I suspect that there are at least some of us who do not follow every day of the biennial legislative session with a keen interest in how Texas law is made and how the state’s budget is approved. With the conclusion of the legislative session last week, I wanted to provide a brief financial summary of the state budget and how it will impact Texas State University. There were hundreds of bills passed this session other than the budget, and roughly a dozen of those may impact the university, but I will limit my comments in this article to the budget.

The state budget was cut significantly over the previous biennium. Compared to 2016 and 2017, there is approximately $80 million less appropriated to support the higher education formula in 2018 and 2019. The funding formula is used to calculate how to share state funds across all 37 state institutions of higher education. It is normal for some institutions to fare better than others each time the formula is updated as the formula takes into
DATES TO REMEMBER

July
Park and Recreation Month
National Ice Cream Month
Jul 01  •  Family Fun Day at Spring Lake
Jul 04  •  Independence Day
Jul 07  •  Final Exams Summer I Term
Jul 10  •  First Day of Summer II Term
Jul 12  •  Pecan Pie Day
Jul 18  •  ERS Summer Enrollment Fair
Jul 23  •  Parents’ Day
Jul 28  •  ERS Summer Enrollment Ends

Aug 02  •  Coloring Book Day
Aug 07  •  Purple Heart Day
Aug 09  •  World's Indigenous Peoples Day
Aug 10  •  Final Exams Summer II Term
Aug 11  •  Texas State Commencement
Aug 12  •  International Youth Day
Aug 15  •  Assumption of Mary
Aug 19  •  World Humanitarian Day
Aug 21  •  Senior Citizens Day
Aug 26  •  Women’s Equality Day
Aug 27  •  Lyndon Baines Johnson Day
Aug 28  •  First Day of Fall Term

September
National Campus Safety Awareness Month
Sep 01  •  HealthSelect transition to BlueCross BlueShield
Sep 04  •  Labor Day
Sep 05  •  International Day of Charity
Sep 08  •  International Literacy Day
Sep 10  •  World Suicide Prevention Day
Sep 10  •  National Grandparents Day
Sep 11  •  Patriot Day
Sep 13  •  Positive Thinking Day
Sep 17  •  Constitution Day and Citizenship Day
Sep 18  •  Air Force Birthday
Sep 21  •  Rosh Hashanah
Sep 21  •  International Day of Peace
Sep 29  •  World Heart Day
Sep 30  •  Yom Kippur

AND THE WINNERS ARE...
April 2017 FSS QUARTERLY TEAM


The Exterior Lighting Upgrade Team provided exemplary service to the entire campus community. The team spearheaded an effort to transform a major section of central campus converting dimly lit pathways into well-lit walk areas and increasing the safety and security of every person walking these areas at night. The team’s actions are directly attributable to dramatically improved lighting levels across the core of central campus.

VPFSS BROWN BAG

Have an idea... a question... a concern? Eric Algoe will visit offices for his monthly Brown Bag sessions on the following dates:

Wednesday, July 19
Financial Services, Payroll, & Purchasing
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 31
Print and Mail Services & CopyCats
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 13
Facilities Operations
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
SPOTLIGHT ON
AUXILIARY SERVICES & ID SERVICES

The Auxiliary Services Administration Department oversees all areas within the Auxiliary Services Department which includes; University Bookstore, Dining Services, ID Services, Print-Mail Services, Ricoh Copiers, Wells Fargo Bank Branch, Saltgrass Restaurant Lease, Beverage, and Snack Contract. The areas are all self-support and combine for a total budget just over $23,000,000. The Administrative Office directly oversees the Dining Contract, Facility Maintenance, Ricoh Copiers, and the following contracts; Accent Vending, Coca-Cola, Wells Fargo Bank Branch, Saltgrass Restaurant.

John Root has been Director of Auxiliary Services at Texas State since February 2000, recently celebrating 17 years here. Prior to that, John served as the Director of Business Services at UTSA, Director of Auxiliary Services at University of Baltimore and Director of Auxiliary Services Administration at Towson University.

John Charlet is the Planner/Estimator for Auxiliary Services. He is responsible for keeping our dining facilities running smoothly, from daily maintenance to planning and executing larger scale improvements. John joined Team Auxiliary in 2009.

Mary Alice Gonzales is the Administrative Assistant III and has been with Texas State for 28 years. She joined Auxiliary Services in 2012 after transferring from Housing & Residential Life. Mary Alice provides administrative support to the Director and the Planner/Estimator in Auxiliary Services with the assistance of her student employees. Her duties include the copier billing, vending management, approved caterer updates and summer conference billing.

