

UT SYSTEM CHANCELLOR VISITS EDINBURG CAMPUS

Steven Hughes

FOR THE RIDER

University of Texas System Chancellor James Milliken visited the Edinburg campus last Thursday to speak about how the university is operating during the pandemic.

Milliken said he talked to UTRGV President Guy Bailey and Deputy President and Interim Provost Janna Arney regarding how the different online learning environments are performing. He met with students who are scheduled to graduate in December and are “hoping for in-person graduation.”

Asked about the conversations he had with the students, Milliken replied the importance of them continuing their education, even though it is remote learning. He said there are challenges students face, such as decreased occupancy in labs to maintain safety and student teaching having to follow safety guidelines.

“They were, I think, excited to be back in school in the fall and looking forward to continue and graduate,” Milliken said during a news conference in the Visitors Center.

He said the UT System is working with lawmakers in Congress on the CARES Act. As of Aug. 13, over \$11 million has been distributed, according to UTRGV’s CARES Act Report-



Steven Hughes/FOR THE RIDER

University of Texas System Chancellor James Milliken speaks during a news conference last Thursday on the Edinburg campus. Milliken praised UTRGV’s educational efforts amid the pandemic.

ing webpage. He said there could be another care package on the way and it is “under debate right now.”

Students back-to-school Zoom stories Page 7

Compared to other UT System institutions, Milliken said UTRGV has a higher need of financial

aid for its first-generation students, Pell Grant recipients and other financial aid population, noting that a primary reason

for students to drop out is financial stress.

Hundreds of schools attempted to have students return to campus during the pandemic. But some, such as the University of Notre Dame, made headlines for its increase in COVID-19 cases after welcoming back its students.

Milliken said the UT System will continue to monitor with the leadership of the 14 institutions and not “make an across-the-board standard.”

“We thought it was important

that we plan to be open in some way because that was the way we were going to try to keep people on a path to graduate,” he said. “We also knew these plans had to be flexible and that we have to be able to shift quickly, if necessary.”

Milliken said that international students faced challenges as well. Aside from the “mixed messages” of international students returning to the United States or coming to the country if classes were com-

See **CHANCELLOR**, Page 7

Student orgs go virtual

Fernanda Figueroa

THE RIDER

Not only are most classes moving online this semester, but also due to the coronavirus pandemic, all UTRGV student organizations will be operating virtually this semester, university officials say.

Events, meetings and fundraisers will not be allowed to be held in person on campus and should be held virtually through Zoom, Skype and/or Microsoft Teams, said April Muñoz, Student Organization program coordinator.

“As of right now, organizations do need to operate 100 percent virtual until further notice,” Muñoz said.

“**Organizations do need to operate 100 percent virtual until further notice.**”

She said her office is contacting student organizations.

“We are letting them know we are excited for the fall semester although it is going to look different,” Muñoz said.

See **ORGANIZATION**, Page 2



COURTESY PHOTO

UTRGV Vice President and Director of Athletics Chasse Conque.

Conque celebrates first year at UTRGV

Ivan Palacios

THE RIDER

Chasse Conque celebrated his first year as vice president and director of Athletics at UTRGV last week. One year since his arrival, Conque feels great about the year as a whole.

“We couldn’t be more happy to be here,” he said. “It’s hard to believe. Some days it seems like it’s been longer. And some days I can’t believe that I stepped foot on this campus for the first time a year ago. But it’s a wonderful place.”

Conque came to UTRGV after living in Arkansas for the last 19 years. He and

his family, which includes his wife and three daughters, have embraced the Rio Grande Valley as home, creating many memories over the last year.

“My wife’s birthday is in December, and it was one of our off weekends, so we were able to go down to [South Padre] Island and spend the day on the beach there,” Conque said in regard to one of his favorite memories with his family. “Who would have ever thought that in December I’m an hour away from the coast and get to have that kind of day for her.”

He describes his first year as a tale of

See **CONQUE**, Page 2

UTRGV COVID-19 testing sites continue services



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

COVID-19 testing will continue through Fall 2020. Students and employees can schedule an appointment to get tested at the Edinburg or Brownsville testing site. A preliminary COVID-19 screening over the phone is required before scheduling an appointment.

Jacqueline Peraza

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will continue offering COVID-19 testing throughout Fall 2020 to students and employees at its Health Service Clinics and testing sites on Edinburg and Brownsville campuses.

Scott Spear, medical director for Student & Employee Health and an associate professor of pediatrics, said the

Health Service Clinics have been testing students for the virus for about three or four months now.

“Fairly early into the pandemic, we started offering the testing,” Spear said. “First through our reference lab and then, more recently, through the UTRGV lab that’s responsible for offering the tests at the drive-thru sites.”

He said the clinics will offer their

See **TESTING**, Page 6

THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
Virtual Census
Party
The UTRGV
Student Life

Facebook page will go live from noon to 2 p.m. with **music, prizes and trivia** to inform students about the census. Students can RSVP on VLink. For more information, visit utrgv.edu/2020census.

Finding Your Familia

Hosted by the **Leadership & Mentoring Department**, **Finding Your Familia** is dedicated to bringing people together who share similar identities. Students can sign up via VLink. **First-generation college students** will meet

today, **Women of STEM** will meet Tuesday, **LGBT+ Student Space** Wednesday and **Women of Color** Thursday, all at 6 p.m. Friday, **Black Student Space** will meet at 5 p.m. and **Students of Faith** at 7 p.m.

Thursday

Late Night with UREC

University Recreation will inform students about its programs and services virtually from 6 to 8 p.m. Students can **RSVP via VLink** to secure their **Late Night T-shirt, while supplies last, and be entered into prize drawings** throughout the event. For accommodations, contact urec@utrgv.edu.

UTRGV SOM Fireside Chat:

LGBTQIA+ Series: Sex and Gender

A discussion with Jose Aaron Hinojosa, program coordinator for the Center for Diversity & Inclusion, about **sex and gender** will take place from noon to 12:30 p.m. Students will understand the **difference between sex and gender, learn about gender identity, expression, attraction and to examine how our society can relearn what we know and how we interact with others**. Register in the UTRGV Training Services Portal, <https://webapps.utrgv.edu/it/training/index.cfm?event=login>.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 17 and 24.

Aug. 17

1:14 p.m.: A staff member at the UTRGV Bursar's Office reported a female student attempted to make a payment with a counterfeit \$20 bill. The bill was

confiscated and will be sent to the Secret Service. The case is under investigation.

