

The University of Texas-Pan American Response to the Washington Advisory Group Report

The University of Texas-Pan American is pleased the Washington Advisory Group (WAG) recognizes that UTPA is poised to become a research/doctoral institution in the next ten years. The WAG recommendations – many of which are already being implemented at UTPA – have served to affirm our efforts and validate the university's vision and long range plan.

That plan includes a strong research agenda that will complement not compromise the education of South Texas students, something the WAG consultants have noted they fear might happen. The UTPA administration feels strongly that research will result in quality faculty, more relevant teaching and more research opportunities for our undergraduates, as well as graduates.

Consultation with faculty over the past few years has resulted in an agenda that addresses the needs of our multicultural region and its unique characteristics. Right now UTPA research is categorized into four main areas: bilingualism, biomedical science and engineering, border life and international relations and subtropical environment and ecology.

Collaborations – UTPA recognizes the importance of collaborations with other UT components. We are seeing the benefits of successfully established collaborative efforts in pharmacy, pre-med, pre-dental, business and education programs and innovative collaborations are in the works, especially involving Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC.) We look forward to continuing UT system support on these partnerships.

Faculty Hiring Plan – UTPA has developed a strategic plan for hiring that includes recommendations for, among other things, national searches, incentive packages and decreased teaching loads.

Master Campus Plan – UTPA has developed a plan to increase classroom and research space and meet the needs of the anticipated enrollment growth. Also, this year, a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will help us establish a core laboratory facility.

UTPA appreciates the support of the UT System and the Washington Advisory Group. The senior administration will take all recommendations under serious consideration.

In closing, we agree with the WAG report that the appointment of a university president will be *critical* to the future of UTPA and to the South Texas region. We have confidence the regents will choose a strong, dynamic leader who shares in the vision of graduating this university to the next level of evolution.

