

THE RIDER

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TRUMP VISITS THE BORDER



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

President Donald Trump arrives at the McAllen Miller International Airport last Thursday and talks to a large crowd of supporters.

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Eric Montoya
SPANISH EDITOR

Around 12:45 p.m. last Thursday, President Donald Trump arrived for the first time in the Rio Grande Valley at the McAllen Miller International Airport to address what he calls a "humanitarian crisis" on the U.S. southern border.

Although a few minutes earlier than expected, Trump

stepped out of Air Force One, the presidential airplane, accompanied by Republican U.S. Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn of Texas and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

Wearing a white cap and a black jacket, Trump made his way to a group of previously selected supporters who were waiting for him a few yards away from where he landed.

Among them were Adriana Loera, from the Starr County city of Roma, and her husband, Rolando Loera, a

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer. Adriana received a red hat with the slogan, "Make America Great Again," which bore Trump's autograph.

"[I'm] very excited," she said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We are very excited and we support him."

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, McAllen Mayor Jim Darling and Mission Mayor Armando O'Caña were some of the dignitaries who arrived at

See **TRUMP**, Page 6



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

New parking space counter

Klaudia Cedillo

THE RIDER

For years, students and faculty have cried out against the parking problems that have plagued universities near and far. However, UTRGV will begin to grapple with these grievances armed with new parking counters and electronic pay stations.

From sacrificing sleep, to stalking departing fellow students for their spots, students have utilized draining, and at times underhanded, methods in an attempt to find a parking spot on time, some of which have ended in vain. Some students even commit parking violations, risking a ticket or citation for their classes.

To combat this parking epidemic, UTRGV has installed parking counters, a system in which a sign at the entrance of a parking lot will show the number of spaces left in the lot, freeing students from driving around in circles. The university has also installed new electronic pay stations for visitors to use their debit and credit cards instead of coins.

"Bad parking is, at this point, a part of the college experience,

See **PARKING**, Page 6

Govt. creates uncertainty

Jessica Mendez and Samantha Garza

THE RIDER

The UTRGV community remains observant of President Donald Trump's decisions, predominantly via his Twitter account, on the government shutdown and its unclear future.

Trump began the shutdown Dec. 22, 2018, when Congress denied his request of \$5.7 billion to fund the wall along

the southern border of the U.S.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Mark Kaswan, a political science professor, explained how the government shutdown can cause a chain of events that may affect the UTRGV community.

"The federal workforce in the Rio Grande Valley is pretty large

See **SHUTDOWN**, Page 2

University probationary status recap

Victor G. Ramirez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Now that an accrediting agency has removed UTRGV from its probationary status, the university will concentrate on preparing the appropriate documents for reaffirmation in September.

Institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

(SACSCOC) are required to go through a reaffirmation for accreditation every 10 years.

"We essentially have the accreditation cycle that UT Pan American had," President Guy Bailey said in a phone interview with *The Rider* last Thursday. "UT Pan American would have been up for reaffirmation this past year, so SACSCOC gave us a one-year delay on that. We need to come up for reaffirmation

next year, and again, this is just a standard thing that every university does every 10 years."

SACSCOC, which is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states, removed the university from its probationary status last month.

UTRGV was first placed under probationary status on

Dec. 6, 2016, by SACSCOC for not complying with 10 accreditation standards.

First year of probation
The 10 accrediting accreditation standards are
--Integrity (Principle 1.1)
--Acceptance of academic credits (Comprehensive standards 3.4.4)
--Consortial relationships/contractual agreements (Comprehensive standards 3.4.7)

--Institutional credits for a degree (Comprehensive standards 3.5.2)

--Institutional credits for a graduate degree (Comprehensive standards 3.6.3)
--Financial aid audits (Comprehensive standards 3.10.2)
--Substantive change (Comprehensive standards

See **RECAP**, Page 8

UTRGV placed on probation

Officials receive SACSCOC letter

UTRGV remains on probation

Committee visits UTRGV campuses

Probation lifted

Robert Benavidez Jr./
THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Dec. 6, 2016

Jan. 18, 2017

Dec. 5, 2017

Oct. 9-11, 2018

Dec. 11, 2018

THE RIDER

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Victor G. Ramirez

ONLINE EDITOR

Leslie Medrano

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Sergio Garcia

SPANISH EDITOR

Eric Montoya

A&E EDITOR

Britney Valdez

COPY EDITOR

Lindsey Villalpando

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SPORTS REPORTER

Ramiro Barrera

REPORTERS

Jessica Mendez

Zugay Treviño

Maleny Ortega

Nubia Reyna

Klaudia Cedillo

Samantha Garza

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Robert Benavidez Jr.

Aaliyah Garza

Fernando Ramirez

Jorge Abundiz

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS

Cristian Cervantes

Mariana Gomez

FACULTY ADVISER

Michell Godinez

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER

Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Ana Sanchez

Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 2.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
Hot Chocolate Bar
The Student Union will serve **free hot chocolate** with

toppings at noon in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

Tuesday

Hasta La Vista 2018!

The **Counseling Center** will host **Hasta La Vista 2018!** an event to welcome 2019 and let go of negativity, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. On the Brownsville campus, the event will take place at the same time in the Student Union's La Sala. Students can create positive messages for 2019 and meet the UTRGV Counseling Center

staff. For more information, call 665-2574.

Wednesday

Billiards Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **billiards tournament** at noon in the game room on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the event will take place at the same time Thursday in the game room. Students can play for free and get a chance to earn V-Bucks. For more information, call 665-7890.

Thursday

Back to School Night

The **UTRGV Women's Basketball Team** faces **Utah Valley** at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is free with a valid student

ID. A watch party will be held at Adolios restaurant in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-3415.

Friday

DREAM Zone Advocate Training

A **three-session program** will be offered to create a safe, supportive and inclusive community for **undocumented and DACA students**. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus. Sessions will be offered in a block format. Participants who attend all three sessions will have the option to become a recognized **Dream Zone Advocate**. For more information, email dos@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Dec. 13 and Jan. 9.



