

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES UPDATE

Thursday, October 31, 2019



## CAMPUS CLIMATE

The Campus Climate Committee recently created a website for important information about UTRGV's Campus Climate Survey. The website includes climate survey results, action plans and will soon include your first progress reports.

In Spring 2019, UTRGV departments created action plans to continue their successes and improve areas of opportunity. As a result, campus climate survey liaisons are currently gathering the first progress reports on the commitments each area embarked on. UTRGV is committed to move the "needle" in a positive direction. We look forward to your continued support. Please access the [UTRGV Campus Climate Survey Website](#) for more information.



## CAMPUS CONNECT

The Campus Connect Committee (C3) is excited to officially announce the new [Employee Resources](#) web page. The goal of C3 is to promote a high degree of consistency in programs and services of all types for students, faculty, and staff across the multiple campuses of UTRGV. The new Employee Resources web page is one more step in achieving this goal. Since its launch, the new site has already been visited 7,707 times with 5,433 unique visits.

Other current top areas of concern addressed by the C3 are leadership visibility and academic program alignment. These concerns were shared with administration and have resulted in an increase in town hall meetings and divisional electronic newsletters.

If you would like more information, please email Nikkie Hodgson at [Nikkie.Hodgson@utrgv.edu](mailto:Nikkie.Hodgson@utrgv.edu) or Mark Kaswan at [Mark.Kaswan@utrgv.edu](mailto:Mark.Kaswan@utrgv.edu).



## SACSCOC

On October 3, 2019 you received a detailed [update](#) regarding our SACSCOC reaffirmation process and timeline. As a reminder, we submitted our SACSCOC Compliance Certification Report in September. The off-site review team will meet later this month and provide feedback in the form of a written report, which we will receive in November. We will address any questions from the off-site review in a Focused Report, which will be submitted in early January 2020 for review by a team of on-site reviewers. The on-site team will visit UTRGV in March 2020. The on-site review team will submit their report to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, which will vote on our reaffirmation in December 2020.

For more information, contact Christine Shupala at [Christine.Shupala@utrgv.edu](mailto:Christine.Shupala@utrgv.edu).



## STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT PLANNING

The first phase of the Strategic Enrollment Planning was completed in April. The three cross-functional working groups (undergraduate, graduate, and health-related programs) developed situation analysis documents that consisted of a thorough review of data and the identification of key performance indicators. The strategy and action plan phase began in May and the majority of action plans were finalized in September. We are in our final stage of prioritization and budget identification. The plan is scheduled for completion in Spring 2020.

For more information, contact co-chairs Maggie Hinojosa at [Maggie.Hinojosa@utrgv.edu](mailto:Maggie.Hinojosa@utrgv.edu) or Janna Arney at [Janna.Arney@utrgv.edu](mailto:Janna.Arney@utrgv.edu).



## EMERGING RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

UTRGV is making steady progress towards becoming an Emerging Research University (ERU). Among the three metrics for achieving the ERU status, UTRGV has already met the first criteria of offering a comprehensive range of excellent undergraduate and graduate programs.

For the second metric, UTRGV needs to award at least 30 PhD degrees annually, based on a rolling average of two consecutive years of degree production. In 2018-2019, UTRGV awarded 17 PhD degrees in two different programs. UTRGV has added a new PhD program in Clinical Psychology for Fall 2019 and has submitted a full proposal for a PhD in Mathematics and Statistics with Interdisciplinary Applications. UTRGV has also received planning authority for PhD programs in Physics, Human Genetics, and Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences and is currently developing full proposals for these.

For the third metric, UTRGV needs to generate over \$30M in restricted research expenditures. UTRGV's annual restricted research expenditures have grown to \$16,284,095 in FY18-19 from \$13,456,948 in FY17-18. To continue to make progress on this, two new initiatives have been launched; a new Keys to Research faculty development program that will help improve faculty's grantsmanship and a new, one-of-a-kind in the nation, Faculty Grant Award Incentive program that will reward faculty for their success in obtaining competitive grants.

Information about these new initiatives can be found via this [link](#).



## NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The [Office of New Program Development](#) is now fully operational. It manages the initial review of all new program ideas at UTRGV and provides support for the development of full program proposals for internal and external reviews. This office is supported by the New Program Development Review Team (NPDT) chaired by the Executive Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies, and New Program Development; a Budget Development Officer; and two Market Research Faculty Fellows.

Ideas for new programs can be submitted using the [New Program Idea Proposal Form](#) by any student, faculty or staff. All new program ideas are thoroughly reviewed by the NPDT, which has at least one representative from Academic Affairs, Health Affairs, Graduate College, Institutional Accreditation, Professional Education and Workforce Development, Academic and Institutional Excellence, and Strategic Analysis and Institutional Reporting. Since its inception, the NPDT has reviewed over 40 new ideas and has encouraged the development of over 20 new programs. The new programs under development include undergraduate, masters, professional doctorates, and PhD programs.



## STRATEGIC PLAN

We are very excited to have recently announced a new Call for Proposals for funding for projects related to the strategic plan. We are looking for projects that focus on student success, including through engaged research projects; advance our goal of becoming a bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate university; and/or demonstrate the use of high-impact practices and effective teaching strategies. Additional information can be accessed [here](#).

Also, Strategic Plan Review Committee teams finalized drafts of action plans for release to the university community ahead of town hall meetings that took place on Monday, October 28 in Edinburg and on Tuesday, October 29 in Brownsville. The action plans, which are being posted on the [UTRGV Strategic Plan website](#), detail efforts already underway or planned to advance the university toward its goals, fulfill its mission and realize its vision. The town hall meetings offered an opportunity for members of the UTRGV community to engage in discussion about these important plans. Comments can also be submitted via the strategic plan website. The executive summary of a comprehensive report on all activity conducted under the strategic plan was released in early October; the full report will be released in early November. For more information, contact [strategic-planning@utrgv.edu](mailto:strategic-planning@utrgv.edu).



## TUITION ADVANTAGE

Announced in September, the UTRGV Tuition Advantage grant is the university's commitment to making higher education more accessible. Starting Fall 2020, UTRGV Tuition Advantage will cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for undergraduate students with unmet financial need and a family adjusted gross income of \$75,000. The program is designed to fully cover tuition and mandatory fees by first utilizing federal and state aid, like Federal Pell and Texas Grant; scholarships; and other gift aid. Any remaining tuition and mandatory fees not covered by these programs will be covered by Tuition Advantage.

Please review the [UTRGV Tuition Advantage](#) web page for detailed information.