

## Executive Ticket

### **President: Denisce Palacios**

Hello! My name is Denisce Palacios. I am a junior majoring in International Business and Political Science with a minor in Theatre Performance. I have always been heavily involved in my community, pushed to serve by the thrill of helping others. I was also a regular volunteer at La Posada Providencia, the local immigrant shelter in San Benito and Spanish Meadows, a retirement home. I have been an active student in clubs and organizations joining Student Organization for Unique Learners (SOUL), Brownsville A Capella, American Marketing Association (AMA), Misioneros Catolicos Universitarios (MCU), and the UTRGV Bravo Opera. I have been actively engaged in University Productions and try to maintain constant contact with student leaders and organizations in case they have concerns. I have learned enough about our university as former First Year Intern, former Brownsville Senator at Large and as current Edinburg Senator at Large. I have gained insight as chair of the Internal Affairs committee, secretary for the Campus Life and Community Affairs committee, and as a member of the Financial Affairs Committee. Thanks to this experience, I understand the concerns and struggles of students on both campuses. I will continue to use my spirited energy towards representing you as Student Body President, voicing the thoughts and concerns of the student body, while continuously improving campus life. I will work restlessly as your Student Body President because it is only through serving others that we lead.

### **Vice President for Brownsville: Ingrid De La Torre**

My name is Ingrid De la Torre, I am 19 years old and I'm majoring in Nursing. I am mostly in the Brownsville campus and usually I'm very easily found. I loved to be involved in students organizations and get to know people in the process! I have been part of organizations like Young Women for America, International Student Organization and Catholic Campus Ministry. Additionally, I have served SGA for almost two years now. The first, as a First Year Intern and the second as a Senator at-Large in Brownsville. During my time in these organizations, besides getting to know people, I have helped in many school related events and community service. I have also gotten to know the necessities of very diverse group of students, organizations and campus life, and look forward to keep working on improving the ultimate college experience for students.

### **Vice President for Edinburg: Alex Saldivar**

My name is Alex Saldivar and I am currently a senior majoring in accounting. During high school, I was involved in many clubs and even ran for Vice President of student council. I have been in SGA for two years. The first year, I was a first year intern where I was mentored by the current Vice President at the time. This year, I was elected as senator for the college of business. As student senator, I drafted passed legislation that amended one of the governing documents to help senate meetings run more smoothly and efficiently. I also currently serve as Chair of the Financial Affairs Committee of SGA where I learned allot about the process of running the Student Travel Funds program and Special Event Funds program. If elected as Vice President, I would like to improve the operations of both these programs with initiatives such as increasing communication with applicants and simplifying the application process as well as push for improvements to the academic and environmental experience that the university offers.

### **Platform Statement**

Our Executive Team will seek to: 1. Improve equity between main campuses by improving access to university services, food options available to students, and outside covers for students waiting on shuttles 2. Enhance the academic experience of our students by improving iTV and Online classes 3. Work with different student populations and student organizations to improve and promote inclusion, school pride, and unity in all aspects of campus life 4. Push environmental friendly initiatives 5. Improve internal SGA procedures to better serve students through increased communication and more efficient processes 6. Work with different university departments to ensure our students are in a safe learning environment

## Senator for College of Business and Entrepreneurship

### Aldo Rios

Hello, my name is Aldo Yahir Rios and I am a Senior at UTRGV majoring in Accounting. I was born in Brownsville and I am in my early twenties. I used to be one of those students who would just come to class and go home. That changed when I joined and became the President for the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) during its first year at the Brownsville campus. We had a fantastic year and I learned a lot. I am no longer the President of CEO, but thanks to it I got heavily involved with a handful of organizations. Currently I am the Treasurer for the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM), and I am also the At Large officer for the Student Stakeholder Advisory Board (SSAB). I devote myself to being the best person that I can, and I try to learn from my mistakes.

As a Senator for the College of Business and Entrepreneurship I plan on working for more internship/ mentoring opportunities. I plan on helping student organizations communicate better with their Edinburg counterparts. I would also listen to the students to help them resolve any issue they may have.