Dec. 13

11:54 a.m.: A student contacted an officer to report that a pair of personal sunglasses had been stolen at Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus. However, after a preliminary investigation, it was found that the elements for theft were unsatisfactory. The student had simply lost the sunglasses.

1:02 p.m.: A staff member reported that on Dec. 10, an unknown man approached her while sitting outside the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus and made inappropriate comments.

4:30 p.m.: An officer responded to an active fire alarm at the University Center on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived on the scene and found that the alarm was activated by a dirty smoke detector. They later cleared the building for re-entry.

8:13 p.m.: A faculty member on the Brownsville campus reported that he may have been followed off campus by a student over problems with a final exam.

Dec. 21

12:03 p.m.: A staff member on the Brownsville campus reported that a former staff member who had been

employed until November 2018 failed to turn in issued keys.

Dec. 22

5:46 p.m.: A student reported that an Apple Watch had been stolen in University Recreation on the Edinburg campus.

Dec. 23

10:06 a.m.: Officers responded to concerns over standing water found in the Biomedical Building on the Brownsville campus. The standing water was found in the 1100 wing and in the Biomedical loading dock, and result from a broken pipe in a mechanical room. UTRGV Facilities was later notified of the incident.

Dec. 24

11:43 a.m.: An officer responded to an open-door request for a student at the Biomedical building on the Brownsville campus, where it was discovered that the student had an access control card belonging to an ex-employee. The card was confiscated by the officer due to the policy stating that access cards must be used only by the person to whom they are issued.

Dec. 27

5:39 p.m.: A UTRGV Police Department staff member reported losing an expandable baton on the Brownsville campus.

Dec. 31

8:06 a.m.: A staff member reported

falling and injuring herself on Dec. 30 by the east entrance to the Health and Physical Education I building on the Edinburg campus. The staff member declined medical attention, and notified her supervisor of the incident.

Jan. 7

1:49 p.m.: A staff member from the Edinburg campus reported losing two university keys off campus.

6:23 p.m.: A staff member at the Bursar's Office on the Edinburg campus reported that her cash register was missing \$105.45.

6:54 p.m.: A staff member from the Bursar's Office on the Edinburg campus reported that her cash register had an excess of \$100. It is unknown whether this case, and the earlier case about the missing money are connected.

Jan. 9

2:58 p.m.: A staff member from the Brownsville campus reported losing a set of university keys in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

7:24 p.m.: A staff member from the Bursar's Office on the Edinburg campus reported that her cash register was missing \$100.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo

SHUTDOWN

Continued from Page 1

compared to other places because of the border and, so, people in the UTRGV community have family members that are employed by the federal government in various ways and depend on that income," Kaswan said.

The shutdown will certainly depress the economy because families that are being affected are not spending money and neither are federal agencies, which causes a ripple effect, he said.

Students at UTRGV have not held back in expressing their concerns for their community and financial security.

"I fear, overall, for our economy, for the misuse of money," junior Max Johnson said.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is one of the government entities closed and plays an important part of the process for university students requesting financial aid. While the department remained closed, uncertainty and miscommunication began to rise on social media.

Due to the government shutdown, students who were selected for the verification process after submitting their FAFSA application were unable to request their tax return transcripts or verification of non-filing. Associate Director of Financial Aid Operations Jael Perez confirmed.

As of last Wednesday, the U.S. Education Department issued an

electronic announcement, allowing the staff of the Financial Aid Office to accept the following documents in order to replace what was originally requested:

- signed tax return copy instead of the tax return transcript;
- a signed statement by the independent student or the parent of a dependent student;
- and a copy of the IRS form W-2 or an equivalent document.

The electronic announcement was published by the Office of Postsecondary Education, with the purpose of reducing the "burden on students and families that have difficulty in obtaining documentation needed to verify their Free Application for Federal Student Aid/Institutional Student Information Record (FAFSA/ISIR) information."

Before the announcement, Financial Aid staff members were unable to help certain students to complete their FAFSA process, waiting for the Education Department to allow the verification process.

"They finally made the decision to, basically, change the rules so that we are still able to do the verification, despite the shutdown," Perez said minutes after the announcement became public.

Perez recommends that students check their financial aid status directly with U Central and to not assume their situation is the same as anybody else's.

"Every student situation is unique," Perez said.

Kaswan said that besides financial aid, research funding is also a concern because federal agencies may not be able to provide monies.

Glorimar Colon, research liaison officer for the Division of Research, Graduate Studies & New Program Development, said funding proposals will not be reviewed until several federal agencies are back to operations and faculty who work at federal facilities may experience delays in their work.

"Everything else seems to be running on normal operations as they usually do," Colon said. "There is no major impact, I would say."

On Jan. 4, President Trump held a news conference at the Rose Garden, where he confirmed that he said the government will remain closed for "months or even years," if necessary.

"Absolutely, I said that," he said. "I don't think it will, but I'm prepared."

Kaswan said, "I can't imagine this continuing for months and years, that's just it's pretty unimaginable. My expectation is that it's probably going to be resolved within a week or two, but it's hard to say."

Perez said that even if the shutdown affects the community, UTRGV's students are available to work with students and faculty.

UTRGV offered federal government employees and their families free admission to the men's basketball game against Grand Canyon University last Saturday.

Spring enrollment sets record

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

As of last Wednesday, UTRGV's preliminary numbers show 26,780 students are registered for Spring 2019, an increase of 3.78 percent, compared with Spring 2018, when there were 703 fewer students.

Of the 26,780 students registered for this semester, 3,478 are graduate, 23,147 undergraduates and 155 are enrolled in the School of Medicine.

"The big push in the spring is transfer students, because entering freshmen, they all come in the fall," Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Maggie Hinojosa said.

Hinojosa said part of the reason for the increase in students is due to the university now being stabilized as an institution.

"In the transition, it takes a couple of years to get everything worked out," she said. "Now, our academic policies are in place, policies related to payment with emergency loans are in place. They have been in place for a good year now, so that everybody has an opportunity ... every student knows what to expect."