Aug. 18

8:59 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Math and Science Academy Building in Edinburg in reference to a staff member reporting losing seven university-issued keys. This report was generated for documentation purposes.

10:47 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Edinburg Liberal Arts Building South in reference to a single vehicle accident involving a university-owned vehicle. The operator of the vehicle attempted to drive around the bollards striking one of them and causing major damage to the right back quarter panel of the vehicle. No injuries were reported.

12:15 p.m.: A staff member reported that while driving a state-owned vehicle on the expressway, the rear driver's side window was struck and broken by an unknown projectile. This report was generated for documentation purposes.

Aug. 19

3:21 p.m.: A staff member reported leaving her bike secured to the bike rack at the Brownsville Music, Science and Learning Building sometime during the week of March 2020. The case is under investigation.

Aug. 20

1:42 p.m.: An officer assisted the Secret Service with an investigation in reference to a social media post. This report was generated for documentation purposes.

Aug. 21

10:50 a.m.: A female staff member reported losing her university-issued key at her off-campus residence.

2:38 p.m.: An officer reported to the Learning Assistance Center in Edinburg in reference to a tilted light pole. It is unknown at this time what caused the light pole to tilt. The case is under

investigation.

11:57 p.m.: Officers responded to a disturbance involving a male and female student in parking Lot E-7 in Edinburg. The investigation confirmed there had only been a verbal dispute. Both parties left their separate ways without any incident.

Aug. 23

10:06 a.m.: A student reported a gold chain was stolen from his apartment in The Village Apartments. The student reported the apartment was left unsecured due to the ongoing construction. The case is under investigation.

Aug. 24

2:15 a.m.: A staff member reported suffering a small cut and swelling to his left wrist while manually closing the industrial elevator door in the Engineering Building in Edinburg. The staff member refused emergency medical attention. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

--Compiled by Fernanda Figueroa

CONQUE

Continued from Page 1

two half-years, with the COVID-19 pandemic causing changes midway through.

"Those first six months were very fast-paced," Conque said. "A lot of work. A lot of fun work. A lot of engaging with different folks throughout the Valley. Then mid-March hit and things changed dramatically. So you look and the last six months have been very reactive, especially those first few months after COVID came onto the scene."

He remains optimistic about the future of UTRGV Athletics despite the unprecedented circumstances he has faced in the second half of the year.

"While we are going through some interesting times, I truly am optimistic that not only will we get through this but our best days are certainly still ahead," Conque said.

The athletics director came into his first year looking to "Rally the Valley," placing an emphasis on engaging not only the campus community but also the community of the Rio Grande Valley.

The campaign could be labeled as a success as UTRGV baseball, women's and men's basketball all saw an increase in attendance during Conque's first year.

Among these was a sellout crowd for the "Pack the House" game between the UTRGV Men's Basketball Team and New Mexico State University. Volleyball also recorded its third-best attended season in history.

Adding to Conque's list of first year accomplishments is the opening of Vaquero Village on his 100th day on the job. Vaquero Village offers fans a new pregame experience, once again emphasizing Conque's plan to engage with the community.

But he deemed his biggest accomplishment as the academic success of the student athletes this last year. UTRGV student athletes saw an increase in cumulative GPA to 3.38, with 218 recording over a 3.0.

"Our record-breaking academic success, that needs to be No. 1," Conque said. "It was really impressive coming out with a 3.38 cumulative GPA. We knew we wanted to improve on that. We're super proud of that."

He attributes the success of his first year to those around him who helped build the foundation of UTRGV Athletics.

"The senior leadership here, whether it be Kelly Scrivner, Veronica Gonzales, of course President Bailey, Dr. Janna

Arney, those folks were so key in my first few months in making sure that I got in front of the right folks, that I met the right people," Conque said. "They knew that it was going to take a village and will continue to take a village to develop and enhance UTRGV Athletics."

Now, with one year under his belt, Conque looks to build off the momentum built during his first year and continue to "Rally the Valley."

"The next piece of the puzzle is rallying the Valley to get that valley-wide support for our teams," he said. "And we're going to do that by taking our teams to Cameron County, and not just our activities on our Brownsville campus but playing over at Padre Island. We're going to do that by taking our marquee games to Bert Ogden Arena. We're going to do it by taking tennis matches and soccer matches to the Brownsville area and Cameron County. And so the more we can do that, the more we can truly paint the picture that we're not just asking the community to support us, but we're gonna come to you and we're gonna compete and do what we can in your own backyard. And once we accomplish that and do it consistently, that's where the magic will really start to happen."

ORGANIZATIONS

Continued from Page 1

"Nothing is going to be put into a hold, just going to have to be realigned."

For student organizations, operating in a 100% virtual capacity is new but the transition to online during the spring semester has helped ease the process.

"With everything that happened in the spring and when we started ... we had the plans ahead of time," signed Rodrigo Uresti, president of the American Sign Language (ASL) Club. "We learned a lot from spring and now we

are using Zoom for our members so they can also learn."

With this transition a lot of student organizations are relying heavily on social media platforms to help increase their recruitment and even reach out to others outside the university.

"Social media has been with us before the pandemic, but we use it more often now," said Julian Gallegos, vice president Internal of the Association of Latino Professionals for America. "We post our events, we make sure people hear about it through Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn."

Muñoz encourages student organizations and students to attend the virtual involvement fairs held by the Leadership and Mentoring Office through VLink. Organizations can use this opportunity to engage students and recruit them.

"Overall, we are just trying to keep our organizations motivated and encouraged to keep operating," Muñoz said.

For information about specific organizations and their events, visit <https://utrgv.campuslabs.com/engage/>. --Ana Lillia Hernandez, ASL Club vice president, helped interpret.

How to register, vote during COVID-19

Omar Zapata

THE RIDER

With Election Day fast approaching, elections administrators in Hidalgo and Cameron counties are reminding citizens that the deadline to register to vote or to make changes to one's voter registration is Oct 5.

They also explained how voting will be conducted for the Nov. 3 election amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Remi Garza, Cameron County elections administrator, told The Rider that the county's election website has the application online as well as instructions on how to mail it in. He also said people have the option of going to the Cameron County elections office, located at 1050 E. Madison St. in Brownsville, and filling out the form there.

Garza said he thinks Cameron County will have one of the highest turnouts in county history this election season.

"In 2016, we had about 185,000 registered voters," he said. "Right now, Cameron County has over 215,500 registered voters."

Yvonne Ramón, Hidalgo County elections administrator, said that voter registration information and instructions can be found on the county's website, as well, and stressed the importance of the application to be filled out correctly.