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## Senator for College of Fine Arts

### Steven Hughes

What is leadership? It's the idea of knowing you're going to be looked up to for guidance. To be a leader, you need to not only be stern and firm but to have fun as well. No one likes a dictator. However, the key role of being a leader is to be a great listener. Student Government Association is the voice of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, but the College of Fine Arts does not have a senator to talk to. The more people the Senate has the better for our school.

My goals are simple but important: 1. Hear the voices of our students 2. Represent their pleas 3. Uphold The Vaqueros Honor Code 4. Create a safe and fun learning environment 5. Discover ways to engage students 6. Tell the campus community who SGA is

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## Senator for College of Health Affairs

### **Cyana Arredondo**

My name is Cyana Arredondo and I am currently a Senator for College of Health Affairs. I plan to utilize what I have learned from my current term as Senator and apply it to my next term. Before I was elected Senator, I was an intern in SGA, so I know how the Senate works very well. I am excited to continue working towards a better future for UTRGV.

My three goals mainly circle the rift, the imminent space between the students and senate. There are things going on on campus that we simply do not hear, or do not know of. These things, these issues, although unknown to us, are the very reason why SGA was created in the first place. My first goal is to reassert SGA's presence in the university. I want to host more tablings, hand out more flyers, and talk to more people, one on one. There are too many students that are unaware of our organization, who we are and what we do. My second goal is to push the surveys. There aren't enough students taking the surveys, therefore there aren't enough voices being heard. We need to find out how to get these surveys to be taken seriously, whether we use incentive or inform more students on issues happening on campus. My third goal is to have the students come to the senate meetings. They are allowed to sit in them, but we haven't really INVITED them. When talking to my peers about what goes on in the senate meetings, the info is almost always new to them. I think we should really push that they are welcome to the meetings. We could put up posters with our senate meeting dates on them, and our information listed down below.

### **Alyssa Guajardo**

My name is Alyssa Nicole Guajardo. I'm a sophomore majoring in Exercise Science, planning to pursue a career in physical therapy. I'm a member of Habitat for Humanity and the Health & Kinesiology Club. Honesty and integrity, commitment and passion, inspiring others, and being a good communicator are some of the qualities that I possess. I was looking for ways to be actively involved on campus, and I believe the Student Government Association would be the perfect opportunity to do that.

Three goals that I plan to focus on are, to address students concerns to the best of my abilities, help make wise decisions, and help other students become successful in helping them reach their goals.

### **Adrian Maldonado**

My name is Adrian Maldonado and I am a Biomedical Sciences student. My goal after graduation is attending medical school, becoming a primary care physician and in the future, provide affordable medical attention to my local community and persons with disadvantaged backgrounds. I am a research assistant in Dr. Saraswathy Nair's research laboratory, work on campus as a Biomedical Teaching Laboratories assistant, and I volunteer at places such as Proyecto Juan Diego, in which we tutor elementary kids with their homework. In addition, I have served various leadership roles in student organizations before. In my free time, I like going biking and being outdoors. I have an extrovert personality and enjoy helping people.

- Communicate with fellow students in Health Affairs college to identify their needs and work solutions
- Create strong relationships with students and faculty
- Promote student involvement in activities and inform them of current issues

### **Leticia Villarreal**

Leticia Villarreal, currently as of January 2018, is a freshman at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Leticia is presently enrolled in the College of Health Affairs at UTRGV, majoring in Biomedical Sciences. During high school, Villarreal was able to achieve various accomplishments, such as graduating in the Top 15% of her class, finishing up with more than 300 community hours in total, and as well as taking parts of more than four leadership roles overall. In addition, Leticia was born and raised in Laredo until August 2017, where she moved to Brownsville Tx, to achieve a career in the biomedical field. Although her young age, Leticia is a hardworking and enthusiastic person who never gives up and is always up for a challenge

As a Senator for the College of Health affair, there are specific goals I will like to focus on. Firstly, is to be able to provide students with the ability to register on time for the classes necessary for their degree, and as well by providing students with more class options. Secondly, I would like to offer students with more internship, research, workshop and speakers opportunities to keep them motivated towards education and as well help them build up their resume. Thirdly, my last goal is to be open towards the students from all campuses and listen to their concerns, ideas or request in order to flourish their education and college experience.

