

President's Report March 2019

Legislative

The House Appropriations Committee has voted out the funding for community colleges. Their budget is very favorable for community colleges. The Senate Finance Committee has not voted out their budget. Once we have both budgets from each respective committee we will have a general idea of the upper and lower limits of appropriations we can expect.

On the Property Tax Reform bills, the Senate has voted out their bill. Limits tax rate growth to 2.5% without voter approval. The House committee is in the process of hearing testimony. Early indications are that the House is looking at a slightly higher rate. The current roll back rate is 8%. Again, the final number will most likely be between 2.5% and 8%. This change could potentially impact our institution in the future. At 2.5% the rate change would be \$0.004/\$100 and at 8% it would be \$0.013/\$100.

On another front, we have been actively voicing our concern over a proposed bill to deregulate cosmetology. Such a move would impact our cosmetology program. Chairman King has indicated his help on this matter.

The City of Eagle Pass invited us to participate in the Legislative Days at the Capitol on March 6-7. VP Sandoval attended on my behalf and will have additional information on his meetings during the trip at the Board Meeting.

Partnerships

On February 26, we met with community representatives in Del Rio regarding the status of our Aviation program. We continue to make slow progress on this front. Gaining the FAA approval for our Airframe program has proven to be more difficult than we expected. However, we are making progress and project a January 2020 start date. During our discussion, we also decided to explore the possibility of developing a Level 1 Certificate for General Aviation Maintenance. The goal is to develop this program as a dual credit feeder program into the Airframe program. We are proposing to discuss this opportunity with three high schools initially, Del Rio, Uvalde and Hondo. All three of those communities have an aircraft maintenance presence at their airports.

On March 8, we are scheduled to meet with Superintendent Rios from Del Rio to discuss an opportunity to partner on the development of an Allied Health Early College High School. I will have additional information available at the Board Meeting.

Physical Plant

On March 4, we met with AEP regarding an update to our ongoing discussion for the electrical infrastructure improvements (replacing underground primary electrical lines). The project will be accomplished in phases and AEP estimates if they do all the work our monthly rental fee will increase from \$1,700/month to \$6,000/month. However, if we can provide the

trenching and installation of conduit the increase will only be about \$900/month. We are in the process of investigating the possibility of purchasing some trenching equipment and doing the work ourselves.

Garner Hall (Girls Dorm) has been shut down this year to renovate and update the upstairs. Once complete we will have it available for the Upward Bound Summer program and then close it again in July to renovate the downstairs portion.

Other

Attended Middle Rio Grande Development Council meeting on February 27.

Met with Eagle Pass Faculty on March 5. Some of the topics of discussion were campus safety, adjunct pay, support for club sponsors, and faculty loads.

On Thursday, March 7 we had Grilling with the President. This is our 6th annual event. This year we had 30 teams and a beautiful day.

We have been hosting area high school One Act Plays in our Tate Auditorium.

Upcoming Meeting/Events

3/11-15	Spring Break
3/19	Eagle Pass Deans Forum
3/19	PTK Induction – Uvalde
3/26	Grant Evaluators for STEMWard Grant
3/28	Eagle Pass Chat with President
4/6	President’s Gala
4/9	Del Rio Pizza with President
4/10	TACC Quarterly Meeting – Austin
4/10-11	Carl Perkins Grant Site visit