As of last Wednesday, Hidalgo County had 384,744 registered voters, according to its Elections Department website.

Early voting starts Oct. 13 and ends Oct. 30. Election Day is Nov. 3.

Voters in both counties have three voting options: at polling locations, curbside voting and mail-in ballots.

In Cameron County, 21 early



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

voting and about 70 Election Day polling sites will be available.

In Hidalgo County, Ramón said the list of voting sites will be finalized by mid-September but, hopefully, there will be about 30 for early voting and 73 for Election Day.

"Right now, Cameron County has over 215,500 registered voters."

**Remi Garza
Cameron County
elections administrator**

Garza said the UTRGV Brownsville campus will not serve as an early voting or Election Day polling location this year. The Cameron County Commissioners Court voted on Aug. 11 to move the polling location to Texas Southmost College's Jacob Brown Auditorium after the college requested their facility to be used as an early voting location.

Ramón said the UTRGV Edinburg campus will serve as an early voting and Election Day polling location.

Both counties have a county-

wide voting policy, which means registered voters may cast a ballot at any voting location in their county.

Garza said Cameron County is trying to make this election like any other while also practicing social distancing, wearing protective personal equipment and disinfecting polling locations on a regular basis.

Ramón said similar protocols will be implemented in Hidalgo County. It will have disposable styluses to minimize touching and will provide masks if a voter does not have one.

To request a mail-in ballot, voters must be 65 years or older, have a disability, be confined in prison or jail with the right to vote, or be out of the county during early voting or Election Day.

The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Oct. 23, and Ramón encourages voters to mail it as soon as possible.

"We are not in control of how quickly [they] process this ballot and deliver it to our office," she said, referring to the U.S. Postal Service.

Sylvia Gonzalez-Gorman, an assistant professor of political science, said she believes mail-

See **REGISTRATION**, Page 7



Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER

With parking lot use anticipated to be at only 30% this semester, Parking and Transportation Services will provide open parking in Zones 1 and 2.

Free parking for Fall 2020

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

Students do not need to purchase parking permits for the Fall 2020 semester after UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services announced that Zones 1 and 2 will be free.

Pablo Aguilar, director of Parking Services, said the university is aware of the effects of the pandemic on students, faculty, staff and the community and aims to help relieve financial stress considering the circumstances.

"We're all in this situation with COVID-19," Aguilar said. "We understand many people have lost their jobs and many people aren't working the same hours that they used to."

Parking demands for this semester are estimated to be at

about 30%, according to Aguilar, referring to the decreased number of students on campus because most classes are being offered online.

Zones 1 and 2 parking permits will not be sold for Fall 2020.

All students who purchased a parking permit for this semester have already had their charges reversed, according to Aguilar.

If students find parking permit charges that remain on their account, they may contact the Parking and Transportation office at 665-2738 in Edinburg or 882-7051 in Brownsville, or send an email to parking@utrgv.edu.

Students eligible for the Summer and/or Fall Relief Package were promised free Zones 1 and 2 parking permits, among other incentives. However, due to the decision to provide open parking, the university will no longer be sending out those permits for the fall semester.

"Those students who qualify for a free parking pass through Summer Relief [and]/or Fall Relief will get, in lieu of the parking pass, will get extra VBucks based on what a parking pass would cost for a semester," said

Students with any questions about parking permit charges, can email parking@utrgv.edu

Patrick Gonzales, UTRGV associate vice president for Univer-

sity Marketing and Communi-

cations. In the spring, students who are eligible for the Summer and/or Fall Relief Package will still be able to redeem their free permits, Aguilar said.

UTRGV's parking enforcement policy is subject to change in the Spring 2021 semester, according to an email sent by

See **PARKING**, Page 7

SGA discusses software access, appoints new senators



Screenshot by Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER

The Student Government Association appointed four new senators at last Wednesday's meeting.

Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

By the end of September, students should have access to Adobe Creative Cloud through Virtual Labs, said Samantha Aleman, SGA vice president for Edinburg, during the Student Government Association's meeting Wednesday.

Virtual Labs allows programs to be

run remotely without needing to install the software on personal computers, said Carlo Flores, SGA vice president for Brownsville.

However, students will need to connect to UTRGV's Wi-Fi to access Adobe Creative Cloud, said Aleman, who met with IT.

"Even if you're at the parking lot of the university, you can still get access through the Wi-Fi connection, and ...

go through the Virtual Labs, and you can get access to Adobe Creative Cloud," she said.

SGA also appointed four new senators during the Zoom meeting.

The newest senators are studio art senior Jose Lozano, senator for the College of Fine Arts; mechanical engineering senior Jorge Diaz, senator for the College of Engineering and Computer Science; political science senior Roxana Lopez, senator for the College of Liberal Arts; and nursing sophomore Mariana Estevan, senator for the School of Nursing.

Lozano said he would like to ensure students from the College of Fine Arts are in supportive environments, regardless of circumstances, and for these students to receive more promotion.

"There should be more promotion going on within the College of Fine Arts for the students that are graduating and their shows," he said.

Diaz said he wants to support student involvement and advocate for extracurriculars and undergraduate research. Student involvement is not only necessary for academic success, but also for career success, he said.

"I wasn't aware of the fact that we have a lot of undergraduate research in engi-

neering and science," he said. "I think it would be a great idea for students to be aware that those opportunities exist."

Lopez said she would like to help her college, specifically the Edinburg Liberal Arts Building South. To motivate current students, she would like UTRGV graduates to speak to them. Also, she wants to see more equal funding between the colleges.

"I'd like for funding to be, sort of, equal, so that people wouldn't be discouraged to do majors ... in Liberal Arts and other majors that don't get the same amount of funding," she said.

Estevan would work for better communication between advisers and students and advocate for better medical treatment for minorities.

"I would like to bring awareness to, like, different minorities," she said. "For example, like Black women in patient care, and ... as a healthcare worker themselves ... they don't get the equal treatment that they should."

There are currently five applications for positions in the judicial branch, pending a decision from the chief justice and SGA president. There are another four applications pending a decision for both legislative and executive positions, Flores said in an email to The Rider.



