

Executive Council  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
9am  
KL 270

### **Dr. Arenaz University Update**

Student financial aid (FAFSA) information is being sent out to institutions but only in a beta-testing mode. Letters sent to prospective students last week to reassure them and their parents. There are concerns over whether FAFSA issues will affect enrollment.

- a. Chancellor has issued a letter that will be distributed soon.
- b. Housing scholarships sent out to students who are outside of Laredo. ,

Senator Cuellar has funded \$963,000 for a STEM bridge with Laredo College, this will help to increase enrollments in engineering. It will also support a joint project with TTI and Petroleum Engineering.

We have a new endowed chair of Petroleum Engineering who has submitted several grants already and has been to Washington DC. Endowed Chair in computer engineering is currently in search.

ACE has moved to library, first floor. Eventually will be moved to third floor after a remodel of the library.

Student regent visit to happen at the end of March.

College of Nursing and Health Sciences is working on a proposal for a physical therapy program – currently in the needs assessment stage, doing focus groups and need to work with community also. Degree plan for physical therapy and clinical science are created, have job adverts have been created based on accreditation needs for each program.

Nepotism – need to correctly report relationships, anyone in reporting relationships with a romantic partner or family member need to have an alternative reporting mechanism.

Faculty and staff who have relationships with undergraduate students are subject to immediate dismissal. If faculty or staff have a relationship with someone who becomes an undergraduate student then that must be documented immediately with the University.

Looking into AI and how to incorporate AI into curriculum. Need to ensure graduates have AI skills.

### **Mr. Juan Garcia – Enrollment**

Office of undergraduate admissions presentations by Dickinson and Perez.

See handouts for enrollment numbers as of March 2024.

THECB will be taking over the fees associated with Apply Texas, which are traditionally shared amongst all schools who use the system. Apply Texas being moved to a new cloud storage system, last time it moved from UT to Amazon Web Services there was a significant delay in processing applications, hoping that doesn't happen with this move.

New member of the directors team - Elizabeth Vasquez – Director of Disabilities Services

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Enrollment report – second subterm is beginning today. Currently projecting an increase of over 5% from Spring to Spring, final numbers by end of next week. On track for largest spring enrollment in school history. Lots of growth in graduate enrollment. See handouts.

Junior and Senior numbers up.

Fall semester and summer enrollment - onsite visits/appointments start in April for recruitment.

Testing Center was busy during Spring Break. Grad fair Thursday before spring break was very successful. 170 Activities at Discover TAMIU – record breaking. TAMIU representatives to visit Eagle Pass for recruitment to do first official MOU with a community college beyond Laredo College.

Laredo College Open House will be Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> for recruitment.

Registration opens April 1<sup>st</sup>. Push to register students in April and May before summer, to help with budgeting for resources and time in summer for enrollment and retention.

#### **Dr. Lola Norris, Graduate School**

Fall enrollment is typically stronger than Spring, but this Spring 2024 is 20% higher than Spring 2023 and is stronger than Fall 2023. AP is very helpful in growing enrollment, but the graduate school is responsible for processing all applicants and ensuring successful enrollment. Enrollment bump in Graduate programs appears to be driven by business school. Growth also in online programs.

#### **Mr. Griz Zimmerman – Athletics Update:**

Basketball Womens and Mens teams made tournaments, won first games – we were only of 4 schools (17 total) that had both mens and womens team in tournament. Womens Basketball had impressive performance in particular and won in triple overtime.

Talking to NCAA about selecting process for women's teams in particular to go to NCAA playoffs.

Mens Basketball also doing well, if had won last game would also have had case for NCAA playoffs (48-50).

Faculty and Staff appreciation games and Alumni appreciation game are coming up in the next few weeks (check calendar for dates). Please encourage faculty to attend, there will be lots of activities.

All teams have played in Lone Star conference games.

April 28<sup>th</sup> – Student Athletes Award Banquet.

#### **Dr. Alfredo Ramirez – ACE Move**

Were overcrowded in Cowart, creating a lot of noise. As university grows there is more need for tutoring services and advising. The ACE move aligns tutoring, advising, and intervention specialists. All are encouraged to visit.

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**Dr. Kate Houston - Faculty Senate**

Faculty Senate is currently working on handbook updates. Currently the handbook is available online but is considered a hard-copy document, which restricts updates to once a year. Faculty Senate is working to bring the handbook into an online format to allow more frequent update.

Also working on language around the process for early tenure – Dr. Arenaz will provide feedback on proposed language soon.

**Mr. Daniel Berndt - Staff Senate**

Working to remove language inconsistencies in handbook. Recent change of board members – have welcomed in a new secretary. Spring fundraiser is ongoing – Candybration, used to fund program elements.

Skywarn training – severe weather spotting, to help reporting to the NWS to facilitate early warning systems, which improves the community's preparedness.

**Mr. Juan Castillo – Finance and Administration**

If offices are hot after powerdown then report to physical plant. Powerdown was successful.

Tennis Center will be doing walk through inspection checklist in the next few weeks.

Student Center loading dock for trash cans has a fault. Trash pickup will be forward of the loading dock so please be aware when walking in those areas. We are working to replace the fault but it is a custom piece of concrete so may take a while.

Retention is important, encourage faculty to work with ACE on midterm grades to ensure we retain students from Spring to Fall.

**Dr. Ari Gonzalez – SACS Update**

Met with the team to get feedback on their data collection efforts. Everyone is in good standing for first draft, today is deadline for evidence to be turned in, Friday is the deadline for the first draft of the report which will be reviewed next week. SACS Liaison coming at end of May, very interested in QEP.

**Ms Rosanne Palacios – Institutional Advancement**

Staff alumni association meeting this week.

All majors fair next week, close to 30 companies represented. School districts on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

See agenda for upcoming calendar items.