According to Hinojosa, the graduate preliminary numbers show a "huge increase" compared with the past, when the numbers were in decline.

"[The] graduate [school] is seeing a huge increase, which is absolutely

exciting and wonderful," she said. "Our highest graduate number was in Spring 2016 with 3,336 and we are at 3,478 today. ... [It's] 142 more students to be exact."

Hinojosa said now that the university has stabilized with its processes and policies, there has been an increase in transfer students as well.

"One of our goals for the spring, since we do not have a lot of incoming freshmen, it would be to increase transfer students and, so, right now we have 730 transfer students in total, and last year we had 692; that's a 5.5 percent increase from last spring," she said.

Dara Newton, associate vice president for Strategic Enrollment, said the goal of the Strategic Enrollment department is to find and recruit those students who are interested in attending UTRGV.

"Our goal is to help students actually get admitted to the institution and enroll and graduate," Newton said. "We really want to help students come to our institutions and be successful."

Strategic Enrollment provides different activities for those who are interested in attending UTRGV and their families.

"That comes in a variety of different activities," Newton said. "It may be going to high schools, doing presentations or meeting with students. We also offer individual tours for future students and their families, so they



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

Students wait at the Bursar's Office to pay tuition and fees last Wednesday on the Edinburg campus.

can understand the atmosphere, the culture and the way students interact."

The department based three recruiters in the San Antonio, Dallas and Corpus Christi areas.

"Texas is our primary audience," she said. "It is really important to build a personal relationship, whether it is through a conversation or through marketing. We are looking at our marketing, social media and student activities."

The university also created new

programs for future Vaqueros, such as Discover UTRGV STEM, where students visited campus on a Saturday and focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors.

"[Students] met with the College of Science and the college helped them try to see themselves here," Newton said. "We want [future] students to see who we are."

For more information about the recruitment process, email admissions@utrgv.edu.

UTRGV Chess Team advances to Final Four



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

UTRGV Chess Grandmaster Vladimir Belous was one of the members on the UTRGV Chess Team that competed in the 2018 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship, where UTRGV qualified for the Final Four.

Jessica Mendez
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Chess Team has advanced to the 2019

Final Four of College Chess after placing fourth in the 2018 Pan-American Chess Championship, which took

place Dec. 27 to 30 in San Francisco, Calif.

UTRGV hopes to claim the title of national champion for the second year in a row in the 2019 President's Cup, to be held April 6 and 7 in New York.

Vladimir Belous, grandmaster and finance junior, said their biggest competitor, Webster University, was very strong, but they still managed to achieve their goal.

"Year by year, Webster, their team becomes more and more strong," Belous said.

Regardless, Belous said he is excited to compete and represent UTRGV.

"I'm super excited to compete in such a big tournament, but on the other hand, super nervous because

I represent my university and I want to beat these guys," he said.

Alex Mista, grandmaster and chess program manager, said the team's last round against Webster University was the most difficult and important one.

"We managed to draw this match and it allowed us to qualify," Mista said. "We also played against Texas Tech and a few more that are not so strong."

UTRGV placed fourth among all the colleges, and fifth in general classification, he said.

"Two teams from Webster were higher than ours, but only one college can qualify to the Final Four," he said.

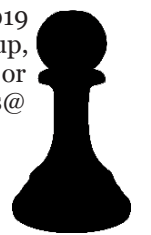
The championships consisted of six rounds in

which the University of Texas at Dallas, Harvard University, Webster University and UTRGV qualified as the Final Four to fight for the title of national champion.

Chess Team A, which consists of four grandmasters, will represent UTRGV in the 2019 President's Cup:

- Belous
- Kamil Dragun, a management sophomore
- Andrey Stukopin, a first-year graduate student
- Hovhannes Gabuzyan, a computer science sophomore

For more information about the 2019 President's Cup, call 882-5761 or email chess@utrgv.edu.



Week of Welcome celebrations

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

UTRGV will host Week of Welcome from Wednesday to Jan. 22, when students will be able to visit info depots, and attend a bash and "Kickback to the 20's."

Lauren Contreras, a program coordinator for Student Life, said info depots will be available from 8 to 10 a.m. Wednesday on both campuses. On the Brownsville campus, info depots will be located on the Student Union lawn, the Main Courtyard, Sabal Hall lawn and the Main north lawn near the Lozano-Banco Bridge, among others.

"There's about 15 [groups], so far, who have signed up for info depots across the Brownsville and Edinburg campus," Contreras said.

On the Edinburg campus, info depots will be stationed outside the Student Union, Troxel Hall lawn, the library lobby, the UREC desk and the Visitors Center.

"[The Visitors Center] is actually

being adopted by the mayor of Edinburg," Contreras said. "[Mayor Richard Molina] will be there welcoming students back to the school year, providing refreshments."

She said the Counseling Center, Office of Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention and other departments will be there to promote their services to students.

"This semester, info depots will serve mainly as a refresher to students of what services we offer and events coming up," Contreras said. "Students will also be able to get refreshments before going to class. We have coffee that will be provided and some kind of food item."

'Kickback to the 20's'

Students can dress up as their favorite "Great Gatsby" character for "Kickback to the 20's," which will take

place from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. In Brownsville, the event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Jan. 22 in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón.

Contreras said, "Kickback to the 20's" will include about four casino games: poker, roulette and other minute-to-win-it games. Students can earn tickets for different prizes and have their picture

taken in a photo booth.

"Students will be able to come out, play those

games, get food, listen to some music and just have a good time," she said.

Contreras also said the prizes will be similar to last year's.

"Last year, some of the prizes included movies, different gift cards," she said. "They were different bundled gift baskets."

Each campus expects about 200 students to attend.

Back to School Bash

The Week of Welcome Back to School Bash will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. The bash will also take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Jan. 24 on The Quad in Edinburg.

The Student Union, University Recreation and the Campus Programming Board are collaborating to create the Back to School Bash. The Union will host its traditional campfire bash during the event.