The ID Services department handles primary verification and ID BobcatCard production for all eligible Faculty, Staff, and Students. The department typically produces over 17,000 cards per year and manages over 8,000 meal plans on campus. The department also handles the Bobcat Buck$ program which all cardholders can deposit money into an account managed by the University so that your BobcatCard can be used to make purchases on and off campus without the need for carrying cash.

Dena Thompson, Manager of ID Services, joined Texas State University ID Services in 2011 and has been with the department for six years. She came from private healthcare management, and is a Texas State alumni, having gotten her BBA in Finance from Texas State University. She oversees departmental projects, budgeting, technological changes and upgrades, and ensures the department is functioning at a competitive level for the industry.

Lisa Gonzales has been with Texas State ID Services for 31 years. She has held a variety of roles during this time, but currently serves as the Supervisor of ID Services. She oversees the daily operations of the department and handles staffing and personnel issues as they arise. Students and parents interact with her as part of the meal plan process when they live on campus and utilize a University meal plan. Her insight and knowledge is an invaluable asset to the Department and the University as a whole.

Carole McCarley has been working for Texas State ID Services for 20 years. Carole came to work at ID Services six years ago after working at Aquarena Springs for Thirty five years as the Gift Shop retail purchaser. Her current duties as an

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FSS DIVERSITY

Empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share feelings of another. Recent events have substantiated that there seems to be a real lack of empathy. With little meaningful dialogue taking place and an astonishing lack of discernment, the core of one of our fundamental democratic values is being threatened.

Students are a microcosm of this trend. Recent studies have shown a decline in student welfare reports for others. Data from UCLA’s annual freshmen survey (CIRP) have shown a steady decline in empathy among incoming freshmen. A generation so connected to each other is finding it increasingly difficult to feel compassion toward each other.

The impetus for this decline cannot be solely based on the recent election. Frankly, it could be more of a symptom than an cause. The passion for financial success, the rise of social media and technical advancements, lack of consequences for bad behavior, information overload and a lack of personal interaction may all be contributing to the problem. Political turmoil and horrific events can also be contributing factors.

Colleges and universities have the ability to impact this trend. It comes with understanding culture and history. Providing thought provoking discussion and real and meaningful co-curricular activities to help increase awareness and understanding. The need to model the learning, to nurture and cultivate, is very important, too. It must come from all levels and all areas of the organization.

When we demonstrate an appreciation for different perspectives, where all are valued equally, the deeper self-awareness needed to enhance our ability to empathize with others will grow. Universities should grasp the opportunity and promote and foster the power of empathy; one that improves lives, builds meaningful connections, and develops leaders.
YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

10 Years
Mr. Joseph Bodin, Bookstore
Ms. Maricela Cruz, Student Business Services & Bursars
Mrs. Teresa Duggins, Human Resources
Ms. Maria Gonzales, Custodial Operations
Mr. Emilio Hernandez, Utility Operations
Mrs. Cindy Hidrogo, Custodial Operations
Mrs. Lauralee Holbrook, Bookstore
Mrs. MaryAnn Hollingsworth, Custodial Operations
Mr. Nathan Lawrence, Grounds and Waste Management Operations
Mr. Francisco Lopez, Grounds and Waste Management Operations
Mr. David Morris, Facilities Planning Design
Mr. Michael Petty, Facilities Planning Design
Mr. Michael Rink, Facilities Operations
Mrs. Renae Smith, Student Business Services & Bursars
Mr. Chad Thomas, Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management
Mr. Fermin Torrez, Custodial Operations
Mrs. Valarie Van Vlack, Treasurer
Ms. Elizabeth Welch, Facilities Operations
Mrs. Schirleen Weller, Accounting Office
Mr. Chad Wendel, Facilities Operations

15 Years
Mr. Bradley Daniels, Facilities Operations
Mrs. Karon DeBacker, Student Business Services & Bursars
Ms. Debra Foster, Accounting Office
Mr. Harry Gonzales, Utility Operations
Mr. Michael Kocian, Facilities Operations
Mr. Tommy Lawson, Facilities Operations
Mr. James Norton, Utility Operations
Mrs. Tracy Ryan, Office of Budgeting, Financial Planning & Analysis
Mr. Jonas Villalpando, Custodial Operations
Mr. Eluterio Zuniga, Grounds and Waste Management Operations

20 Years
Mr. Joel Bermea, Facilities Management
Mr. Gilbert Castro, Printing Services
Mrs. Sylvia Cruz, Student Business Services & Bursars
Mr. Mario Garza, Grounds and Waste Management Operations
Ms. Carmelita Mendoza, Office of Payroll & Tax Compliance
Mr. Joe Pardo, Grounds and Waste Management Operations
Mrs. Agroda Rivas, Custodial Operations