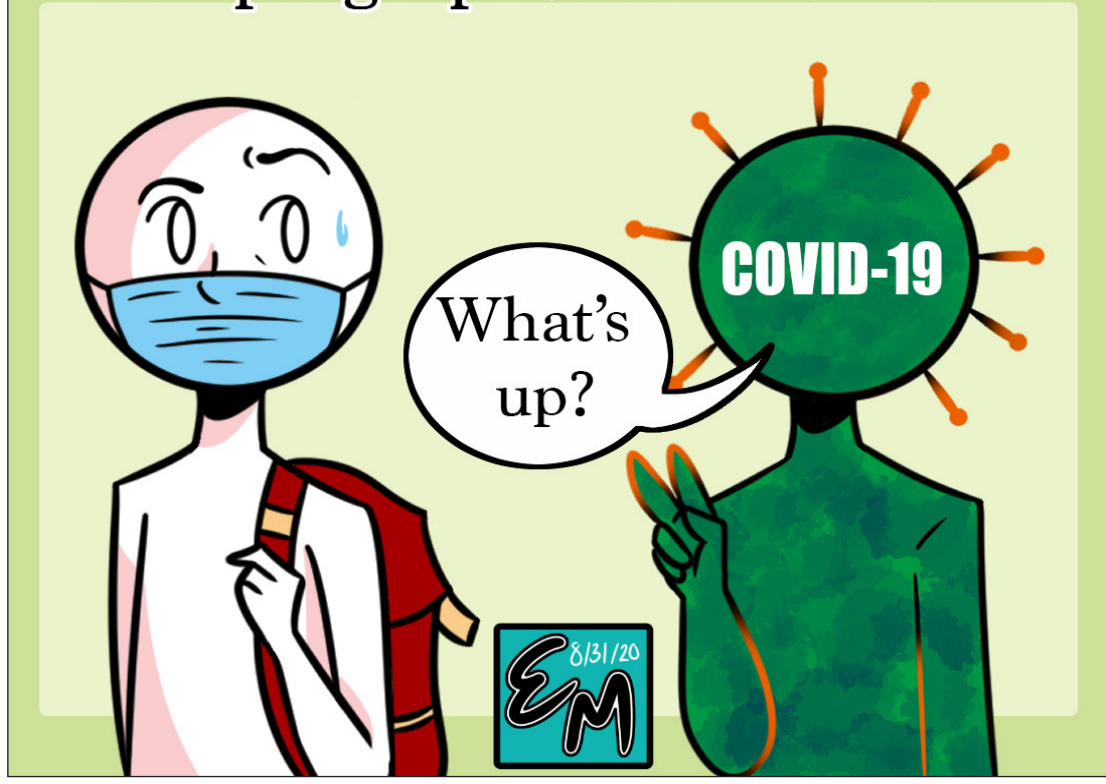
ONLINE ACTIVITIES

On Aug. 25 The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What type of online events would you like UTRGV to host more of?" The results are shown below.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE @UTRGVRIDER

Keeping up with attendance



What the heck am I supposed to do?



Fernanda Figueroa
THE RIDER

Entering my last undergrad semester, a scary thought crossed my mind, "I am not prepared for what comes after graduation." I have always had plan A through Z for everything in my life but right now "I don't even have a plan."

For me, the world has never seemed scarier. In less than a month, I'll begin applying to graduate programs. I know what schools I am applying to, for what degree, but I don't know whether I'll get in or not and that's the real daunting part.

College applications aren't all that terrifying. The real kicker is the mixture of 500-word essays asking why this school, who are you or where do you see yourself in five years. I have always found the why this school question terribly hard and the who you are question throws me into an existential crisis. I'm 21 years old, I don't really know who I am yet.

I am not expecting to get rejected but I'm also realistic. Colleges look at everything and while my grades are top tier, if I do say so myself, I fear that compared to at least 100 of the applicants I lack a bit of experience. I may be in the military, but I really doubt these graduate programs will care. As for journalistic experience, I've only worked in media relations for approximately a year and just became a reporter this semester, but I haven't really done anything amazing or written a groundbreaking story, yet, hopefully.

I don't fear rejection, actually I embrace it. It motivates me to do better. But if I apply to a graduate program and I don't get accepted, I don't know where to go on from there. I wouldn't even know where to start or who to ask. Just writing about it is giving me a panic attack.

How do I start looking for a job? Am I supposed to finally move out from home? What if I can't get a job? Am I going to have to work in retail? Please, no, I don't want to go back there. I am at a loss at what am I supposed to do if plan A doesn't work out.

If I get accepted into a

graduate program that will be amazing but what am I supposed to do then? How do I start packing to leave home? God, I'm going to have to leave home. Where do I start looking for an apartment? Do I want an apartment? They are so expensive. Am I going to have to get two jobs? I don't know how to cook anything other than pasta. How much are groceries? I'm going to need a new car; mine doesn't work anymore. I don't want to drive in a new city, I barely know the roads here; Do I come back home during breaks? Where do I buy furniture? I don't know how much things are supposed to cost!

I can't wait to graduate and have all my hard work pay off, but I don't know what will happen after. The not knowing is supposed to make life exciting, an adventure, but it is throwing me into panic attacks and an existential crisis. I don't know whether to laugh or to cry or do both. I know it will all work out in the end, hopefully, but right now I'll probably keep asking more and more questions, wondering, panicking and probably crying until I have plan A through Z ready.

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.



FOTO ARCHIVADA DE THE RIDER

Estudiantes celebran UTRGV Day el pasado otoño en el campus de Brownsville. En 2018-19, la universidad fue reconocida como la institución No. 4 en la cual los hispanos se inscribieron como alumnos de pregrado en Tejas, según Excelencia in Education.

Removiendo obstáculos para Hispanos

Paulina Longoria

THE RIDER

UTRGV fue reconocida por Excelencia in Education como la institución No. 1 en Tejas que otorgó la mayor cantidad de licenciaturas a hispanos en 2017-18.

Creada en el 2004 en Washington, D.C., Excelencia in Education acelera el éxito estudiantil de los latinos en la educación superior promoviendo el logro académico de los latinos, conduciendo análisis para informar de las políticas educativas y avanzando las prácticas institucionales, según su sitio web.

En 2018-19, UTRGV fue reconocido como la institución No. 4 en la cual los hispanos se inscribieron como alumnos de pregrado en Tejas, según el reporte "Latino College Completion in Texas" proporcionado por Excelencia in Education.

Ana Peña-Oliva, una profesora de lingüística hispánica y especialista del programa

de la licenciatura pregrado de español, dijo que este reconocimiento habla muy bien de la universidad porque está haciendo todo lo posible para que los estudiantes estudien y aprovechen las oportunidades que se les ofrece.

