

**FACULTY SENATE
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
RIO GRANDE COLLEGE**

SPRING 2021

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING PROPOSED LEGISLATION ABOUT TRANSFER OF SUL
ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY TO THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

On April 9, 2021, the following resolution was passed and adopted:

WHEREAS, Sul Ross State University was established in 1917, the Sul Ross Study Center was established in Uvalde in 1973, and Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College was established in 1995, with campuses in Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde; and

WHEREAS, the growth of Sul Ross Rio Grande College is not commensurate with the growth of its longstanding educational partner, Southwest Texas Junior College, or with the large and growing population of the region it serves; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by lack of progress in terms of program offerings, physical resources, and enrollment, the development of the Sul Ross campuses in Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde now composing Rio Grande College has not been a priority of the Texas State University System; and

WHEREAS, Sul Ross State University's long-term decline in enrollment and lack of resources have been consistent across multiple changes in university administration and are due to systemic causes, for example, the fact that, out of the ten public universities closest to Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde, Sul Ross Alpine is both the most distant and the smallest; and

WHEREAS, this decline in enrollment and lack of resources have a disparate impact on the student body of Sul Ross Rio Grande College, which is predominantly female and Hispanic, and on the communities it serves, which are predominantly Hispanic; and

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M University System has made great progress in providing higher educational opportunities to South Texas and border communities through such universities as Texas A&M International University, Texas A&M University – Kingsville, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, and Texas A&M University – San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M University System has a record of success in managing complex university structures, including Texas A&M University – San Antonio, which began as a branch campus of Texas A&M University – Kingsville, and Texas A&M University – Central Texas, which began as a branch campus of Tarleton State University and now operates as an independent upper-level university; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of Sul Ross Rio Grande College hereby shows its support for Senate Bill 522 and House Bill 2336 concerning the transfer of Sul Ross State University to the Texas A&M University System.