




OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: UHD Unit Managers
FROM: Juan Munoz, President
DATE: October 16, 2018
RE: Plan/Budget Process - FY2020



With this memo, we begin the plan/budget process for the next fiscal year, FY2020. In the memo that I sent out last year, I said that we would continue with the existing unit-based model for FY2019, so that I could assess its effectiveness. Having done so, I believe that this current 'incremental' approach to planning and budgeting works well.

A year ago, I also wrote about UHD's recent enrollment struggles. Recapping, total enrollments at UHD had been in decline for three successive years; with the decrease being most precipitous at the undergraduate level. I am pleased to report that through the efforts of many this trend was turned around in Fall 2018, with total student headcount being up by about 2.5 percent. However, our growth in semester credit hours (SCHs) was more modest at only 0.4 percent. This is concerning as we move into the legislative session next spring, because the state funding formula is driven by SCHs, not headcount.

This past summer UHD submitted its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) to the state. UHD is requesting funds to support Harvey-related losses not covered by insurance and to address several significant facility needs. We will seek approval for a new fee to fund construction of a state of the art Wellness and Success Center, which will replace the existing Student Life Center (SLC). We are requesting funds to then re-purpose the existing SLC into a first ever Student Union, as well as funds to construct an additional floor on the Girard Street Building.

It is difficult to predict what might come out of the legislative session, as there are many important state needs competing for a limited sum of money. Once again the resource outlook for UHD will be heavily influenced by what happens with enrollments. Given this, I am directing the division heads to give the highest funding priority to those initiatives that have the potential to enhance enrollments and SCH generation at UHD. As we do this we must also continue to build on the success we've had in recent years in improving student success. For many years, UHD has been successful because it provided *access* to higher education. While a commendable mission, providing access is no longer enough. We must now rededicate ourselves to the joint outcome of *access and success*. Today we are meeting that challenge, and we will continue to do so going forward.

While there are challenges for UHD, I see a bright future at the university. Enrollments are heading in the right direction. Our retention and graduation rates are on the rise. We met and exceeded our capital campaign goal ahead of schedule. One year from now our new Sciences & Technology Building will be completed and occupied, and if things go as expected we will be well on our way to constructing the new UHD Wellness and Success Center. Most importantly, we have a community of committed faculty and staff, serving amazing students who represent the future of our city and state. I look forward to working with all of you to develop a plan and budget for FY2020 that will enable UHD to continue on its path toward becoming a model urban university.

Thank you.