"Se me hace que es un reconocimiento muy importante porque como sabemos todos ... desgraciadamente a veces al español no le da el valor que tiene y a los hispanos, por lo tanto ... tampoco", Peña-Oliva dijo.

Ella dijo que como la especialista del programa de español ayuda a muchos estudiantes que están estudiando español y, con la certificación de maestro.

"Para mí, es importante ver que otros estudiantes de origen hispano también logren sus sueños", Peña-Oliva dijo. "El hecho de que tengas un acento o que quizás hayas emigrado a los Estados Unidos ... que no sea un obstáculo para que

puedan sobresalir".

La profesora dijo que ella siempre trata de apoyar a los estudiantes porque cree que esa es parte de su trabajo como miembro del docente.

En el 2019, UTRGV recibió a 29,113 estudiantes de los cuales 26,019, o el 89.4%, fueron hispanos, según información presentada por la Oficina de Análi-



Centro de Recursos DREAM

Brownsville: 882-5141
Edinburg: 665-2260

sis Estratégico e Información Institucional (SAIR, por sus siglas en inglés).

Daniela Tamayo, una estudiante de posgrado de ciencias de la informática, es una de las que recibieron su licenciatura en UTRGV. Tamayo se graduó en el otoño del 2018.

Se le preguntó cómo le ha ayudado su licenciatura en su carrera profesional.

"Me han dado oportunidades para hacer [investigación] ... cuando entré a la maestría", Tamayo dijo. "En el trabajo que estoy con el Graduate College ... me pusieron en una posición analizando [información] de los estudiantes".

Ella cree que UTRGV da muchas oportunidades a los hispanos. También dijo que siempre se ha sentido cómoda en la universidad.

"Aunque es otro país, me siento literal cómoda y familiar", Tamayo dijo. "Todas las personas que no son hispanas ... te hacen sentir parte de la familia".

Ella dijo que se siente orgullosa de todo lo que ha logrado siendo hispana.

Ana Vigil, una estudiante de último año de contaduría, está esperando graduarse en diciembre.

"Me hace muy feliz ver como UTRGV otorga muchas licenciaturas a los hispanos porque muchas personas ni siquiera

tienen la oportunidad de siquiera ir a la universidad y recibir un título ... y como UTRGV lo hace, es realmente increíble", Vigil dijo.

La estudiante le contó a The Rider que se siente muy bien respecto a la educación que está recibiendo en la universidad. Ella dijo que ha mejorado mucho en sí misma desde que era una estudiante de primer año.

"Los profesores son muy buenos", Vigil dijo. "En realidad me siento feliz de como UTRGV ha estado manejando todo. Hasta con la escuela en línea y con toda la pandemia, aún podemos tener tiempo de clases con nuestros profesores y obtener nuestra educación porque eso es lo más importante para nosotros y graduarnos".

Peña-Oliva está afiliada con el Instituto B3 de UTRGV, el cual es una iniciativa de universidad que facilita su misión

VEA HISPANOS, Páwwgina 7

Permaneciendo del lado seguro Las bibliotecas de UTRGV toman precauciones

Paulina Longoria

THE RIDER

La Biblioteca de la Universidad tendrá computadoras, acceso a impresoras y espacios abiertos para estudiar manteniendo el distanciamiento social durante este semestre. Las medidas de seguridad se han puesto en marcha por el coronavirus.

Paul Sharpe, decano de la Biblioteca de la Universidad, dijo que no están proporcionando salones para estudio grupal o individual ya que estos toman tiempo y trabajo atenuado para mantenerlos limpios.

"Tampoco estamos prestando libros por el momento, por la misma razón", Sharpe dijo. "También es muy difícil mantener limpios a la mayoría de nuestros materiales de impresión, especialmente para las cosas como course reserve, que usualmente significa que un

estudiante viene y toma prestado un libro por una hora o dos y, después lo regresa. Es muy difícil poder limpiar y después tenerlos listos y disponibles para el siguiente estudiante".

Él dijo que están trabajando con el docente y los instructores para eliminar cualquier necesidad de estar usando libros impresos. Ellos se asegurarán de escanear y digitalizar este material para que los profesores lo puedan subir a Blackboard.

"Se ha instalado plexiglás en todos nuestros puntos de servicio para proporcionar una barrera entre personal y alumnos durante sus interacciones", Sharpe dijo. "Estamos trabajando muy cerca con [Mantenimiento de Edificios]. Están haciendo limpieza adicional en algunas de las áreas de gran uso público, elevadores, escaleras, pomos de puertas. La biblioteca en sí está limpiando todas las sobremesas, las



Roxanna Miranda/FOTO DE THE RIDER

La Biblioteca de la Universidad no está prestando libros por el momento por la seguridad de los estudiantes, docente y personal. Los servicios que están disponibles son computadoras con acceso a Wi-Fi, impresoras y espacios de estudio abiertos manteniendo el distanciamiento social requerido.

computadoras que se están usando, las impresoras, los escáneres que están alcanzables para el uso público, todo eso se limpian varias veces al día".

Él dijo que la biblioteca del campus de Edinburg tiene un

límite de ocupación de alrededor de 175 estudiantes. Sólo el segundo y tercer piso estarán disponibles. En el campus de Brownsville el número límite de estudiantes es de 140.

"Si alcanzamos ese límite,

vamos a parar personas en la puerta, avisarles que ya alcanzamos nuestra capacidad y, darles, ya sea, sugerencias a que otros lugares pueden ir, como otros laboratorios de informática en el campus, si eso es lo que necesitan", Sharpe dijo.

Él dijo que es difícil para la biblioteca porque les gusta ser el "eje central para los campus".

"Es muy común en las primeras semanas de clases que los estudiantes lleguen y esperen por sus clases siguientes [o] se junten con sus amigos", Sharpe dijo. "Así que estamos cambiando la complejidad de la biblioteca al hacer que no sea un espacio social y en realidad que el enfoque sea simplemente ir a la escuela".

Él dijo que los estudiantes deben usar su protección facial y asegurarse de que necesiten ir físicamente a la biblioteca.

-Traducido por Paulina Longoria

NBA players take a stand

Playoffs are back after teams boycott

Robert Benavidez
THE RIDER

As a statement to support the Black Lives Matter movement, NBA players chose not to play last Wednesday after the shooting of Jacob Blake.

The protest began with the Milwaukee Bucks not taking the floor moments before Game 5 in their first-round matchup against the Orlando Magic. Soon after, players from the Los Angeles Lakers, Portland Trail Blazers, Oklahoma City Thunder and the Houston Rockets also chose to not play. All these teams were set to play last Wednesday.