CPB will provide some attractions, including a human-sized foosball.

Student organizations will conduct fundraisers during the bash. Contreras said students should bring cash if they want to buy items that organizations are selling.

"Kickback to the 20's" will be more table games," she said. "And Back to School Bash will have more carnival-field games, so they'll be more interactive, more participants in one game versus just a board game or poker game, which is limited to how many people can participate at one time."



For more information

utrgv.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/studentactivities.

VAQUERO VOICE



New Year's Resolutions



"My New Year's resolutions are, actually, worry less and do more, just because I always feel that I'm always second guessing myself. And this new year, I just definitely want to do what I want to do and, sort of, take action in whatever clubs and, sort of, worry about it afterwards and just have fun doing it, you know?"

Ivan Morado
Electrical engineering junior

I want to save up money and move out to live on my own and have some independence and be closer to campus and finish off and get a job, hopefully, near home.



Michelle Gonzalez
Art senior



"My New Year's resolutions are to dedicate more time for myself, because last semester, and really most of my academic time here at UTRGV, I have put a lot of pressure on myself and I'm always doing homework and I rarely leave time for myself. That has left me very stressed out and, so, this semester, well this year, my resolution is to be more compassionate with myself, so I can diminish my stress."

Diana Duran
Psychology senior

I'm looking forward towards this year. My resolution is to finish off the semester strong, graduate and look for a full-time position within the university. Anything in higher ed, honestly, just to make an impact on students' lives.



Tony Leandro
Communication studies senior

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garza



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives

One step ahead of you, and it's not because of the color of my skin



Aaliyah Garza
THE RIDER

I don't believe that white privilege exists. It may have existed before the civil rights movement came into play. Now that that has long passed, I struggle to see why certain ethnic groups can't catch a break in this country, although some reasons do come into mind. This isn't to say that I don't believe privilege doesn't exist, because it does, and in some way contributes to people's success but not solely by the color of their skin.

Has anyone ever stopped to think that maybe some of these privileges were brought upon people by their achievements that have nothing to do with their race or gender? Some of us are born one step ahead of everyone else because of someone else's success, such as passing down wealth or connections. Admittedly,

there is nothing wrong with this as most of the time it is fair game. Who is to say that they didn't work for their "privileges"?

I've met and known people who only have themselves to blame for the situation they are in, whether it be financial debt, criminal record, broken relationships, or poor attention to their education. I'm only including people who do have control over their lives, as they do have the choice to be and act better, but won't due to their ignorance, lack of determination and confidence. The potential is there, but they are not pushing hard enough to want something better than what they have. It's even worse when these types of people have the gall to blame others for their "failures," stooping to a level so low to blame society, or racism. What they don't understand is this: Improving can be a slow, sometimes painful burn, but hard work does pay off. The only reward you should be seeking is the

feeling that you've managed to overcome a hardship with determination. Although seeking a better paycheck is not selfish, it's just unhealthy for money to be your only drive.

If you've ever considered racism or white privilege to be the source of your downfall, stop to think these three questions:

"Who put you where you are now?" It's not out of the realm of possibility that you could be at fault.

"How can **you** get out of it?" If you're in debt, perhaps you could cut down on unnecessary spending and have that money to pay off your debt.

"Did you truly give it your all to try to get out of the rabbit hole you're in right now?" It can be hard to self-reflect, coming to conclusions that don't satisfy your feelings and frustrations. But it's important to have moments like this without getting too heavy on guilt-tripping yourself.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter's author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

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Trump llega a la frontera

Presidente visita el Valle para discutir acerca del muro

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

A alrededor de las 12:45 p.m. del pasado jueves, el presidente Donald Trump hizo aparición en el Valle del Río Grande por primera vez en el McAllen Miller International Airport para abordar el tema de lo que él ha llamado “una crisis humanitaria” en la frontera sur de los Estados Unidos de América.

A pesar de que su llegada fue minutos más pronta de lo que se tenía previsto, Trump salió del Air Force One, el avión presidencial, de EE. UU., acompañado por Ted Cruz y John Cornyn, senadores republicanos de Texas, y Kirstjen Nielsen, secretaria de seguridad interna.

Vistiendo una gorra blanca y una chaqueta de color negro, Trump caminó hacia un grupo de seguidores previamente seleccionado quienes ya lo esperaban a unas cuantas yardas de distancia del avión presidencial.

Entre ellos estaban Adriana Loera, proveniente de la ciudad de Roma del Condado de Starr, y su esposo, Rolando Loera, un oficial de policía. Adriana recibió una gorra roja con el eslogan, “Make America Great Again” (Hacer EE. UU grandioso otra vez), la cual estaba autografiada por Trump.

“[Estoy] muy embocinada de estar aquí”, dijo ella. “Es una oportunidad única en la vida. Estamos muy emocionados y lo apoyamos”. Dan Patrick, vicegobernador

de Texas; Jim Darling, alcalde de McAllen; y Armando O’Cana, alcalde de Mission, fueron unos de los varios dignatarios que llegaron al aeropuerto minutos antes de la visita de Trump.

Patrick dijo a los reporteros que la situación en la frontera de México con EE. UU. es una crisis verdadera.

“Quinientos mil personas fueron detenidas solamente el año pasado, desde San Diego hasta Brownsville”, dijo él. “Los policías estatales capturaron o incautaron 94½ libras de *Fentanyl* el año pasado. Si haces cuentas, son 21 millones de casos letales, quiero decir dosis letales.”

Él dijo que esto es solo una pequeña porción de la cantidad total de drogas que entran al país.

“Esto es una verdadera crisis y los demócratas y los medios de comunicación ... ya se niegan los hechos o son muy inteligentes para descifrar la situación, o están engañando al público porque ellos saben la verdad y le están mintiendo al público estadounidense.”

Patrick dijo que esperaba poder ver a Trump para platicar y encontrar una solución para la crisis.

