

President's Report November/December 2013

Construction

Ferrell/Brown will provide us a formal update at the meeting. The administration building is complete and we are beginning the process of transitioning into the new space. Formal opening ceremonies will be conducted at the completion of the entire project.

Future Expansion

Staff is working on a combination-financing plan that would possibly fund four projects with one bond issuance. The projects would potentially include a technical expansion for Crystal City, classroom expansion for Eagle Pass, dorm and cafeteria upgrades for Uvalde. Our plans would include a combination of design build and traditional general contractor construction (sealed bid).

Crystal City – Architects continue to work with staff on site plan for technical programs building, wellness center and a library facility.

Eagle Pass – Architects have been working with staff on developing a classroom expansion plan for the Eagle Pass Campus. Our goal is to have preliminary site layout for the board by February 2014.

Uvalde – We continue to address the dorm rooms, tackling them a suite at a time. Our plan is to redo all of the dorm suites and upgrade the cafeteria/ballroom area.

Financing – Our staff has been working with our financial planners and bond counsel to structure a financing plan utilizing our existing cash flow. We do not anticipate the need of any new revenue to fund the proposed expansion. The bond issuance has been pre-cleared by the Attorney General's Office and we are ready to proceed with a Board presentation. The plan is to issue on set of bonds with the proceeds to be used for each of the three projects.

Uvalde Electrical Infrastructure – We met with AEP personnel, to discuss the improvement of the underground electrical and transformer equipment on the Uvalde Campus. As you recall, earlier this semester we experienced a power outage that had a significant impact on us. Approximately 400' of underground cable had to be replaced. All the underground cable belongs to AEP and we pay a monthly rent every time a piece of the infrastructure is upgraded the rent amount is adjusted. Many years ago we were presented with an option to purchase the equipment, we elected to continue with rent option that has been in place since its inception, due to the fact that we do not have the expertise to maintain the high voltage infrastructure.

As a result of the most recent power outage, we asked AEP to consider upgrading our underground infrastructure that needs to be replaced within the next five years. They have presented a plan for the upgrade to be done in phases with minimal and scheduled interruptions. When completed the entire system will be upgraded and looped so if an outage occurs we will still be able to maintain electrical power to the rest of the campus.



Partnerships/Community

This has been a busy time of the year. My wife and I hosted several events at the President's house.

- Halloween Trick or Treating for the children of faculty and staff
- Catholic Club – Wednesday Rosary
- PTK (Uvalde/Del Rio) dinner

We participated in the Christmas parade in Hondo, our staff did a great job and the college float won first prize. We also have a college Christmas card display on the median in Hondo (right in front of HEB by the light – take a look next time you pass by). We also participated in the Crystal City Spinach Festival Parade. Attended the Tardeada in Eagle Pass, honoring retiring Middle Rio Grande CEO, Leodoro Martinez. We had an opportunity to visit with our State Legislators (T. King, C. Uresti, P. Nevarez, L. Vandeputte) also met with Congressman Gallegos and his wife. We attended State Representative Tracy King birthday celebration.

Last month we met with Hondo Mayor Danner, the city manager, economic developer and representative of Texas State Technical College regarding the technical offerings at the Hondo site.

I will be participating in the Sul Ross Rio Grande College Graduation ceremony on December 14, 2013.

Other

Developmental Education – Dr. Underwood will present an update on TSI at the December board meeting.

Deans' Forum Eagle Pass & Uvalde – We had all of our Deans' Forum for this semester. All the Cabinet attended, provided updates and fielded questions from faculty and staff.

Student Engagement – With the assistance of PTK, I had two separate meetings for the student to meet the president. Both sessions were well attended by students and they provided some helpful insight. I have scheduled two more events for the spring semester, one in Eagle Pass the other in Del Rio. I am attaching a copy of the questions the students asked at the first Uvalde session.

All three campuses had their PTK fall inductions and we hosted a College Day for area high school students.

Law Enforcement Graduation is scheduled for December 6, at the Tate Auditorium.

College Christmas Open House scheduled for December 11, 2013.

My wife and I will be hosting a Christmas Open House at the president's home on Friday, December 13, 2013. The event will ongoing through out the day, to provide faculty and staff the opportunity come. The board is invited to attend.

Strategic Plan – The cabinet conducted the initial review of the data from our current strategic plan. We directed staff to conduct further assessment in several areas and we will be review the updated data in January. Our goal is to conduct a strategic planning session to modify our plan for the future and will present the recommendations to the Board during the Spring Semester.

Policy – The cabinet is working on several policy revisions. We should have ready for board consideration at the January 2014 meeting.

Conferences

I attended the Texas Association of Community College Association (TACC) quarterly meeting in Austin on October 23-24.

Dr. Rivera and myself attended the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Leadership Conference on November 21-22 in Austin. The conference was very informative. I was asked to sit on a discussion panel regarding campus financial planning. I have conference packets available for those board members that registered to attend the conference.

We have two SACS conferences upcoming. The first is on December 7-10, the annual conference, we are sending a team of individuals in preparation for next accreditation. Then at the end of January, we will be attending a mandatory orientation that marks the official beginning of the accreditation process. Our report is due in the spring of 2015, a little over a year from now.

I will checking in on the campus throughout the Christmas break, if you have any question please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a Wonderful Christmas!