After teams set to play last Thursday showed signs of also boycotting their games, the NBA decided to postpone their games and have a meeting, including all teams, last Wednesday night.

During the meeting, the L.A. Lakers and the Los Angeles-Clippers, arguably the two teams with the greatest chance



of winning the championship, voted to boycott the rest of the season and left the meeting early after voting.

The vote was not set as a final vote, but more of a poll as reported by NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski.

After several conversations

among each other in the NBA bubble and meetings that took place, teams have come to a collective decision to continue with the playoffs, but with changes that will help make social justice statements, as reported by Shams Charania for the Athletic.

This protest in the NBA sparked a protest of other sports, including the WNBA, professional baseball teams, soccer teams and tennis players, such as Naomi Osaka, who chose not to play last Wednesday.

The NBA resumed play-

off games last Saturday and released a joint NBA and NBPA statement that showed what they want to do moving forward.

The joint statement includes, "In every city where the league franchise owns and controls property, team governors will continue to work with local elections officials to convert the facility into a voting location for the 2020 general election."

It seems the players and the NBA felt that this was something that needed to be done moving forward, and their way of making a change. This is just one of the commitments included in the statement. To read the full statement, visit <https://www.nba.com/article/2020/08/28/nba-nbpa-joint-statement-social-justice>.

There are many differences of opinion on the matter at hand, but the NBA is doing what they believe is best in support of social justice and racial equality.

Athlete of the Week: Anna Barkey



COURTESY PHOTO Anna Barkey, junior midfielder, is from Colorado.

Q: What is your favorite sports memory?

A: "I think the semi final game at the [Western Athletic Conference] tournament. It was pretty exciting."

Q: Other than sports, what are your favorite hobbies?

A: "I'm from Colorado, so a lot of hiking. We have these mountains called fourteeners and their peak is 14,000 feet.

or higher, so those are like an 8-10-hour trip of walking. So, my friends and I spent a lot of time with those."

Q: What do you plan to pursue after graduating from college?

A: "I would love to play professionally. I think in Europe. Just to get that experience. Two-in-one, soccer and travel."

Q: Who do you credit the most for your pursuit of



COURTESY PHOTO STAVERNE JOSEPH Anna Barkey, junior midfielder at UTRGV, wants to travel and play soccer professionally in Europe.

athletics?

A: "Probably my dad. My dad and his side of the family all played college soccer, so it runs in the family."

Q: Who is your favorite celebrity?

A: "I love 'The Office' so the actor who plays Michael. Steve Carrell."

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: "If I am going to watch, I



COURTESY PHOTO STAVERNE JOSEPH Junior midfielder Anna Barkey has played soccer for 17 years.

always watch the U.S. Women's National Team."

Q: How long have you been playing soccer?

A: "Since I was 3, so 17 years."

Q: What is your favorite kind of music?

A: "Depends on the mood. I just like, I am really bad with music and artists, so I just like the songs that I can know the lyrics and sing out really loud with my friends, you know. So,

whatever is popular, I guess."

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: "Buffalo wings, the spicy kind."

Q: If you had to play any other sport what would it be and why?

A: "I played basketball back in the day. But I have always thought, I don't know, I feel like basketball."

--Compiled by Karina Rodriguez

TESTING

Continued from Page 1

testing services to students and employees for free until the end of the pandemic.

"We're covering the testing for students," Spear said. "You pay a fee every semester with your tuition and that's what helps us provide these services to you."

UTRGV students can also get tested at any of the four drive-thru testing sites located across the Rio Grande Valley:

--Lot E10 on West Van Week Street in Edinburg across from UT Health RGV Employee Health Clinic;

--Lot B4 on FJRM Avenue across from the Casa Bella Apartments in Brownsville;

--UTRGV Regional Academic

Health Center at 2102 Treasure Hills Blvd. in Harlingen; and,

--UT Health RGV/Knapp Family Health Center at 2810 W. Expy 83 in Mercedes.

Spear said, as of now, the locations of these sites are not set to change.

At both the Health Service Clinics and drive-thru testing sites, students planning on utilizing the service are required to call ahead for a preliminary COVID-19 screening over the phone before scheduling an appointment.

With the start of the semester and the return of people on campus, students and employees are being asked to fill out the Preliminary COVID-19 Screening Form online before visiting the university.

The form asks for students'

and employees' information as well as the reason for filling out the form, living arrangements, campus locations and other COVID-19-related questions.

"They should go to this website and report that they have these symptoms, or these exposures for these positive tests and the COVID-19 Response Team will contact them, call them back, and find out what is going on and determine whether they need to be tested sooner [or later]," Spear said, "[and] whether they need to isolate or quarantine based on whether they are ill or if they have been exposed to somebody."

The full form can be found at utrgv.edu/coronavirus/forms.

Ingrid Mariam Aleman, a biomedical sciences senior,

said she visited the Edinburg drive-thru site in June and had a good experience with the short wait time and prepared staff.

"I was so glad I got to go there because I had visited other testing sites in the Valley and the line was crazy long," Aleman said. "I did have to make an appointment, but that was also very easy."

Asked about her thoughts on UTRGV providing COVID-19 testing to students and employees, she replied, "I think it's great because, like, I know some places can be really expensive and right now since money is tight for a lot of families ... that's the perfect way."

Spear said he encourages everyone to be safe by practic-

ing social distancing, wearing appropriate facial coverings and high protection equipment around people, including family and friends.

"There are people who have a greater risk of being ill with [COVID-19] if they get it, but we have seen a lot of young people become very ill and even die because of [COVID-19]," he said. "It is not just a disease that affects the elderly and people who have health issues. So, we need to not just be concerned about passing the infection on, but also getting it ourselves. There's going to be students for whom this infection may be very serious and have very serious health implications."

When the Zoom mic goes hot

Fernanda Figueroa

THE RIDER

With classes moving online this semester, UTRGV students are finding themselves experiencing funny and embarrassing moments through Zoom.

During her first week back Abigail Rios, a political science senior, found herself in her Zoom class with her microphone unmuted while eating “crunchy hot Cheetos.” Rios didn’t realize that her microphone was unmuted and just kept seeing her classmates’ expressions of “What is she doing? Why is she not on mute?”

“It wasn’t until a few minutes that I noticed I wasn’t on mute,” Rios said. “My professor didn’t say anything, but I did notice some of my classmates were laughing and I was laugh-

ing at myself, too, because how could I not have noticed that my mic was not on mute.”

