

2022-2023 SGA General Election Candidates

EXECUTIVE TICKET I

Jonathan Ricardo Dominguez: Candidate for President

Biography: Hi Vaquero Nation! My name is Jonathan Dominguez and I'm seeking to represent



you as the Student Government Association President at UTRGV for the 2022-2023 term. I'm a senior and I'm currently majoring in Biological Sciences hoping to pursue a career in medicine. I'm originally from Harlingen and I'm a proud Latino first generation student who's the oldest son to a hard-working immigrant family. As a child I grew up in Matamoros, Tamaulipas and then migrated to Harlingen in 2007 and have spent the rest of my life there ever since. Throughout my years in the valley, I've been fortunate to serve my community as a leader in a number of ways. Some of these leadership roles have included me being the President of my High School's Mariachi, Executive Coordinator of my church's Food Pantry program from 2019-2021, and me being the Clinical Coordinator of a charity clinic focused on providing aid to the uninsured and needy every summer since 2019. Although college can be somewhat of a hassle at times, I've still found the

time to do the things that I enjoy. Such as being part of the research being conducted at UTRGV, playing in a recreational basketball league, going out to do Mariachi gigs on my free time, songwriting, volunteering at charity clinics, and of course catching up on the most trending show on Netflix. But with all of this in mind, I would just really like to have the opportunity to not only represent my fellow classmates, but to also contribute to the culture being harnessed at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Bring about communion and tradition. To advocate for the concerns that students have and bring about action. Not leave any stone unturned and commit solely to the success and integrity of the university and its students. If given the opportunity, I wouldn't take it for granted and would make it my mission to bring forward the concerns you may have to the highest authority at the university if necessary. Wishing Vaquero Nation a great semester and don't forget to vote for Jonathan Dominguez for 2022-2023 SGA President!

Platform Statement: In the past three years that I've been a student at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley I've been blessed to have been able to learn from a number of exceptional students and faculty, but with that, I've also come across with areas in student government and in

the university that need improvement. One area that I would like to work on if given the chance is the inclusion of the Brownsville Campus when it comes to student activities. Although efforts in the past have been made to include the Brownsville campus, those efforts haven't been enough. And I say that because I have attended the Brownsville campus for two years and haven't heard about student activities as much as I've heard about them in the Edinburgh campus. I believe that the key to including the Brownsville campus and propelling the representation of both campuses is to invest on the culture of each individual campus. Instead of organizing events for both campuses, we should instead come up with events that are exclusive to each campus. Not only would this convey students from each campus to travel and experience what the other campus is like, but it would also shape the unique dynamic culture of each campus. Another area that I would like to work on is on the variety of professors teaching a certain subject on both campuses, I'm sure that most students have at least had a semester in which they have had to take a subject with a professor that they didn't really look forward to taking but had to either way due to the requirements of their degree. What I'm willing to offer and work on, is to provide my fellow classmates the opportunity to have more authority over who they want to learn from. Especially when it comes to those courses that are taught by the same and only professor every semester. I believe that a lot of UTRGV's faculty are incredible educators, and it would be a shame if us students didn't have the ability to take full advantage of learning from these educators and further our success as students. The last area I would like to work on is managing the budget of the student government and its opportunities to develop future leaders. As many of you may know opportunities are limited when it comes to leadership positions, research, and internships. And what I would like to offer is have more positions and opportunities to further develop students in their areas of expertise so they're more professionally equipped in their future endeavors after getting their degree. I plan on talking to the different colleges on both campuses to open more seats for their respective internships and research projects and opening more positions in student government in which students are taught how to be leaders. Perhaps the biggest thing I want to do with the student government budget is incentivize students who are academically excelling semester after semester with a \$100. In my opinion, these students are carrying the legacy of UTRGV and representing what it is to truly be a Vaquero in our communities. With this being said, I truly hope to be able to bring these ideas into action and represent my fellow classmates in the way they deserve to be represented.

Kimberly Escalante: Candidate for Vice President

Biography: Howdy Vaqueros! My name is Kimberly Escalante and I would love to represent



you all as the Student Government Association Vice-President. I am currently a sophomore and majoring in Biology. The goal is to be able to go to optometry school and become an optometrist. As someone going into this field of medicine with really no known guidance it can be quite frightening at times. Living with just my mother who lived almost her whole life in Mexico a lot of pressure does weigh on my shoulders to be the best I can possibly be, along with being a good role model for my younger sisters. There are certain expectations even I make myself reach that at times I question. Overall, this truly makes me strive to succeed in all that I do. I believe that the leadership roles I have experienced will aid me in this, such as secretary of Keep Brownsville Beautiful in 2020. This involved beautifying the city of Brownsville and organizing events with students to help aid in this huge task. Without the help of others through teamwork, it would not be

made possible. Of course college can be tough and things do get overwhelming with school and work. In order to keep me grounded I do love to watch a good anime, and go to the gym whenever I get too into my head. Overall, it would be an honor to advocate for others and inspire those with already promising attributes. If given this opportunity I will make it my mission to get the voices of those who struggle to use it, heard! Thank you, and wish you all the best in your endeavours. Vote Kimberly Escalante SGA Vice-President!

