



SOUTH TEXAS STATUS UPDATES FROM SPECIAL ADVISOR JULIO LEON, PH.D.



Organizational Structure for New University Planning

By its very nature, change brings uncertainty and raises concerns about how each of us will personally be affected. While there are many decisions still to be made, I'd like to share with you what we do know at this time about two areas of personal importance and our overall planning process.

UTRGV Organizational Structure

UTRGV's structure and operations will reflect the vision and guiding principles of the Board of Regents to create a university of the 21st century that will transform the Rio Grande Valley.

What this means is that the new UTRGV president will design an organizational structure that supports the creation of an innovative, emerging research university that is truly responsive to the needs of the Rio Grande Valley and the State of Texas.

Our new president will rely heavily on recommendations from our Academic Working Groups, UT System leadership, and other internal and external advisors including faculty, administrators and consultants to ensure the structure allows UTRGV to fulfill this mission.

While we do not know at this time *exactly* what that will look like in terms of colleges and schools – how the Brownsville, Harlingen and Edinburg campuses will operate or the balance of existing and new programs of study – we do know that these decisions will be informed by the input provided by you and your colleagues.

For now you can review the posted recommendations from our Academic Working Groups here: http://www.utb.edu/UTRGV/Pages/default.aspx?utm_source=utrgvAWGreports&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=AWGreports.

We anticipate announcing a new president for UTRGV by the end of May and sharing the new academic and operational organizational structure in late summer 2014.

Transition of Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty Members to UTRGV

We are fortunate to have many talented faculty members at UTB and UTPA and recognize that the success of UTRGV relies heavily on their commitment to the vision for this new university and their continuing ability to create environments that enable students to achieve their goals.

Our faculty members deserve to know more about their future and we (UT System leadership, the Board of Regents and the Chancellor) are working diligently to provide more details.

In the coming weeks we will share specific processes for how UTB and UTPA tenured and tenure-track faculty may choose to transition to faculty positions at UTRGV. We seek your patience as we work through the final details of this plan.

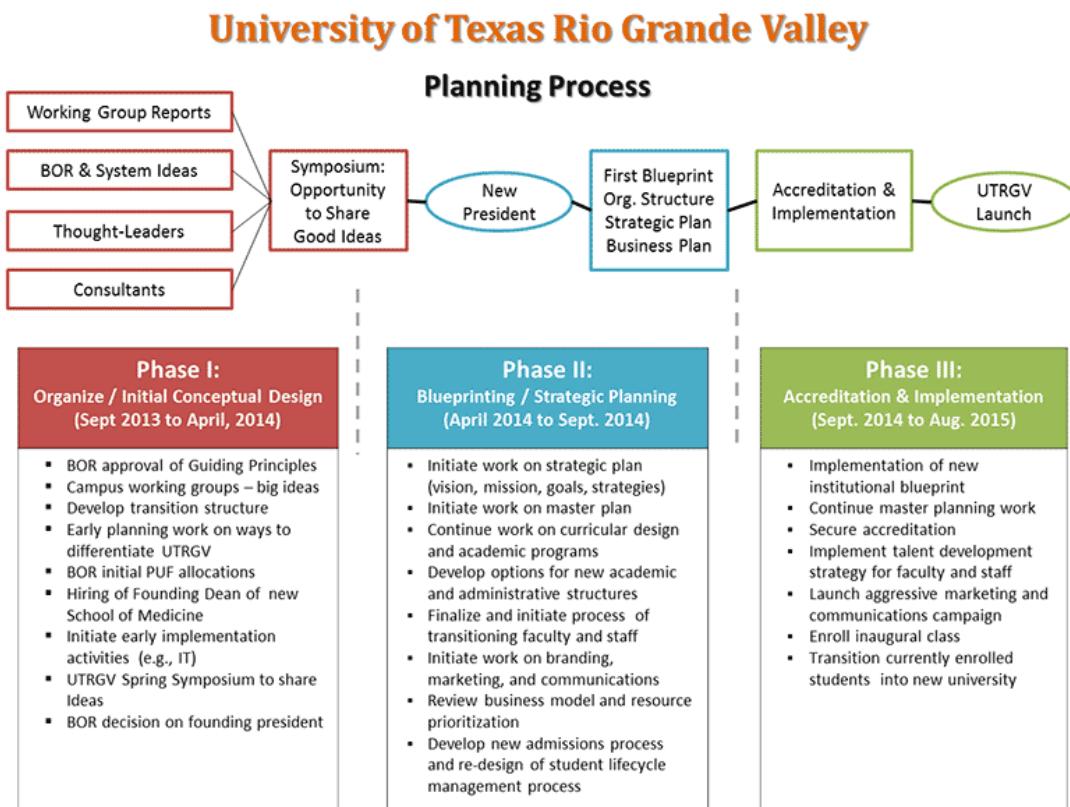
The UTRGV Planning Process

Our April 24 Symposium marks the end of Phase I of our planning process and we are on schedule to begin Phase II (see graphic below).

In addition to the outstanding reports completed by our Working Groups, other aspects of the project such as Project Management, Curriculum Consolidation, Student Life Cycle Management and the Inaugural Class Task Force are proceeding on parallel tracks.

In Phase II we will finalize and communicate the Tenure and Tenure-track Transition Policy as well as the new organizational structure and staff transition plans for UTRGV.

Change can bring anxiety, but it also fuels excitement. Throughout this process we may not always know the answers you seek at the time that you seek them, but I hope the knowledge of this plan and my commitment to provide regular updates on our progress will keep you excited about our future together at UTRGV.



Respectfully submitted,

Julio S. Leon

Special Advisor to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

The University of Texas System