Horas antes de la llegada de Trump, mientras que oficiales de seguridad, del aeropuerto y los medios de comunicación se preparaban para la visita del presidente, un grupo de alrededor de 50 seguidores de Trump se reunieron en las orillas de La Plaza Mall, fuera del aeropuerto en Wichita Avenue y South 10th Street,



El presidente Donald Trump saluda a sus seguidores mientras desciende del Air Force One, el avión presidencial, el pasado jueves en el McAllen Miller International Airport.

Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

para mostrar su apoyo hacia el presidente.

Similarmente, un grupo de manifestantes llegaron al mismo lugar para expresar su descontento causado por las propuestas del presidente, tales como el muro fronterizo, el cual ha sido probablemente su más famosa propuesta desde que comenzó su mandato presidencial.

Bianca Castro, una estudiante de psicología de último año en UTRGV y miembro de la organización No Border Wall Movement, Industrial Workers of the World y Young Democratic

Socialists of America, dijo que asistió a la manifestación para apoyar a la comunidad en contra de Trump.

Al preguntarle que le diría a Trump si tuviera la oportunidad de hablar con él, Castro contestó, “Cede tu puesto. Termina tu presidencia”.

Ella no está de acuerdo con la petición de 5,700 millones de dólares para construir el muro y así terminar con el cierre de gobierno.

“El ha comprobado una vez más que no va a apoyar a la clase obrera”, dijo Castro. “No va a apoyar al proletariado, la gente que hace que este país

se mueva. Creo que es una pena ... que esté usando [el muro fronterizo] para cerrar el gobierno”.

A la 1 p.m. del mismo día, Trump salió del aeropuerto de McAllen escoltado por seguridad para después reunirse con diferentes autoridades en estación del U.S. Border Patrol de McAllen para discutir su caso sobre seguridad fronteriza y el muro.

Trump salió hacia Washington, D.C., cerca de las 4 p.m. el jueves.

Manifestantes y seguidores durante visita de Trump

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Horas antes de que el presidente Donald Trump llegara al McAllen Miller International Airport, más de 100 personas, entre ellos seguidores y manifestantes, se presentaron a las afueras del aeropuerto para expresar sus opiniones sobre el presidente.

Entonando a gritos el nombre “Donald Trump”, alrededor de 50 seguidores del presidente se alinearon en las banquetas enfrente de La Plaza

Mall, en la calle Wichita Avenue y South 10th Street.

Carlos Ramirez, un veterano de Vietnam, proveniente de Edinburg y seguidor de Trump, dijo que el presidente es muy valiente por venir a una zona del país que tiene una ideología demócrata predominante.

“Yo soy católico”, dijo Ramirez. “Los demócratas tienen la plataforma de “pro-elección”, matar bebés mediante el aborto. No hay lugar para eso en la iglesia católica”.

De igual manera, un grupo de

manifestantes se reunieron en la misma área que los seguidores de Trump.

Unos de los organizadores de la protesta aconsejaban a los protestantes a no incitar la violencia y a no dejarse provocar por seguidores de Trump, quienes continuamente insultaban a los manifestantes.

Compuestos por varias organizaciones entre ellas, No Border Wall Movement e Industrial Workers of the World, el grupo de manifestantes entonaban cantitos tales como, “Se ve,

se siente, el pueblo está presente”.

A pesar de que la mayoría de las pancartas contenían mensajes en contra del muro fronterizo, Arles Bustos, un activista de la organización Democratic Socialists of America, resaltó de entre la multitud al ondear una bandera de México.

Bustos dijo que la visita de Trump es una oportunidad para protestar en contra de los proyectos de ley que se han aprobado durante su mandato presidencial.



Fernando Ramirez/FOTOS THE RIDER

“Creo que es la oportunidad perfecta para que nosotros protestemos las normas que han sido decretadas por el personalmente y su gobierno, y especialmente la falta de apoyo que tenemos para nuestros estudiantes de DACA y los hondureños que tratan de cruzar la frontera”.

--Arles Bustos

Activista de Democratic Socialists of America



“Ya es hora de que empecemos a cuidar a nuestra propia gente en vez de cuidar a otros. Tenemos millones de personas que necesitan ayuda en los Estados Unidos y no podemos obtener la ayuda porque estamos ayudando a alguien más”.

--Carlos Ramirez

Veterano de Vietnam y proveniente de Edinburg

UTRGV alumna joins Ballet Folklórico de México

Britney Valdez

A&E EDITOR

UTRGV alumna Jennifer Lozano has been accepted to the world-renowned professional dance company, Ballet Folklórico de México, which has won more than 200 awards for artistic achievement since its founding in 1952.

The Ballet Folklórico de México is a dance company in Mexico City. The company performs dances that represent the traditional culture of Mexico.

"It is known all across the world, all across the nation," Lozano said. "It's very prestigious."

Lozano has been dancing for about 16 years. She first began when she was in middle school. Since then, she has been a part of dance companies, such as South Texas College Ballet Folklórico and UTRGV's Ballet Folklórico.

She applied to join the Ballet Folklórico de México in October 2018.

They required her to provide pictures of her dancing and a résumé to provide information on her background.

"The process was pretty short," Lozano said. "They have you next to other dancers in the company, I think, to compare you. [Then] they give you a piece that mostly everyone dances and they make you perform it one-by-one in front of the company members."

Lozano was one of two people accepted into the company, out of about 400 who auditioned.

"[While auditioning,] I was nervous, but also prepared at the same time," she said.

According to Lozano, her UTRGV professors gave her a good foundation to prepare for the audition process. They also helped give her the confidence needed to carry herself on stage.

UTRGV Dance Program Lecturer Miguel Peña began teaching Lozano three and a half years ago. According to Peña, since the beginning of his teachings, he could tell she would accomplish great things in her dance career.



COURTESY PHOTO

UTRGV alumna Jennifer Lozano graduated in 2017 with a degree in dance. She has been accepted into the Ballet Folklórico de México, a premiere dance company that has earned numerous awards throughout its existence.