Platform Statement: One goal is the inclusion of the Brownsville Campus Another goal is more incentives for students who do well in their classes Lastly, have more professors to teach certain classes.

Jose Javier Herrera: Candidate for Vice President

Biography: Hello fellow Vaqueros, my name is Jose Javier Herrera, and I want to be yall's Vice



President! I am excited to work with my Vaquero family to ensure everyone at UTRGV has a successful academic career allowing yall to prosper and have a good time during your crucial years at UTRGV and after graduation! I know college can be stressful, and I want to be that person you can count on to help find a solution to the concerns we have on our campus. A little bit about myself is that I am currently a senior studying Biomedical Sciences, and a premed planning to go into medical school soon. I was born and raised in Harlingen, Tx, and come from a Hispanic background. Some fun things I like to do during my free time are helping out my community by volunteering at educational events to teach our youth important medical subjects, volunteering at charity clinics and health fairs, and going to the animal shelter to look

after our furry buddies. Occasional when time allows, I like to go to the gym and go paintballing with a couple of friends. I am looking forward to working in a team with yall, don't be shy and let me know how we can make your experience better as we are all in this together!

Platform Statement: Our goal as the elected executive branch is to work on the inclusion of the Brownsville Campus when it comes to student activities. We are aware that this has previously been attempted and unsuccessful. Still, we do not want to give up on this, as both sides of the university deserve student involvement and campus traditions! The key to including the Brownsville campus and propelling the representation of both campuses is to invest in the culture of each individual campus. Instead of organizing events for both campuses, we can instead come up with exclusive events for each campus. this would act as an incentive to travel and experience what the other campus is like, but it would also shape the unique dynamic culture of each campus. Another goal would be to increase the variety of professors teaching a particular subject on both campuses; what has been observed is that some courses are sometimes located on a certain campus due to a lack of availability or that some courses have very few professor selections in which sometimes affects the student negatively as it may be an unfavorable environment or option due to whatever the reason may be. We want to offer our fellow classmates the opportunity to have more authority over who and where they want to learn from. We believe that many of UTRGV's faculty are incredible educators, and it would be a shame if we students couldn't take full advantage of learning from these educators and further our success as students. The last goal we would like to work on is managing the student government's budget

to allow more opportunities to develop future leaders. As many of you may know, opportunities are limited when it comes to leadership positions, research, and internships. And what we would like to offer is more positions and opportunities to further develop students in their areas of expertise so they're more professionally equipped in their future endeavors after getting their degree. We plan to talk to the different colleagues on both campuses to open more seats for their respective internships and research projects and open more positions in student government in which students are taught how to be leaders. Perhaps the biggest thing we want to do with the student government budget is incentivizing students who are academically excelling semester after semester with some sort of monetary reward to help with educational expenses. With this being said, we genuinely hope to be able to bring these ideas into action and represent our fellow classmates in the way they deserve to be represented.

EXECUTIVE TICKET II

Job Martinez: Candidate for President

Biography: During my time as a Senator for the College of Business & Entrepreneurship, I have



been able to prove my ability to represent all students at UTRGV. Through my experience working for the university, I have had the opportunity to work with students for over 4 years and have thus been able to represent students in areas such as leadership, professional development, student concerns, student advocacy, and more.

Platform Statement: Our executive team will focus on the following three goals: - Campus and Class accessibility - College Equity and Equality - Accurate visibility for student and campus resources

Karitza Vianey Garcia: Candidate for Vice President

Biography: Over the course of my academic career, there was always a struggle to adapt to



change and fully immerse myself in the university experience so close to home. Having been very involved in student organizations in high school, I quickly figured it would be a great way to meet likeminded individuals who are enjoy making a difference not only in our UTRGV community, but the RGV as a whole. Through my work with the office of Engaged Scholarship and Learning, I obtained my role as a student assistant in charge of community outreach with the UTRGV Office of Community Engagement and obtain the necessary skills to engage student leaders and UTRGV students into cultivating a culture of Engagement and pride. Through my leadership positions held in SGA and LMSA+, I have grown as a leader, student, and future professional. Being a nursing student has taught me that we can make change even if its one bit at a time. Overall I feel my experiences will shape me into a better nurse and aid me in

being a leader in the health care setting and our community. As an AHEC Scholar, with the help of UT Health RGV, I have learned what it is to be a community leader and the impact health disparities have on our rural and underserved communities, as I prepare to graduate, I look to the future and representing UTRGV as an alumni at the highest level of healthcare. Being SGA Vice-President, I feel exemplifies not only the vaquero honor code, school pride, but also leadership. To those individuals that will represent UTRGV and it's community in every aspect, and I feel that I encompass that.

