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:26:42

Alrighty, thank you. It says here, will the Councillor Center be accepting all cancer patients?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:26:46

Or do they have to meet certain health insurance plans?

[Everardo Cobos] 10:26:49

Yeah, I think I think we're working out because we're trying to get as many insurance plans as possible.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:26:58

I, the one thing that we that our, cancer program will not be able to see is pediatric.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:27:05

You know cancers although we have Driscoll you know our our partner I hear but for for all adults I think we should be able to handle, almost all of the cancers.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:27:19

If we cannot, if, if there is some sophisticated treatment or new treatment that we have not incorporated, we will work very closely.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:27:29

With our partners that in MD Anderson.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:27:32

Thank you. Last question. Will there be any efforts to work on encouraging HPV vaccines.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:27:42

Oh yeah, yes. You know, HPV is not only HPV that is affected against cervical cancer.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:27:52

Oral cancer, head and neck cancer, SHPV related. Anal cancer is HPV related.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:28:02

Penal cancer is HP related. Vaginal cancer is HPB related. There's a lot of cancers.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:28:07

That our HPV related. And I guess the frustrating thing for us is that we have a highly effective vaccine against HPV and and a lot of it has to do with just educating.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:28:21

You know, our community, those of you that have young children, you know, we should be telling our pediatricians what about, you know, when, when should I vaccinate my son or my daughter?

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Everardo Cobos] 10:28:32

Because that's easily preventable, that's an easily preventable. cancer.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:28:38

Alrighty, thank you, Dr. Thank you for doing this.

[Everardo Cobos] 10:28:39

That's a great question. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:28:44

Alrighty, we're gonna go ahead and move over to the committee reports. I will hand it over to our communications chair.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:28:53

Mr. Jeremy San Miguel.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:28:57

Soon. Good morning, Vocados. So this is actually my very first committee report as acclimating as the new chair for communications and I'm very honored to be in space with you all.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:29:09

As far as what staff Senate has. Communications committee has done under you know my direction you know with the team We actually led the homecoming workspace decorating contest.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:29:21

We want to thank every person and department who participated in showing your volcano spirits. Entries are post on social media and the winner was chosen based on the most number of likes.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:29:33

We actually wanted to post the picture in the chat and I think we're doing that. And the winners.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:29:40

We're upward bound math and science, Edinburgh and upward bound Edinburgh. So you can take a look.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:29:46

It is really truly wonderful what they manage to accomplish in their space. So thank you so much for that.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:29:53

Additional updates is we, are currently working on the staff Senate website. The communications. Committee and the website committee within communications is working on.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:30:05

The committee's page is a lot of committees altogether. Yeah. Where you as staff members can actually visit the website and learn more about what our committees are and what they do and how you can kind of connect with us and seeing where we can collaborate with that.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:30:18

As far as upcoming initiatives, we are so excited for the development of an internal comprehensive calendar, right?

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:30:26

So to make sure that, you know, if we're supporting one of your events, you know, there is a continuity of service.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:30:33

And so we have, we'll have days of observance, any, events that we're gonna support as a staff Senate group.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:30:40

And then as a response to the plethora of marketing request, we are actually currently in the development of a staff Senate.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:30:47

Communications marketing form. So if you have a specific event or a program or just information that you'd like to disseminate to staff.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:30:55

Through us, right? You'll be able to fill out a form and then we'll make sure that that continuity of services, you know, match with excellence.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:31:03

And the announcement will be shared on the project is actually ready.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:31:07

It's something that's actually near and dear to my heart is we are in the midst of developing an initiative.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:31:14

Right. So that, backtrack a little bit. Staff Senate was first and foremost established to represent you all.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:31:21

And in an effect to connect more with our constituents with with each and every one of you. Staff Senate is excited to share a new initiative where we will get the chance to connect with you one on one.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:31:31

The title is currently being workshop right now, but we're thinking, "Cafecito with a senator", you know, really calm and engaging environment where We get to meet with you one on one.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:31:43

We get to ask how your week is going. Who you are, and what you do for fun. And this can be recorded or non recorded based on.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:31:50

You know, your preference and if it is reported, we'll make sure to have it published so that the rest of our forgetup community can get to know you as well.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:31:56

And so that's pretty wonderful. And as we move forward, we want to make sure that you all are aware that we're in early voting right now.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:32:04

And staff said it would love to remind you of the power of your boat collectively. And should you have any questions regarding voting?