Peña, along with the rest of the dance program staff and students, wish her the best in her future endeavors.

"[Her acceptance] is an honor for her and the whole company," he said. "It's not only her achievement, it's a group achievement because she grew with the whole group and is also a wonderful dancer. I'm very proud of her. The director, the dance program and her teammates—everyone is very proud of her. We all wish her the best."

Peña's background includes ballet and modern dance, but he specializes in Mexican folk dance. He advises

aspiring dancers to explore and master other styles of dance in order to become well-rounded individuals and to stand out from the competition.

"Right now, in the dance world, specifically in the Mexican folkloric dance world, if you make it professionally, these dance companies are not looking for just Mexican *folklórico* dancers, they are looking for a well-rounded dancer," he said. "They have to be trained in jazz, ballet ... and other [styles] to be able to make it professionally."

Additionally, Peña encourages

Lozano to stay motivated and keep striving for more greatness.

"I'm sure she is going to move up," he said. "My advice would be to never give up and to always move forward and keep learning from everyone—directors, dancers, teachers—just don't stop trying."

Sara Sanchez, a folklorico director at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Southwest Early College High School and at the Jaime Escalante and Kennedy middle schools, also taught Lozano.

"I met her in 2006, she was my first student, actually," Sanchez said. "We went to a summer camp workshop together the summer before the semester began. She was an incoming freshman at Valley View High School."

Sanchez recalls Lozano's upbeat attitude and energy she carried through her dance.

"She was always just very positive about life and anything going on with anybody," she said. "She always had a positive outlook and was always self-motivated to perform, learn and want to be in school."

Lozano also considers herself to be self-driven.

"Something that inspires me is the [ability] to inspire others," she said.

Sanchez commends Lozano for her achievement and all the growth she has experienced.

"I feel like a proud mom, I'm so excited for her," Sanchez said. "I don't have any children of my own, so my students are my children. What gives me joy [as a teacher] is seeing my students succeed, especially after being with me [from ninth to 12th grades]."

She wishes the best for Lozano in her upcoming projects and values being able to share the journey with her.

"I'm very proud to see her growth from when she was 14 years old," Sanchez said. "It's something very impressionable to see, not only the talent, but the person grow and still have the same motivation and drive to do what they love to do."

TRUMP

Continued from Page 1

the airport minutes before Trump's visit.

Patrick told reporters the situation regarding the U.S.-Mexico border is a real crisis.

"Five hundred thousand people were apprehended just in the last year, from San Diego to Brownsville," he said. "The state troopers apprehended or seized 94½ pounds of Fentanyl last year. If you break that down, that's 21 million lethal cases, I mean lethal doses."

He said that is only a small portion of the total amount of drugs that come into the country.

"This is a real crisis and the Democrats and the media ... they either deny the facts or they're smart enough

to figure it out, or they're deceiving the public 'cause they know the truth and they're lying to the American public."

Patrick said he expected

to see Trump today and talk to him to come up with a solution to the crisis.

Earlier in the day, as security, airport officials

and the news media prepared for the president's visit, a group of about 50 Trump supporters showed up at a La Plaza Mall sidewalk, across

from the airport on Wichita Avenue and South 10th Street, to show their support for the president.

Similarly, a group of protesters arrived at the scene

promise.

Bianca Castro, a UTRGV psychology senior and member of the No Border Wall Movement, the Industrial Workers of the World and the Young Democratic Socialists of America, said she attended the protest to stand with the community against Trump.

Asked what she would tell Trump if she had the chance to speak with him, Castro replied, "Give up your seat. Abolish your presidency."

She does not agree with

Trump's request for \$5.7 billion to fund the border wall in order to stop the government shutdown.

"He's proven, once again, that he won't stand for the working class," Castro said. "He won't stand for the proletariat, for the people who make this country run. I think that it's petty that ... he's using [the border wall] to shut down the government."

At 1 p.m., Trump left the McAllen airport escorted by security to then meet with several officials at the McAllen U.S. Border Patrol station to discuss his case on border security and the wall.

He departed for Washington, D.C., around 4 p.m.

“He’s proven, once again, that he won’t stand for the working class. He won’t stand for the proletariat, for the people who make this country run. I think that it’s petty that ... he’s using [the border wall] to shut down the government.”

--Bianca Castro
UTRGV psychology senior

to express their discontent with the president's proposals, such as the border wall, which is probably his most famous campaign

PARKING

Continued from Page 1

especially to people who take afternoon classes, like I did in my freshman year," said Kelly Lopez, a history major on the Edinburg campus.

Lopez said her experiences with parking on campus have caused her to lose time and sleep, in order to get to campus hours earlier to ensure a spot.

Asked about the parking counters and pay stations, she replied, "I personally don't think these new counters will be that useful, but those new card electronic pay stations sound really cool and kind of convenient."

Parking Services Director Pablo

Aguilar said that he, the department staff and others, came up with an alternative solution. Working to implement these improvements since last year, they hope it will result in less time and resources devoted to driving around searching for parking spots.

The Parking Logix solar-powered parking counter is on a 45-day trial starting today and will be located solely in Lot E9 on the Edinburg campus. Officials will gradually begin gathering data and feedback from students and faculty on the system.

"We want to see if it's going to work for us, if it's going to provide an accurate number, and if it's going to be effective at all, as we start getting feedback from our students and our other patrons,"

Aguilar said.

Asked about the cost and expansion of the parking counters, Aguilar replied, "If successful, our incentive is to expand beyond Lot E9 and to try to pay for them by finding a budget, but at the moment, we don't have an exact price."

The new electronic parking meters installed in both Edinburg and Brownsville are set to go live today, replacing the coin-operated meters.

"It'll be easier for visitors to now just swipe their cards instead of searching for coins since, at times, coins aren't always available," Aguilar said.

The meters will also let users extend their time via text message, relieving the stress of possibly getting a ticket for running out of time.

The Edinburg pay station will be located in Lot E4, while the one in Brownsville will be set in Lot B1, across from Sabal Hall.

