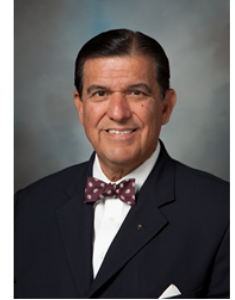




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August 1, 2014

**Senator Lucio statement on President Bailey's decision to postpone  
selecting a UTRGV administrative headquarters**

**AUSTIN** - Today (Friday), Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) releases the following statement responding to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley President Guy Bailey's decision on postpone indefinitely selecting a location for the university's proposed administrative headquarters:

"As a matter of priorities, I understand why President Bailey and the leadership of the University of Texas System decided to postpone selecting a location for The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's administration headquarters, and instead devote attention to immediately pressing facility needs.

"To ensure UTRGV can fulfill its mission of becoming a first-tier center for research, academics, and medicine, the System should rightly focus first on creating first-class facilities. Right now, we're far away from that goal, and I think it's appropriate to address those larger needs before deciding where a single headquarters building should be placed. In Cameron County, as a result of the University of Texas at Brownsville's separation from Texas Southmost College, more than 3,000 students are taking classes in leased space. By August 2015, that lease will end and the university must establish its own Brownsville campus.

"President Bailey's stated commitment to place his focus first and foremost on the immediate needs of students and faculty across all Valley campuses should be commended. Ultimately, the establishment of an executive office is a decision limited by geography, but the benefits accrued by investing now in students and faculty are limitless."

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