Platform Statement: We want to continue our work towards campus and class accessibility, college equity and equality, and accurate visibility for student and campus resources.

Kimberly Grace Sandoval: Candidate for Vice President

Biography: I have been in the Student Government Association for half of a term as a Senator



At-Large for the Brownsville campus. I have been able to raise awareness regarding issues facing students in the College of Fine Arts and take the proper steps toward change. I want to set my sights on other colleges and work towards equality and accessibility for all of UTRGV. I can continue to provide the same work ethic and dedication I have shown as your Vice President. I want to do more to further progressive change here at UTRGV.

Platform Statement: We want to continue our work towards campus and class accessibility, college equity and equality, and accurate visibility for student and campus resources.

CANDIDATES FOR SENATORS AT-LARGE

Oswaldo Grimaldo: Candidate for Senator at-Large- Edinburg

Biography: I'm Oswaldo Grimaldo, a first generation Mexican-American and a first generation



college student. I'm seeking to represent the student body in this role to have a direct impact on our collegiate experience. As a student leader, I have witnessed the necessities students need and the much change needed to be done. I have always had a passion for serving others, and bettering my community. UTRGV Vaquer@s all want a high quality education, and I want to ensure that we all succeed.

Platform Statement: My three goals that I would want to focus on would be the following. Ensuring that all UTRGV students are heard, providing more than just a TownHall, but tabling opportunities around campus where students get to voice their concerns to us on a 1-on-1. As well, since UTRGV is not a traditional university, but a commuter school, I would want to hear from those students on how campus life can accommodate to them and their schedules due to the fact that they cannot be on campus at all times. Finally, giving a

platform to those students with disabilities who may not know of the resources UTRGV provides for them, and highlighting their struggles on campus, so we can tackle them headfirst, so no Vaquer@ would ever have to encounter those struggles.

Isabella Marie Macias: Candidate for Senator at-Large- Edinburg

Biography: I, Isabella Macias, am a student that has grown up grateful for the opportunities of



The Rio Grande Valley. Raised in Edinburg, I have been molded and fostered by the spirit of community and tradition, traits of a region unlike any other in America. I value how the culture of my childhood gave me passions that opened many doors for me. They are passions for leading, supporting, and serving as many people as possible to the best of my ability. I now ask for the opportunity to give back what the valley gave to me. I hope that I can do so by being in a position that nurtures the same qualities that shaped my life for the student body of UTRGV.

Platform Statement: I will focus on providing students with free access to more resources, continuing incentives already given to students for enrollment, and bettering on-campus environment (better outside seating, gardening, etc.).

Kimberly Moran: Candidate for Senator at-Large- Edinburg

Biography: My name is Kimberly Moran. I am from the Dallas/Fort Worth area and have enjoyed getting to know the valley. During my two years at UTRGV I have found myself wanting to help the community here. Not only on the Edinburg campus, but also the Brownsville campus. I am a Biology major, but I aim to help other majors as-well so that each college is treated fairly and all students no matter their major get the best opportunities granted to them.



Platform Statement: I aim... to make this campus more sustainable and eco conscious. to create a safe space for LGBTQ+ students and faculty. to find a way for all students to get a leg up for their future endeavors.

ACADEMIC SENATOR CANDIDATES

Julianna DeAnda Castillo: Candidate for Senator for the College of Health Professions

Biography: Hello! My name is Julianna Castillo and I am a Biomedical Sciences major with a



minor in Psychology here at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. I was born and raised in Harlingen, Texas, and graduated from Harlingen High School South. While being enrolled as a full-time student, I have been employed with the Center for Student Involvement, the Center for Teaching Excellence, the Learning Center, and the Academic Advising Center. I have also been involved in the E.P.I.C Mentoring Program and the Freshman Leadership Academy as a protégé. During my sophomore year, Fall 2020, I was initiated into Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Inc. and served as the Chapter Historian/Chaplain, Fundraising Chair, Publicity Chair, and Chapter President. I am also currently on the Pre-PA track in hopes of one day becoming a Physician Assistant.

Platform Statement: As a senator for the College of Health Professions, I would

advocate for more opportunities for undergraduate students to have more access to professional examination testing preparation (GRE, MCAT, PCAT, DAT), publish more externships/internships/additional opportunities, making them more accessible for students to acquire hands-on experience in their respective fields, and establish a mentoring program for the schools and departments for students that are interested in pursuing a professional career in their respective field of study.