Carlos Escudero, a student on the Brownsville campus, said he thought the pay stations would mostly benefit visitors coming to campus.

"I know certain visitors didn't know that they had to go online and print out the paperwork and sometimes they would park and they would get a parking citation," Escudero said.

He said there should be parking for visitors that is easily recognizable so they won't go through this experience when visiting campus.

Track & Field ready to begin indoor season

Juanita Maldonado
SPORTS EDITOR

The UTRGV Track & Field Men's and Women's teams welcome the Spring 2019 indoor season with new goals in mind.

In Spring 2018, UTRGV introduced Darren Flowers as the new head coach for Track & Field. Flowers made sure that his athletes left their mark during the 2018 indoor season.

On the men's side, freshman runner Abraham Chirchir was crowned the champion in both the 5,000-meter (14:35.03) and 3,000-meter (8:28.40) runs.

As a junior, Anthony Magallon conquered a WAC Championship in the high jump after clearing a height of 2.06 meters, which ranked as the third-highest mark in program history.

Now a senior, Magallon wants to accomplish more than just holding the third-highest mark in the high jump.

"I thought anything was possible last year with everything that was going on, but I am not satisfied," he said. "That's not good enough. It

doesn't feel good enough, yet. I would like to be No. 1 in program history for sure."

UTRGV won a fourth WAC Championship title in the shot put. Junior Paul May triumphed after throwing 16.58 meters.

Other standouts in the WAC indoor championships were the men's 4x400-Meter Relay, composed of sophomores Ricardo Mendoza and Carlos Serna-Hernandez, freshman Mikel Escobar and junior Dimitris Levantinos, who finished fifth overall.

In the men's 3,000-Meter Run, freshmen Gabriel Kiprono finished fourth (8:36.41) and Juan Manzano placed 13th (8:57.18). Junior Alberto Herrera came in 17th (9:09.66) and freshman Jose Serna rounded up UTRGV with an 18th-place finish (9:15.36).

UTRGV gathered more top finishes in the 800-Meter Run with a second-place finish from Mendoza (1:58.86) and a fifth-place finish from Escobar (1:56.41).

In the 400-Meter Dash, junior Yariel Matute sprinted to a second-place finish (48.40s), alongside Serna Hernandez

(49.42s), who captured fifth. Matute also captured sixth in the 200-Meter Dash (22.24s).

Under the field events, senior Antonio Salinas and sophomore Michael Gonzalez earned third (15.70m) and sixth (14.59m), respectively, in the men's shot put. In the high jump, freshman Mauricio Campos jumped to a seventh-place finish (1.91m).

Overall, the men's team earned fourth place, right behind Grand Canyon University, Utah Valley University, Chicago State University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

On the women's side, junior Idatonye Cheetham-West was coronated as the WAC champion in the long jump after leaping 6.03 meters. Her jump set a new program record.

West transferred that success to the 200-Meter Dash and the 60-Meter Dash, where she placed second (24.53s) and third (7.54s), respectively.

This season, West said she has bigger plans in mind.

"My goals are so much bigger than what they were last year because now I know actually what I can do," she said. "I don't want to say winning, but it is going to be performing to the best of my ability. Performing better than last year because I know that I can. "If anybody thought last year was the best I could do, this year is going to be crazy."

Top finishes in the WAC Championship also included junior Dai'ja Coleman, who finished second (12.10m), and junior Kassandra Rocha, who placed 10th (11.09m) in the Triple Jump.

In the women's 60-Meter Dash, senior Jovanna Jones sprinted to a fifth-place fin-



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER
Senior Idatonye Cheetham-West prepares for the 200- and 60-meter dash for the Track & Field indoor season.

ish (7.72s). Jones also earned third place in the 200-Meter Dash (24.80s).

Juniors Destiny Rutherford (57.34s) and Valerie King Mancha (58.24s) earned a sixth- and seventh-place finish, respectively, in the 400-Meter Dash.

In the 4x400-Meter Relay, junior Felicia Wills, Jones, Mancha and Rutherford captured second place (3:50.43).

Overall, the women's team earned a fifth-place finish at the WAC Championship.

Flowers plans to transfer that success and more to the 2019 season.

"A lot of it is going to fall on development," he said, "continuing what we did with those returners from last year and

picking up where they left off. "I think you're gonna see a lot more depth out of this program and I think you are gonna see another level-up, performance-wise, from the team, overall, and those returners that had such a good year last year on breaking school records."

The Vaqueros enter 2019 with 80 student athletes. All of the athletes will vie for a spot in the final 28 men and 28 women who will be chosen to represent UTRGV at the WAC Indoor Championships.

UTRGV kicked off the indoor season last Friday at the Ted Nelson Invitational in College Station. Results were unavailable at press time.



COURTESY PHOTO UTRGV ATHLETICS
UTRGV senior Anthony Magallon participates in the high jump at one of last year's indoor track meets.

National glory

Ramiro Barrera
THE RIDER

A Team Has No Name at UTRGV won the 2019 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Flag Football Championships men's division, held Jan. 3 to 6 at the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

The UTRGV team defeated Georgia College 40-26 in the championship game. A Team Has No Name won six games before reaching the championship game, finishing with a 7-0 overall record.

Three of the team's players were named to the All-Tournament Team: senior accounting major Salvador "Sal" Martinez, senior exercise science major Diego Chrysler and graduate accounting major Armando "AJ" Garza. Garza was also awarded All-Tournament Most Valuable Player.

The Flag Football season began last fall. The road to victory began when the team started playing in the Fall League (Intramural phase) at University Recreation in UTRGV. At the end of October and beginning of November, they played the Valley Bowl (Regionals) where they competed with other local teams.

Before it advanced to nationals, A Team Has No Name played the state phase at the University of Texas at Austin in November.

Athlete Rolando Diaz, a senior kinesiology major, said they had the confidence to participate at nationals and win the championship.