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:32:09

You can visit, look at those vote under UTR Gv's name page. And last but not least, we are putting our socials in the chats.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:32:17

So in case you have not given us a follow yet, we would love the chance to connect with you on Facebook and Instagram.

[Noe Garza] 10:32:24

No

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:32:25

Thank you so much. Where is the voting station? That is a good question.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:32:32

Leave it. Let me go ahead and I'll put the bucketos vote link in the chat for you all because I know there's a few stations.

[Staff Senator - Jeremy San Miguel] 10:32:40

Thank you so much. Christina. And that would be the end of the committee report. Thank you.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:32:49

Alrighty, the next committee would be the constitution and elections committee.

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:32:57

Hello, everyone. My name is, I'm the chair for the constitution and elections committee.

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:33:02

Just a little update. We got a new member. His name is Alexis. He has, decided to come into our committee to help us.

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:33:12

We just got through meeting with the legal team to, go over our changes. To the constitution we just just better verbiage to better understand it easily.

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:33:27

The second thing that we're going into right now is the elections are coming up. So we need to get all that situated.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:33:35

That is our next project. But, if you all don't have any questions for me, that's pretty much just our update just getting the constitution updated and getting the elections ready.

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:33:49

Hopefully by the end of this month we need so in another week we'll meet is that right yeah we'll meet and get all that stuff together so that we can get the elections ready.

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:34:00

But, thank you all for your attention and I'm gonna pass it over to.

[Veronica Vera] 10:34:03

Okay.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:34:06

Thank you, So good morning, everyone. My name is Omar. I'm the chair for the business processes and the chair for the business processes and staff support committee.

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:34:07

Thank you.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:34:13

For our committee report, we have a few items to share with you. First start off with seeing that we have a new coach.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:34:20

Dr. Mira, she's our staff senator also from the Division of Research. So welcome, Dr.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:34:28

Thoris, if you would like to just say hello to everyone. So that they could virtually meet you.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:34:33

I'll give you some time.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:34:43

And I know she was coming off of training, so she may not just be here yet, but.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:34:48

I'll circle back at the end.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:34:52

For our next item, we have established a new committee email. And it'll be used to send out a communication regarding any feedback that we receive from the Stefanit feedback survey.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:35:04

This will help us organize and track by the feedback submissions within our committee. And that email is staff send it feedback at you.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:35:13

I do want to stress that it does not replace the current process of using the survey. To submit feedback to the stuff's in it and I just shared the link in the chat.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:35:25

That way you guys can continue using that.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:35:28

The next item we have one new feedback submission from a staff member with the Office of Student Success.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:35:35

It's a request for consideration. From possibly HR benefits on feasibility and assisting employees.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:35:44

Who are student loan borrowers. Have their retirement contributions go to the employee student loan payments rather than their retirement account.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:35:52

This is in reference to the secure 2 point O act of 2022. And, when we get a comment or response from HR benefits, we will share that with the staff send it.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:36:06

The last items that we have, follow up comments provided by departments on. Previously submitted feedback. I'll start off with campus facilities on the state of the Bronx Trail maintenance.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:36:19

Abraham, on this shared. Some funding has just been approved for brick column repairs and lighting upgrades for the Bronx Trail.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:36:28

This project will be initiated in the next couple of weeks once a scope of work is developed. And our last comment by HR compensation on staff salaries.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:36:39

Due to inflation. Christina Chavez mentioned leading up to the merit process. Dr.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:36:46

Bailey announced that the starting salary for UTR. Would be increased to \$16 and 25 cents.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:36:53

As part of that 400 salary ranges were reviewed and adjusted. To adjust ranges and avoid compression between different salary ranges or as part of their regular salary review.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:37:06

Overall this fall, 2023, UTRGV conducted merit and salary range adjustments.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:37:13

Salary ranges are reviewed on average every 3 years. And I'm going to share a link that President Bailey shared with us back in September of 2023.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:37:24

As a refresher.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:37:26

And I'm gonna circle back to, Dr. Dottis, are you, are you here?

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:37:36

And she's not. Oh yeah, there you are. Okay. Yes, so welcome, Dr.

[Mirayda Torres-Avila - Staff Senator] 10:37:38

Okay. Okay. Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:37:42

Thoris. Yes, we can hear you.