Zachary Ugarte, a criminal



Abigail Rios

justice sophomore was embarrassed by his mom on the first day of class when she decided to barge into his room asking him to do chores, all while his microphone was unmuted.

“All you hear is my mom call-

ing me,” Ugarte said. “I’m trying to mute my mic but I was on a different window so everyone just hears it. Now everyone knew I had to do chores. I just got up and left [the class].”

Professors are also a source of entertainment during online classes.

For Merary Saucedo, a social work junior, her professor’s five-minute conversation about brussels sprouts being her favorite vegetable provided all the entertainment she needed during these unconventional times.

“We were first talking about vegetables, then she was nam-

ing the vegetables she likes and started talking about brussels sprouts,” Saucedo said. “The whole class started laughing and it was just a funny moment

creating PowerPoints with pictures of his dogs asking questions.

“I could be accused of being a bit corny,” Sokoloff said. “I hope my students can sense that I’ve put my heart and soul in trying to create a positive learning environment.”

For many, these funny or embarrassing moments can really make the class more fun, lighten up the mood and help students during these stressful times, Saucedo said.

“I think these silly and random moments make it feel a little bit more normal,” Rios said. “It allows us to still have that time to laugh just as we could in [in-person] classes.”

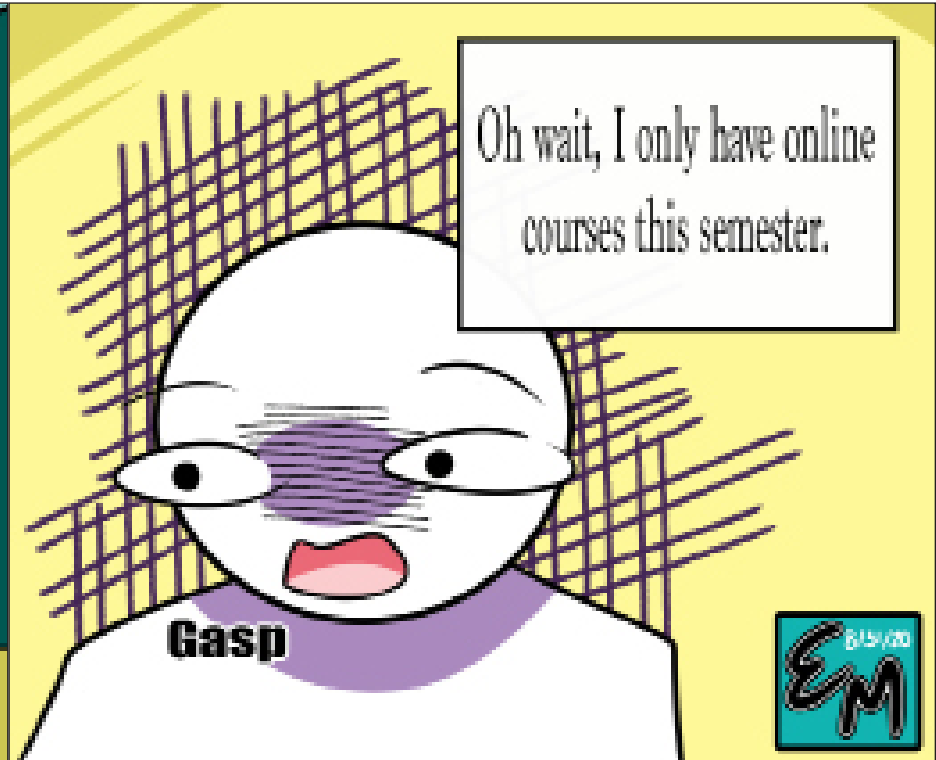
“I’m trying to mute my mic but I was on a different window so now everyone just hears it.”

that happened during class.”

William Sokoloff, a political science professor, is trying to add humor to his classes by

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



REGISTRATION

Continued from Page 3

in ballots are a valid option for everyone, especially during a pandemic.

“I think mail-in ballots have been found to be very valid,” said Gonzalez-Gorman. “They’re not fraudulent at all. ...Other states have mail-in voting, and they’ve had it for years ... and the cases of fraud are minimal.”

She said mail-in ballots have been politicized by the Trump

administration, which argues that mail-in voting is fraudulent.

Ramón said it is important that registered voters become informed of who and what is on their ballot this year since there is no more straight-party voting and will need to select their choice race by race.

“In the past, you were able to choose your party and the machine, or the ballot would automatically select all of the races under that particular party,” she said.

Ramón said knowing who you will vote for before showing up to a polling location will help speed up the process and reduce long lines.

Gonzalez-Gorman said, historically, the Rio Grande Valley has low voting rates, and this is a result of various factors.

“Low socio-economic communities don’t vote at high rates that other communities do. Why?” she said. “Because they’re more focused on work, they can’t take time off, they’ve got children to take care of,

so sometimes they don’t get out to the polls.”

Gonzalez-Gorman also said that the lack of political education and apathy to voting or people thinking, “Does my vote even matter?” are also factors that contribute to this.

Ramón said one of the things she dislikes is hearing people say, “Why should I vote if my vote does not count?”

“That is absolutely not true because we are strong in numbers and one thing that keeps the Rio Grande Valley from

being ... a strong voice is the fact that our voting numbers have consistently been low,” she said.

Ramón said she welcomes UTRGV students to help Hidalgo County during this election by working at a polling location.

For more information on how to register to vote and other election information, visit <https://www.hidalgo-county.us/105/Elections-Department> or <https://www.cameroncounty.us/elections/>.

CHANCELLOR

Continued from Page 1

pletely online, many were not able to get visas since visa windows have not been open.

He said he is impressed with how UTRGV planned its online education, the COVID-19 testing sites, and how he saw people at the Bursar Office last Thursday wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

“You can put all the rules in place

but at the end of the day, it’s students and the other members of the university community respecting each other and taking responsibility,” the chancellor said.

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PARKING

Continued from Page 3

University Marketing and Communications.

“The intention is to go back to normal in the spring, but that can change at any time,” Aguilar said.

In other UTRGV parking related news, the Parking and Traffic Advisory Committee (PTAC), seeks two students, one undergraduate and one graduate student, to serve on the panel.

The committee meets once a year to discuss parking issues that students

and faculty bring up.

“This is a terrific advisory committee that does get different perspectives from different people to move forward as a community,” Aguilar said.

Students interested in serving on the committee should contact the Student Government Association to seek a nomination at <https://utrgv.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/437128>.