25 Years
Mr. James Dorsey, Mail Services
Mr. David Garcia, Custodial Operations
Mr. Mario Mendez, Facilities Operations
Ms. Michelle Moritz, Human Resources
Mr. Larry Peralez, Grounds and Waste Management Operations
Mr. Juan Picasio, Facilities Operations
Mrs. Santos Pineda, Custodial Operations
Mr. Carl Teague, Utility Operations

30 Years
Mr. Johnny Gonzales, Materials Management & Logistics
Mrs. Gloria Perez, Printing Services

35 Years
Mr. Michael Harrison, Grounds and Waste Management Operations
Mr. Joe Rodriguez, Grounds and Waste Management Operations
Mr. David Sanchez, Grounds and Waste Management Operations

40 Years
Ms. Marsha Moore, Human Resources
Mrs. Nancy Nusbaum, FSS Planning
Mr. Roque Prado, Materials Management & Logistics

Thank You!
On Friday, April 28, 2017, the FSS division hosted its 23rd annual employee appreciation picnic. FSS employees ventured over to Sewell Park to enjoy a sunny afternoon at the superhero themed event. It was a fun-filled afternoon with plenty of activities, prizes, a great variety of music provided by DJ Jesse “the Jammer” Cruz of Mail Services, and food catered by Bill Miller BBQ.

The FSS Community Development Team would like to extend a special THANK YOU to the local community vendors and university departments who made donations to the FSS Annual Employee Appreciation Picnic. Over 100 prizes were given out. With the support of our community merchants, the picnic was a huge success!

Ten teams participated in the annual horseshoe tournament. It was a close competition, but the reigning champs from 2016 held on to their title. Congratulations to the father/son team of Larry Martinez of Facilities Operations and Lawrence Martinez of Grounds and Waste Management Operations.

Overall, the picnic was a huge success. The FSS Community Development Team hopes everyone enjoyed the occasion with their friends and colleagues.

See you all next year!!
MEET OUR NEW TEAM

Dan Alden  
Director  
Procurement and Strategic Sourcing

Mr. Alden brings experience and education in procurement management that spans more than 26 years. His main areas of responsibility have been developing sourcing strategies, project support, contractor and supplier management, negotiations, cost savings, risk mitigation, contract management, and client satisfaction.

Leah Brown  
Senior Human Resources Assistant  
Human Resources

Leah is originally from Fort Worth and has a snuggly rescue dog named Hunk. She completed a study abroad program in Spain and graduated from Texas State in 2012. She recently joined the HR team in April 2017, and is very happy to be back on campus!

Justin Cantu  
Warehouse Worker  
Bookstore

Justin Cantu is the newest addition to the bookstore team. Justin works in online order fulfillment and is a 2010 graduate of Texas State.

Jordan Guerrero  
HR Information Specialist  
Human Resources

Born & raised in Brownsville, Texas, Jordan is currently studying Computer Science as an undergraduate student at Texas State. He enjoys traveling and spending time with his two dogs. He joined HR in May 2016, and works with Vanessa Salazar in Communications.

Lori Kinser  
Senior Human Resources Assistant  
Human Resources

Lori joins the Benefits team as a Senior HR Assistant, previously held by Leah Cuellar. Lori brings her HR experience from the Texas Attorney General’s Office. She is also a Bobcat and worked as a student worker in the Undergraduate Admissions office for three years.

Dennis Bustos  
Construction Contract Administrator  
Facilities Planning Design

Shaena Cannon  
Accountant III  
Accounting Office

Daniel Hurtado, Jr  
Mail Clerk II  
Mail Services

Dylan McCreary  
Accountant II  
Accounting Office

Kyndra Moravits  
Facilities Maintenance Worker I  
Auxiliary Services

John Scott, III  
Habitat Conservation Specialist  
Grounds and Waste Management Operations

Cleve Thorn  
Budget Analyst  
Office of Budgeting, Financial Planning & Analysis

William “Grant” Waraksa  
Habitat Conservation Specialist  
Grounds and Waste Management Operations

Christopher Whitman  
Parking Services Officer  
Transportation Services

SPOTLIGHT ON AUXILIARY SERVICES & ID SERVICES

Accounting Clerk I require her to print and issue photo ID’s to faculty, staff and the Student body on the Texas State campus and the Round Rock campus.

Andrea Kristina Aldape has worked in ID Services for 9 years as an Accounting Clerk I. She also greets Students, Faculty and Staff and assists them in obtaining their first ID Card; as well as receipting customers who need a replacement ID. Some of her duties include preparing and researching reports, cleaning camera and printer equipment, and maintain logs using automated spreadsheets for audit control.