[Mirayda Torres-Avila - Staff Senator] 10:37:43

Okay, well, nice to meet you all and I'm excited to keep supporting the committee and answering all your questions and concerns and trying.

[Mirayda Torres-Avila - Staff Senator] 10:37:52

Our best to keep getting that answer and or guiding in the process. Thank you.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:38:00

So fun fact, I was a student of Dr. Thoris in my undergrad. So it's.

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:38:08

It's exciting that she's part of our committee and also my co chair. Thank you for your attention and please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or for the feedback and next I'll pass it on to Mr. Lozano from the Staff Success Committee.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:38:25

Thank you, thank you. I'll try to speak slowly because I don't want to be coffee now you're having a call attack but I hope everybody's doing well.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:38:33

It is a time of the year that we're gonna have our staff appreciation week. So before anything you want, do a big shout out to Karen from the marking Karen Do I who's been helping us do a whole lot of this.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:38:47

The back work of it. She's an old high school friend and I just see her as a sister so.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:38:52

Make sure to her and her team once again. I do want to thank each hard the wellness area.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:38:58

Athletics, the Uri, Chartwells, was helping us out the bookstore. Colleges and different offices are like helping us donating some stuff.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:39:08

Some swag that we're gonna be giving out for the events. During our breakfast coming up February 20 ninth which will be in Amber and McCallum.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:39:16

And Friday, March the first would be Brownsville and Harlingen. So we'll be at 4 different locations, different staff centers will be in different areas.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:39:25

So you could just kind of say hi to, those who are presence. Think it's going to swag.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:39:31

Think of what that was well. So it's a smaller token of appreciation for everybody who's been helping us out.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:39:38

Run the university itself right law staff Hello faculty takes the president down to run such a big institution so On behalf of our committee, we wanna make sure we try to make the best we can with this events.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:39:51

But we hope CRB there. Once again, Thursday, from between ninth and then we're gonna, Friday, March the first, Bronzo and Harlingen, you will begin an e-blast email.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:40:03

From the marketing team very soon on that.

[Aliver Lozano - Staff Senator] 10:40:09

That is the end of my report at present.

[Staff Senator Jose Luis Amieva] 10:40:19

I will now move to open the floor for public comments and questions.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:40:27

Hi everybody. I do have a couple of announcements. Nina Badianthos with employee, engagement, employee wellness.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:40:36

Veronica, do you, will you be able to share those slides for me?

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:40:41

Thank you.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:40:42

Yes, let me see if I can get somebody to share them right now.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:40:52

I really enjoyed all of the presenters today. A lot of really good information. Good updates, some exciting growth with the university.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:41:01

Thank you to all of our staff senators who work so hard to get them here.

[Staff Senator- Melanie Garza] 10:41:24

I'm so sorry. I was having some Okay, thank you.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:41:29

Let me go ahead and I can share.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:41:34

Thank you. Thank you so much, ladies.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:41:36

Can you guys see my screen?

[Yadira Mejia | Staff Senate] 10:41:44

It's still loading Veronica.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:41:47

Okay.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:41:54

I think my zoom just quit so hopefully we don't lose.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:41:58

It's okay. No, you're fine. You know, I can just go ahead and just verbally give the announcements.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:42:04

I love visual effects but it's perfectly fine. I know you guys also share this information towards the end so not a problem.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:42:10

So I did want to say that for our team excellence award nominations. So we really want to try to highlight as many of the team based great efforts from like, 2,022, 2,023.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:42:25

So we've extended the open nomination timeframe. The deadline has been extended to February, the 20 seventh, which is just coming Tuesday.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:42:34

So the team excellence award the recipients. These selections are based on the impact that the teams have made on the institutional core priorities as well as how their team teamwork reflects the institutional values.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:42:50

Throughout the development and implementation of the project. The award recipients of the team excellence award will be presented at the upcoming staff service award ceremony and I am going to put the link to the nomination form that has not just the form but additional details.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:43:15

So please feel free to visit. Thank you. There it is. Thank you.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:43:20

Basically what I just said is displayed there and then it's a picture of the team that won last year, Energy and you.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:43:28

Thank you so much for that. So if you have any questions, you can, reach out to employee engagement at UTG.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:43:35

Dot edu and I'll be happy to to assist you. Again kind reminder the deadline is this coming Tuesday, February, the 20 seventh.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:43:42