“That would help us in the future making any changes that we need, any changes to policy or bringing anything new to our operations,” he

HISPANOS

Continúa de Página 5

de volverse una Institución de Servicios para Hispanos al ser bilingüe, bicultural y bialfabetizada, según su sitio web.

“Muchos estudiantes latinos llegan a la universidad sin saber suficiente inglés”, ella dijo. “Una manera [de] ...

ayudándoles [es] a dar clases en español o bilingües para que la lengua no sea un obstáculo y que ellos puedan continuar con sus estudios ... al menos al principio mientras van aprendiendo el inglés”.

“UTRGV está haciendo un buen trabajo no solamente en admitir a los estudiantes sino en encargarse de que terminen sus carreras, que no se queden a la mitad del camino”, Peña-Oliva dijo.

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Professors honored by regents

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

The University of Texas System Board of Regents awarded two UTRGV professors the Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award for their classroom performance and innovation.

Teresa Patricia Feria, biology professor, and Monica Reyes, former lecturer in the Department of Writing and Language Studies, will receive a certificate, a medallion and \$25,000 in appreciation of their impact on students and their institutions.

Nominees undergo a series of rigorous evaluations by students, peer faculty and external reviewers. The review panels consider a range of activities and criteria in their evaluations of a candidate's teaching performance, including classroom expertise, curricula quality, innovative course development and student learning outcomes, according to the UT System website.

Feria said when she received the email she was excited and happy to have been recognized. She had been nominated by

one of her peers.

"When you find that you are nominated, in my case, it was an exciting moment because you're seeing that other peers recognize the work that you



COURTESY PHOTO

Theresa (Paty) Feria, a UTRGV biology professor, was awarded a Regent Outstanding Teaching Award.

are doing," Feria said. "It's very nice because you feel appreciated, I feel like all the people have seen my work and they like it so that is inspiring, that gives me motivation to continue doing what I do."

She began teaching at lega-

cy institution the University of Texas-Pan American in 2008 and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses. She is proud that she has been able to design most of the courses she teaches and enhances other courses by adding components such as service learning, bilingual courses and Collaborative International Learning (COIL) courses, according to the UTRGV Newsroom.

Kristine Lowe, professor and chair for the Biology Department, said Feria was originally hired for landscape ecology, a branch of ecology that looks at a very large system in the ecosystem.

"Over the years she has added to the type of courses that she teaches and the way in which she teaches them," Lowe said. "Now, she has created new courses. She has developed community engagement courses and she incorporates community service into most of her courses."

She said Feria is the type of faculty member who puts students first.

"I thought it was very well deserved when she received the ROTA award. I think she's one of the types of teachers that epitomize what the best thing about that award is."

Monica Reyes had been with UTRGV since Fall 2015. Just as her teachers shared their excitement about their topics, she does the same with her students, sharing her passion



COURTESY PHOTO

Monica Reyes was also a recipient of the Regent Outstanding Teaching Award.

for community service.

Reyes will start teaching at DePaul University in Chicago,

Illinois. She received the award when she was at UTRGV.

Colin Charlton, professor and chair of Writing and Language Studies, said Reyes is the fourth in their department to receive the award.

"I thought it was kind of bittersweet because I found out that she got the award about the same time that she told me she got hired at DePaul [University]," Charlton said.

He said Reyes has a good balance of dedication and caring. She is attentive in making sure students have a good experience in her class.

"She embraced what meant to be a writing teacher and help students become better communicators," Charlton said. "I am thrilled that she got the award she greatly deserved it, and I know that she, even though she got the award here, and that she is moving into a new job, the award represents the impact that she had in this community and I have no doubt that she is going to have similar or greater impact at DePaul as well."

UTRGV libraries take precautions

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

The University Library will have computers, printing access and open study places in a socially distant manner for students during the fall semester. Safety precautions have been set in place due to the coronavirus.

Paul Sharpe, dean of the University Library, said they are not providing individual or group study rooms as those take time and attentive work to clean and maintain.

"We are not checking out books at this time as well, for the same reason," Sharpe said. "Most of our print materials are also very hard to keep those clean, especially for things like course reserve. That usually means that a student comes in and checks it out for an hour or two and then turns it back in. It's very hard to clean and get those turned back around so they could be available for the next student."

He said they are working with faculty and instructors to eliminate any need for using print books. They will make

sure course reserves can be provided either through electronic resources, ebooks, or if it's something only in print, they will make sure to scan and digitize that material so professors can place it on Blackboard.

"There has been plexiglass installed at all of our service points to provide a barrier between staff and students during their interactions," Sharpe said. "We're working very closely with [Building Maintenance]. They're doing extra cleaning on some of the high public use areas, elevators, stairwells, doorknobs. The library itself is cleaning all of the tabletops, the computers that are being used, the printers, the scanners that are out for public use. All of those get cleaned multiple times per day."

He said the library on the Edinburg campus has an occupancy limit of about 175 people. Only the second and third floors will be accessible. At the library on the Brownsville campus, the limit is 140.

"If we reach the limit, we will stop people at the door, advise them that we are



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Biomedical sciences sophomores Bryana Maldonado (left) and Brianna Navarro work on assignments Tuesday at the University Library on the Brownsville campus. The library will operate from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Facial coverings are required.

already at our capacity and either give them suggestions for other places to go, such as other computer labs on campus, if that's what they need," Sharpe said.

He said this is difficult for the library because they like to be the "central hub for the campuses."

"It's very common for the first week of classes for students to show up and wait

around for their next classes [or] meet up with friends," Sharpe said. "So we're changing the complexion of the library by making it less of a social place and really making it focus on the business of going to school."

He said students should wear their facial coverings and make sure they need to physically go to the library.

SGA

Continued from Page 3

During the meeting, the SGA also approved the fiscal budget for 2021. The fiscal year starts Sept. 1 and ends Aug. 31 of next year. The budget was completed by the executive team, specifically by SGA President Victoria Lozano, reviewed and approved by the Internal Affairs Committee and brought to the Senate for final approval, Senate Chair Yahia Al-Qudah said.

This year, a category has been removed from the budget: education. The category had no description, and it was

unaware what it was used for. As a result, the president, with the advice from the advisory council, decided to remove it, said Flores.

"It was determined to be best just, you know, not keep it within the budget because ... it wasn't allocated towards anything," he said. "It was a line item that did not have a purpose."

SGA encourages students to fill out a Student Concern Form if they have a specific concern within the university. It can be found on SGA's VLink page at <https://utrgv.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/sga>

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