President's Report
May 2019

Legislative

As of today, there are 10 days until the 86th Texas Legislature adjourns. The conference committee on appropriations (HB1) is still meeting and indications are that the higher education piece has been resolved and the committee is working out the K-12 portion.

There is a separate conference committee meeting to reconcile differences on Property Tax Reform (SB2). The House version includes **an exemption for community colleges** (maintain rollback at 8%) and **no exemption for small taxing units** (under $15 million in levy). However, does provide an ability to bank unused growth for future years with limitation.

The Senate version does **not exempt community colleges**, changes the **rollback rate to 3.5%,** but **exempts small taxing units** (under $15 million in levy). However, voters can opt-into lower rollback rates through local elections.

A Dual Credit bill that would require students to declare a major after 15 SCH has passed the Senate and is waiting in Calendars for a vote; have until May 21 to pass the bill.

As soon as we have final confirmation, we will send out the information to the board.

Partnerships

Had two separate meetings with Sul Ross regarding a proposed meeting to develop a Regional Higher Education Strategic Plan. First meeting was with their faculty representatives and the second meeting with their President, Bill Kibler. We are working together for a tentative September kick off meeting.

Knippa residents ask me to speak to their graduating seniors at a dinner held at the Lutheran Church. Provided comments and advice to the graduates. The community was very grateful and had many pleasant comments about SWTJC, many of them were alumni.

Other

We had our Student versus Faculty/Staff softball game (Faculty/Staff managed to pull out a win). Palms Fest was a great success.

Pathways -   We had a team attend the Pathways Institute #6. I attended a session from Aspen Institute discussing the need for colleges to better define what is excellent teaching and great teachers. Our goal is to develop a framework that quantifies these qualities, redesign our evaluation instruments that measure them and finally develop a compensation plan that rewards excellent teaching. The goal is to have a plan in place for Fall 2020.

We have scheduled our 4DX Summit on Wednesday, May 22 in the Matthews Student Center. All the teams will present their results.

TASB Board Workshop – Board Members Mrs. Lara and Mr. Moreno along with VP Tarski attended the workshop. Mrs. Tarski reported that the budget presentation was informative and she is going to incorporate some of the trend analysis in her budget presentation. We invite the Board members to share their input from the workshop.

Graduation

We have 429 graduates planning to walk on Friday May 17th and 378 graduates planning to walk on Saturday May 18th. As always, we continue to battle the threats of rains. The alternative is moving the ceremony to the Uvalde High School Gym with the Auditorium as the overflow. Each graduate should have received 4 tickets in case we need to move indoors. As of right now it looks like Friday weather may hold, Saturday is questionable. We will make a decision by 2pm each day and post on web page.

We have been brainstorming to identify a feasible alternative to avoid having to prepare both sites in case of inclement weather. One suggestion is to hold multiple ceremonies on a Saturday with fewer graduates and hold it indoors. Will work on various proposals before 2020 commencement ceremonies.

Upcoming Meeting/Events

College will be observing summer hours from June 3 – July 26
(8am to 6pm M-TH and 8am to noon Friday)

5/16	May Board Meeting
5/17	Deans' Breakfast
5/17	College of Liberal Arts Commencement Ceremony
5/18	College of Applied Science Commencement Ceremony
5/22	4DX Summit
5/27	Memorial Day Holiday
5/31	Law Enforcement Graduation (High School Auditorium)
6/14-15	CCATT Conference in Austin
6/20	June Board Meeting
7/4	4th of July Holiday
7/17-19	TACC Annual Meeting - Marble Falls