So if you happen to be working on getting your packet together, you still have some time or maybe you know someone within your department or other departments that you may recommend them to submit a nomination.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:43:55

Please do so. Please encourage them to do so. We have a lot of outstanding teams out there that provide so much to the university and we want to be able to recognize and thank them.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:44:07

The other announcement is that, we are proud and happy to introduce a new award. It's going to be the divisional bravo, ghetto spirit award.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:44:21

What this is is going to be an award that goes to the UTR to be division that earns the highest percentage number of eligible, vaquettes that are submitted to our BABLE board.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:44:32

The award will be announced during our staff service awards just like our team excellence award and the qualifying bravos that are posted on the board are going to be the ones from September, the first through March, the first of 2,024.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:44:49

And I know March versus around the corner, but does it mean that you can stop submitting the Bravos?

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:44:53

For those who don't know what a bravo is, the Bravo, Gittles is a peer recognition initiative that provides employees an opportunity to recognize another UTR.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:45:06

DB employee and to acknowledge them who demonstrate the Vacuos culture of service excellence qualities and values.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:45:14

When you submit a Bravo Award the supervisor of the recipients gets a notification and then that award gets posted on what we call the, the notification, and then that award gets posted on what we call the Bravo board.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:45:28

And that is, public for, all of our employees. If you want more information on, or you want to know how to submit a Bravo, I am providing the the link in our chat as well for you guys to copy, and take with you.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:45:40

And those are my 2 announcements. I'm really excited for the upcoming staff awards. We are going to recognize by 376 employees, who have reached their milestones of service.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:45:54

So congratulations and thank you. Again, any questions can come out to employee engagement. Thank you all so much.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:46:00

Thank you. Nina.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:46:04

Is there any other public comments?

[Staff Senator Rolando Segovia] 10:46:10

Thank you, see some in the chat.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:46:13

We have a system where we give tokens or coins as gratitude for their service.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:46:19

Yes, so the milestones of service are increments of 5 years. So every 5 years, employees will receive a certificate as well as a service PIN that has 5 years, 10 years on it that you can wear.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:46:33

The system that we're doing it that we've done before in the past, just like last year, is employees that have years of service 5, 10, and 15 years.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:46:45

We are going to mail their certificate and service pants to their campus locations about 2 weeks prior to the event.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:46:52

We do encourage them to attend a ceremony and wear their pins. Although they may they're not going to be asked to go up on stage they will be asked to stand and be recognized during the presentation.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:47:06

As for individuals with 20 plus years, they will receive their certificate, pen as well as a plaque.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:47:15

During the event that will be presented by their division lead and they'll be asked on stage. Following the event we always have a nice reception.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:47:23

Do know that all of our employees are invited to attend. You know that all of our employees are invited to attend.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:47:29

So even if you're not being recognized or you know that all of our employees are invited to attend.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:47:32

So even if you're not being recognized or you're not a recipient yourself, we do encourage you to attend and just to congratulate and celebrate with us, with your colleagues.

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:47:39

So when you receive that invitation, write it down we have it in Edinburg and in Brownsville so we hope to to see you there.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:47:53

The question was regarding on Bravo coins where we would get 50 coins a month and give them out throughout the weeks.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:48:02

At this time we don't have that. Initiative, but I really like the idea and I can definitely take that back.

[Nina Barrientos (she/her/ella)] 10:48:08

Thanks, Lebanon.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:48:08

Alright, thank you. Any other? Updates. Public comments, but anybody like to.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:48:24

I'm waiting. If they aren't any further public comments or questions, we will now move to make a motion to adjourn.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:48:33

Is there a motion on the floor?

The University of Texas Rio Grande ValleyTM

.....

Staff Senate

[Staff Senator Rolando Segovia] 10:48:36

I moved to adjourn the steps in a general meeting for the month of February.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:48:40

Is there a second?

[Staff Senator - Omar Nedzelsky Jr.] 10:48:42

I second, or you send yeah

[Staff Senator - Yesenia Carter] 10:48:42

Okay.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:48:44

Is there any? Is there any debate or discussion?

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:48:50

Debate or discussion.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:48:54

Debate or discussion. All those in favor, please state I in the zoo chap. All the post.

[Staff Senator - Veronica Villarreal] 10:49:03

Any abstentions.

[Staff Senator Jose Luis Amieva] 10:49:10

With that, the meeting is adjourned at 1049 am. Thank you.