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## Senator for College of Sciences

### Yanelly Palomo

My name is Yanelly Palomo, I am 23 years old, and a biology major. My goal is to be accepted to The University of Texas School of dentistry. I feel that I am able to relate to the current student body and would be able to bridge information effectively. I have held various leadership roles through various organizations and my employment with UTHealth School of Public Health. I have been fortunate to conduct research and I aim to have my fellow peers involved in opportunities such as this make themselves competitive in their future professions. If elected as senator for the college of science I would work diligently to promote and offer more opportunities to my fellow peers.

My number one goal would be voice improvements/ concerns of my fellow peers to administration, faculty, and staff to improve our learning experience. I also want to expand learning opportunities such as research experience and work with faculty to have more interactive forms of learning. Finally, I want help make students university experience memorable and be able to create opportunities that students will be able to take advantage to help in their future careers.

### Marcos Valdez

Hi there! My name is Marcos Valdez and I am student at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. During my free time I enjoy practicing guitar, playing soccer, and video-editing. In addition to shadowing at various hospitals and clinics around my community, volunteering at organizations such as Children's Association for Maximum Potential and the National Hispanic Institute have helped me define my interest in serving my community through a medical profession. I am running for senator of the College of Sciences because I want to help voice concerns and suggestions that can improve the student experience here at UTRGV. As a student, I've taken note of the challenges that have surfaced alongside the growth of our academic community and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to address them accordingly. Thank you and I very much look forward to working with fellow senators and sponsors on your behalf.

- To ensure that student proposals and concerns are adequately addressed by professors and administration of the College of Sciences.
- To provide students of the College of Sciences with opportunities and experiences that will benefit them throughout their academic and professional careers.
- To help students get involved with the innovation taking place in our academic community.

### Miguel Viescaz

I was born in Albuquerque, NM. I moved around much, during my formative years, and I went to several different schools. I did reasonably well in school, but I never really thought college was for me. I went straight into the workforce to help my family, but I got tired of the minimal advancements and struggled. One day I was fed up and decided to go to community college, as they say the rest is history. Currently, I am junior at UTRGV. I am majoring in Biology. I plan on going to medical school, hopefully I get accepted, and with that I plan on helping my family and community.

I want to focus on getting more female students interested in science by trying to show them the benefits that understanding science can bring. I want to follow up with what the university is already doing with talented high school students interested in science and keep advertising dual enrollment. allowing the younger generation an accessible pathway for achieving their goals. Lastly, I want to focus on helping students who are not strong in science but need to take a science course to satisfy a major by working with teachers, learning center, and student tutors to see how we can help them achieve their objective.

## Senator-at-Large Brownsville

### Monika Garza

My name is Monika Garza and I am majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Criminal Justice. I had the pleasure to serve as a Senator-at-Large for Brownsville in the Student Government Association for the 2017-2018 academic year. With my role, I have worked with fellow student Senators and Executives of SGA to try to make this amazing university a wonderful environment for all its constituents. If I get elected as a Senator-at-Large, I will address issues that are relevant to all UTRGV students such as transportation and parking spaces.

If I get elected as a Senator-at-Large for the Brownsville campus, my goals are but not limited to: 1. Make the Student Government Association more known to all students. 2. Equal resources opportunities (equal classes mainly) for all UTRGV students. 3. Increase parking spaces on the Brownsville campus.

### Kevin Martinez

My name is Kevin Martinez, I am a second year student and I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing. I am interested in serving as a senator-at-large in UTRGV's student government with the goal of being a voice for the student body while always giving no less than my one-hundred percent.

If given the position of senator-at-large, I expect for it to be a very demanding role, nonetheless, I am up for the challenge and look forward to serving as a dependable student leader. Three goals that I wish to accomplish during my term in office include: Working closely with undocumented students in order to better understand their needs; Advocate for recycling and campus sustainability; and Improving relations between the student body and the student government.