Lisa Luera has been with Texas State for 17 years and rejoined ID Services in 2013 as an Accounting Clerk II, after transferring from Campus Recreation. She provides customer service to student/staff/faculty in person, phone or by email. Her duties include daily reconciliation of resident meal plans, new and replacement ID cards, and hiring and training student workers and ensuring correct procedures, policies and duties are being carried out.
We know him as “Electro” but his unique name is actually a nickname acquired when a substitute teacher in his junior high school years was not able to pronounce his real name “Eluterio”... (eh-luw-TEY-Riy-ow). Instead, the teacher uttered “Electro” and from that point in time, the name Electro stuck.

Electro has established a part time vocation as a DJ. When you meet him, he is modest and reserved but those of you who know his reputation as a DJ are very aware of his ability to “Rock the House”. Electro told us about his fond memories of the many dance competitions that he entered and won trophies with his sister and dance partner, Maria.

Electro enjoys all types of music, but back then, Tejano, Country and Oldies (50s, 60s, and 70s) were the genres he gravitated towards. This burning desire for music and dancing ignited a plan to start a business venture with a friend. At the young age of 17, this young entrepreneur and his partner embarked on a mobile DJ business called Ruben's Jukebox. Their first music gig was on Electro's birthday in December 1978.

Ruben's Jukebox played locally and quickly gained recognition and earned the respect of music artists. They began to open for well known groups and bands: Ram Herrera, Ruben Ramos, Mazz, Tierra, Chubby Checker and Willie Nelson. Ruben's Jukebox opened for the late musicians Laura Canales, Emilio and Selena. Electro's DJ-ing experience took him to a new level and he began radio announcing for San Marcos radio station KSPL and Lockhart radio KHJK.

In 1991, Electro went solo and has since been known as Electro’s Power Mix. He continues DJ-ing at weddings, quinceañeras, anniversaries, birthdays and other celebrations. He plays locally and travels as far as Dallas or Houston. Electro said, “What I enjoy most about what I do is watching people have a good time!” Electro takes great pride in opportunities to volunteer his time which benefit local churches, schools and other charitable events.

This December, Electro will be celebrating 39 years of serving and growing with the community. We want to wish him continued success and look forward to hearing his next playlist at a future FSS picnic or event. We especially want to thank Electro, for all that he does for the members of our community!
LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

...Continued from page 1

account enrollment growth, the majors of our students, and the level of our actual semester credit hours that students are taking (undergraduate lower division & upper division, masters, Ph.D.).

Out of the roughly $80 million cut in formula funding available statewide, Texas State received a combined $2.9 million reduction for the 2018 and 2019 years versus 2016 and 2017. This represents approximately a 1.75% cut to our total formula funding. In addition to our formula funding cut, Texas State’s existing special items were cut by $2.7 million over the biennium. Special Items are very specific budgets that are given to individual projects and can only be used to support those projects. An example of a special item at Texas State is the Texas School Safety Center.

You may see references to Texas State having a 0.0% change in our budget for the next biennium. That is because, as a counterpoint to the $5.6 million in cuts discussed above, we received new special item funding for the Materials Advanced Research Center (MARC) in the amount of $5.6 million. It is important to realize, however, that the MARC funds can only be spent on MARC. Therefore, at the end of the day, we will have to prepare budgets for the next two years that react to a combined $5.6 million cut in state appropriations.

Now that the Legislature has finalized the 2018-2019 biennial budget, one might think that the university’s budget plan will be easy to finalize. Unfortunately, the state budget is only one of five large variables that we are currently tracking. As I discussed in the Spring 2017 FSS newsletter, this year has us more carefully watching new student enrollment than we have in several years, primarily because UT-Austin and TAMU-College Station have both aggressively increased the number of freshmen accepted this year. We remain optimistic and our enrollment numbers continue to look strong through early June, but we will all be anxiously awaiting the fall semester 12th class day student count to breathe a sigh of relief.

The last two factors in finalizing our budget to fully adapt to the upcoming biennium are estimating the growth of the Hazlewood program and estimating the growth of the university’s health insurance payments. Both of these programs have the potential to grow by millions of dollars in any given year, and both are entirely outside of our control. We will continue to use every available method to refine our projections for both as we continue to hone in on our final budget plan.

The leadership team at the university has been anticipating some budget cut since very early in the legislative session and has done extensive modeling and planning over the past several months in order to develop contingency plans. We will not be unprepared should any of the key variables mentioned above not come in exactly where we would like for them to be.

In spite of the state budget cuts we will have to absorb -- and some of the uncertainty that we are wrestling with -- there continues to be so many reasons to be excited about our present and our future at Texas State University. I remain confident that these budget issues will not derail our strategic plans, and that we will continue to make progress toward becoming a National Research University while providing a world-class education to our incredible students.

Even after what has undoubtedly been a difficult legislative session, it is still a great time to be a Bobcat!