"We knew that once we got the opportunity to go and play, that we had a really good shot at winning the champi-

onship," Diaz said. "From the start, we all had the confidence. Flag football is something that's huge here in the Valley that not a lot of people do anywhere. So, although we might not be the most athletic or the most organized, we are the most skilled and the most technical."

Diaz described the difficulties the team faced to get the national recognition.

"One of the most difficult things is actually going and making it to Florida. I mean there are some schools that their school funds them \$8,000. ... For us, although they do pay the hotels and we are grateful for that, we also do fundraisers on the side."

Next season will begin in Fall 2019 at the UREC intramurals.



PHOTOS COURTESY JACKIE NIÑO

A Team Has No Name from UTRGV won the 2019 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Flag Football Championships men's division. Members are (kneeling, from left) Robert Guajardo, Salvador Martinez, Dani Talamantez and Michael Flores. Standing: Rolando Diaz, Isaac Martinez, Armando Garza and Diego Chrysler.



A Team Has No Name won first place in the 2019 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Flag Football Championships men's division, which took place Jan. 3 to 6 at the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

This week's home game schedule

Women's Basketball
•7 p.m. Thursday vs. Utah Valley University at UTRGV Fieldhouse
•7 p.m. Saturday vs. Seattle University at UTRGV Fieldhouse

Women's Tennis
•11 a.m. today vs. Sam Houston State University at UTRGV Orville I. Cox Tennis Center



LUNCH SPECIALS

11AM-3PM

SUNDAY BRUNCH

11AM-3PM

CIVILIZED BURGERS *for* UNCIVILIZED APPETITES

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RECAP*Continued from Page 1*

3.12.1)

--Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status policy compliance,

(Comprehensive standards 3.13)

--Publication of accreditation status (Comprehensive standards 3.14.1)

--Recruitment materials (Federal requirement 4.6)

"When we were first placed on probation, I was not, of course, happy, but I was also not completely surprised because we had to change course; we had to change the way we were doing the consolidation of the two institutions," Bailey said, referring to the merger of legacy institutions University of Texas at Brownsville and the University of Texas-Pan American.

He said the university had only three months to prepare before operating as UTRGV.

"When you have to do something with that short of time frame, you're gonna make some mistakes; there's gonna be some issues," Bailey said. "I was not entirely surprised. ... I knew that all you really have to do is address the issue. They are all addressable issues. It's not a matter of overconcern. It's just a matter of understanding that the work has to be done, and you have to do it. That's what we did."

As *The Rider* reported on Jan. 18, 2017, UTRGV administrators met with officials from SACSCOC to discuss the details of the 10 accrediting standards the university violated.

UTRGV also received a letter from SACSCOC in January 2017 stating that "the documentation submitted indicates that the [university] failed to provide timely and accurate information to the Commission, and/or failed to conduct a candid self-assessment of compliance with the Principles of Accreditation and to submit this assessment to the

Commission. This is viewed as lack of full commitment to integrity."

Addressing the issues

Bailey said after receiving the letter, UTRGV officials immediately began to address the issues.

"There were technical issues that had resulted from timing from the transition, so they were not difficult issues to address, but there were things we really had to address," he said.

In a March 23, 2017, interview with *The Rider*, Bailey said some of the technical issues about the transition had already been resolved with SACSCOC. What the university was doing at that time was handling some of the communication issues, most of which had to do with the website.

The university failed to comply with the agency's Principles of Accreditation federal requirement 4.7, which was not one of the original 10 accreditation standards the university failed to meet in 2016.

Federal requirement 4.7 of the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation states: "The institution is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended. (In reviewing the institution's compliance with these program responsibilities, the Commission relies on documentation forwarded to it by the U.S. Department of Education.) (Title IV program responsibilities)"

In an email from Bailey dated Dec. 5,

and conditions of federal awards that may have direct and material effect on the Student Financial Assistance Cluster.

Oct. 9 to 11, 2018, a SACSCOC committee visited the campus to make a final determination on reaffirmation of accreditation.

UTRGV addressed issues regarding cash management process, special tests and return of Title IV funds, enrollment reporting and student loan repayment.

The SACSCOC committee's report was "very encouraging," according to the UTRGV president.

Probation lifted

On Dec. 11, 2018, SACSCOC removed UTRGV from its probationary status after the university successfully addressed the agency's Principle Accreditation federal requirement 4.7.

If UTRGV is placed on probation for a second time in the future, Bailey said the university will undergo the same process.

"Most faculty understand the [SACSCOC] process," he said. "I think students, in particular, worried about what it meant. If you're a student, you don't understand what probation means. We were always completely accredited. I think faculty understood that. I think most faculty understood that these were technical issues."

After the announcement of UTRGV's probationary status being lifted, Bailey told *The Rider* the university can now devote resources it has been using to get out of probation for other things.

"The school has always been accredited and it's still accredited," he said in a phone interview on Dec. 11, 2018. "What it means now is that we don't have to continually be monitored by the accrediting agency the same way we were. ... We've always been accredited and probation just means that you're being watched carefully and you have to prepare reports and you have to be evaluated. So, all of that is gone."

“When we were first placed on probation, I was not, of course, happy, but I was also not completely surprised because we had to change course; we had to change the way we were doing the consolidation of the two institutions.”

--Guy Bailey
UTRGV President

From Oct. 16 to 19, 2017, a SACSCOC special committee visited the UTRGV campuses to discuss the school's probationary status.

As *The Rider* reported on Oct. 2, 2017, Bailey said university officials successfully addressed each of the findings.

Probation continues

Although UTRGV addressed the 10 accreditation standards in 2016, the university remained on probation for one more year for failure to comply with a federal requirement about program responsibilities.

2017, the president said the university was pending a SACSCOC review of a statewide single audit for Fiscal Year 2017, conducted by the Texas State Auditor's Office.

As reported by *The Rider* on March 19, 2018, the audit, released on Feb. 22, 2018, was used to obtain an understanding of internal controls over compliance, assess control risk of noncompliance and perform tests of those controls unless they are deemed ineffective, and to express an opinion on whether the state complied with federal statutes, regulations, and terms