### Ivan Morado

I am student first and above all else a proud member of the Rio Grande Valley. What UTRGV attempts to do is unprecedented. It aspires to unify the region and inspire its residents to achieve greatness and build its surrounding communities through economic, cultural and social change. We are more than Vaqueros and Vaqueras. We are the future of the State of Texas and great and fantastic progress begins here. I will work tirelessly to listen to your fears and hesitations. I will move sun and moon to find the solution that will benefit most, not just the few. I want POSITIVE ACTION and POSITIVE CHANGE and as your Senator at Large for Brownsville I will not stop until the needs of the UTRGV community is met. I want our academic profile to have strengths and diversity in programs. I want our students to be assured that their schedules will remain flexible and that demand for classes not go unheard. I will seek with tenacity to make sure our hardworking students don't have to worry about where they ought to park for fear of being fined. I will make it my purpose and drive to listen to the students and vote for and uphold agendas that benefit them not the few. Most importantly, I will investigate and assure the population that the university funds are being spent according to the needs of the students. I thank you for your consideration. Remember to exercise your democratic powers! Vote, vote, vote in all elections, local, state, federal and collegiate! Even if it isn't for me. With all my very best, Ivan Morado

Inspire with Positive Action. Positive Action 01. I want to create a dynamic and flexible array of options for upper course classes for all our Brownsville students while being respectful of the shared resources in Edinburg and across our other sister campuses. Brownsville students deserve the same resources as their Edinburg campuses, and their voices deserve to be heard. I want to enable them with great opportunities. One of the main issues is space availability in Brownsville. That's an issue that can easily be solved through building projects. By the end of Fall 2018 we will see a new academic building unveiled but we should not stop there. Downtown Brownsville is an amalgam of possibilities. The City of Brownsville and UTRGV can work together to lease spaces and buildings, renovate them to hold classes and have students interact with the Downtown area, which will simultaneously bring an economic boom to the small business of the City of Brownsville, fostering a powerful and beneficial relationship between the City of Brownsville and UTRGV at Brownsville, which will have positive effects across all campus resources. Positive Action 02. I want a campus with a green and shining soul. SGA is currently working on an Environmental

Fee Resolution, which will be used to fund sustainability programs and make our campus more energy efficient and eco-friendly. This will create a beautiful environment to work, learn and live in. Across the entire UTRGV campuses I want to propagate recycling programs, community gardens and have students learn self sufficient agricultural techniques, gardening, etc. Positive Action 03. I want your voice to be heard. Above all else, beyond administration, faculty and staff, the voice of the student is essential in creating a powerful and inspiring 21st Century institution of higher learning. I will seek to work with our communication staff and creating a more engaging social media presence, reaching out to you and hearing your concerns. We do what we do for you and the entire UTRGV community. Voice your plans, your ideas, innovative ways to help our University grow and become a leading figure in all fields. Let us build and prosper. It all starts with YOU. The power lies with YOU. And I will work to ensure that the majority if not all the student populations voice is considered and heard. All that and more. Remember, let us not just inspire the world, but EACH OTHER. The first step is with Positive Action. With all my very best, Ivan Morado

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## Senator-at-Large Edinburg

### Carlo Flores

My name is Carlo Flores, and I am running for re-election as Senator at Large for Edinburg. I have been majoring in International Business at UTRGV since Fall of 2015, and have seen this university grow into what it is today. After seeing so much change, there are definitely areas for improvement that I think a lot of students could agree with. Although we as UTRGV are still finding our way, going through our growing pains I know we can find our way of being one of the best schools in Texas and the nation! This, is definitely where the voice of the students should be heard, and where I think this university truly needs to improve. I was first inspired to run for SGA Student Senate because one of my friends from Brownsville came running to me in Edinburg, explaining that she was 10 min early to the bus, but it still left her in Edinburg because there were no more seats going to Brownsville, which led to her missing class and work. At the time, I didn't know who to turn to, or what to do. The best I could muster was telling our boss what had happened, and having an email sent out to Parking and Transportation to get some answers and let them know that this was truly disheartening. It was at this time that I found the Student Government Association. I realized that I wanted to make the students' voice louder and stronger, on all campuses. We must stand united with our voice, and I will ensure that we are heard. We may all have different ideas, issues or concerns depending on what campus you are at, or what college you're in, but no one campus is more important than any other, and I will make sure that we all have a strong voice for administration, and that we are heard loud and clear!

Action. It is time for action at UTRGV. This is what I plan to act on: Parking. Not enough spaces, too much money. Let's work on getting cheaper rates for our Zone 1 and 2 spaces while making it easier to get from Zone 1 to campus. Let's establish a quick and direct shuttle system that will take you from some of the farthest Zone 1 lots (ahem, baseball field) straight to campus. It can be too hot, rainy, and even cold to walk some of those distances, and we want to make it easier, faster, and safer for you! No more wasting half an hour or more looking for parking (we've all been there). Then after that, let's start the process of getting a parking garage built in Edinburg! It's not an easy task, but it's not impossible, so why not try, right?! Class availability: Plain and simple, we need more. We have students doing academic gymnastics with their lives because there aren't enough available classes. Although it also happens in Edinburg, this really hurts our Brownsville peeps a whole lot more. UTRGV is young, but what are we doing to grow the class availability? Let's work on getting more space in Brownsville Go Green, UTRGV: Reduce, reuse, recycle. Everything has to start somewhere, right? Let's start recycling our paper waste, and then expand to incorporate plastics, metals, etc. Let's start bringing in more solar panels, cause with the sun that shines here, we could have light for days! Let's bring in biodegradable materials and really make an (actual) effort in going green. It's time to catch up and start contributing back to Mother Earth in the small ways we can.

### Aaron Silva

Aaron Silva is a 4th year Honors pre-medical Biology major at UT Rio Grande Valley. He has a strong interest in emergency medicine and is a graduate of the paramedic program at South Texas College which led him to his current employment as a Paramedic with Hidalgo County EMS. Aaron has gained a lot from past experiences, which include working as a mentor for high school students with the ENCORE Career Awareness and Mentorship Program, working as a teaching assistant for the biology department at UTRGV, and working as a medical scribe at Rio Grande Regional Hospital. He has also worked as a research assistant within the Chemistry department at UTRGV, funding his research through multiple research grants. Aaron's other notable achievements include participating in the University of Nebraska Medical Center site of the SMDEP program, and the SURE in CNS research symposium at UT Austin. Aaron is a greater listener and communicator and hopes to unify the student body and improve students' experiences at UTRGV. He hopes to be a good representation of the students at UTRGV.

I have a very strong pride in being a student at this great university; to me, UTRGV is a university where people of any background may come together to learn and improve themselves. The ideal SGA Senator works hard to serve as a median between the Student Government Association and the student body, and ensures that UTRGV is a positive environment for students of all backgrounds. If elected, I know that I will serve as the ideal SGA Senator. I take any

position given unto me very seriously, and if given the opportunity, I will strive to make UTRGV better for all students and give back the opportunities I gained from being a part of this campus.

**Alexandra Smith-Macias**

My name is Alexandra Smith Macias and I want to represent you as senator-at-large. I am currently a First Year Intern (FYI) with SGA majoring in Political Science. This has helped me learn how to bring about change and how the university works. Since I was very young I always knew what I wanted to do. I didn't know exactly how I was going to do it but I knew I wanted to help people. The desire to help came from knowing that I was able to change things and with that came progress. I believe that it is the only way to become a better society. When I was very young I moved to Mexico specifically to a town called San Luis Potosi where for the first time I was exposed to the realities many people have to face in their everyday life. I saw these realities by volunteering. I volunteered at low income middle schools and at a school for kids with disabilities that came from low income families. Every time I volunteered it changed me because now I understood something I didn't before. With that new understanding I felt a responsibility to do something, not because it was right, but because no one else would. Sometimes my friends and I would sell homemade jam or go from house to house asking people to help the schools with their monetary needs. I want to help students that feel like they don't matter. Just because they have an issue that no one else is talking about doesn't mean that we should be talking about it.

I want student to know that we're here for them and that we care about what they have to say and what they're going through because that's what is going to make this university great. Even though our university is fairly new I think we have the potential to become something bigger if we put our voices together for us and for generations to follow. As Edinburg Senator-at-Large I will work to improve resources throughout our campus, academic services, and student life with a primary focus on what matters to you.

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