Omar Esteban Salgado: Candidate for Senator for the College of Health Professions

Biography: My name is Omar E. Salgado, I am a senior here at UTRGV and a native of



Brownsville, Texas. I was born, raised, and continue to live in Brownsville where I hope to remain after my studies to give back to the community that has provided so much for me. I am inclined to serve others, so much that I've narrowed down my career path towards one that does just that. This inclination to serve does not discriminate; if I am in a position to help anybody, I will do so to the best of my ability.

Platform Statement: I will focus on bringing more campus opportunities to different locations of the university. Many of the classes required in our Health Professions degree plans are not location-friendly for our international and Brownsville-San Benito-Harlingen students. Campus opportunities such as extracurricular activities and clubs are centralized in Edinburg, I'd push for the

promotion of more events that are ubiquitous for the aforementioned student body. Lastly, advocating for the already abundant opportunities and services that we students at UTRGV are so fortunate to have access to.

Odalys Anahi Saenz: Candidate for Senator for the College of Liberal Arts

Biography: Hello, my name is Odalys A. Saenz-Perez I'm 19 years of age. I'm a psychology major in pursuit of becoming a correctional psychiatrist. I'm always in the state of mind of learning and working on becoming a better self and spreading positivity during these hard times. I'm willing to avidly represent UTRGV by setting an example for academic success and leading for the betterment of the school.



Platform Statement: By being a Senator for the College of Liberal Arts I will encourage the best I possibly can to bring students to feel more comfortable in participating in events regarding the college, helping improve students' college experience, and finally to push for improvement with any troubles around the school.

Kassandra Ximena Garcia: Candidate for Senator for the College of Sciences

Biography: My name is Kassandra Garcia, and I am a senior Biology Major. I am the daughter



of two Mexican immigrants that have scarified so much to me to be where I am today. They have though me the importance of hard work, determination, and resiliency. As senator of the College of Sciences I want to use these lessons to move our programs forward for the future generation of UTRGV students to come.

Platform Statement: I believe there are many opportunities in the College of sciences that students are not aware of and my platform is the bring light to these opportunities and create a community in the college of sciences where student will feel safe and heard. One of the ways I will implement that platform as a senator for the college of sciences is to bring lights to these opportunities in research, community service and mentorship though improved advertisement on the college of science social medias. Goal number two is to promote community and closeness in the College of sciences. I know

first-hand that the workload as a science major is not the easiest and for some students to know that their peers are going through the same struggles can be a big help. Inside of the science building there are many computer labs that are often not used because many students do not know of them or they have nobody to go in there with, so through promoting closeness in the community of science I want to host tutoring sessions and study sessions just so students can come together in an environment and hopefully make friends and bond over the classes that they're taking or the workload. My third goal is to implement self-care days where students can come to events in distress for a little while. We are our best self when out mental health is the best. Some of the event I am thinking about include yoga under the sunset, painting session, coffee, conversation, and chill vibes. However, my overall objective as a senator is to make sure that I am an accurate representation of the wants and needs of UTRGV's student body. I want the student body to feel that their voices are heard. I believe UTRGV is a great school and with the right leaders it can progress to be an even greater school.

Batool Ibrahim: Candidate for Senator for the College of Sciences

Biography: My name is Batool Ibrahim I was born in Syria and migrated to the United States



with my parents when I was 13. However, none of us knew English at the time, so I was pushed to learn English because I was the youngest so that I could begin assisting my parents with everything involving English and technology. I faced many hardships and made many mistakes when adjusting to a new environment after moving to a completely different culture and country, but I always convinced myself that mistakes do not indicate failure, but rather new lessons that I have learnt. I am now a freshman in college with the goal of attending medical school after completing my bachelor's degree in biology. I want to be a doctor because I have always admired how sick people come to them for treatment and leave with the hope of feeling better.

Platform Statement: Hello, my name is Batool Ibrahim, and I am a first-year pre-med Biology major. As a student I want to be a part of the senate in the college of science, I am asking for

your support. UTRGV is a great college, however, like any other collage, there is always space for improvement. My goal is to make our university more understanding of all people, and I'd like to make my most often used words to be I'd like to hear your feedback I am a great communicator who actively listens and welcomes new ideas from everyone who wants to make UTRGV a comfortable environment for all students. I believe everybody should have a voice and it will be my responsibility to be that voice.

Abby Marie Davila: Candidate for Graduate Senator

Biography: I am 24 years old and I'm in my last year of of the Clinical Rehabilitation



Counseling program. I'm also in the PCBH certificate program. (Primary Care Behavioral Health) I am a first year generation student in hopes of working as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

Platform Statement: Represent the graduate college for the new initiative Speak with more faculty from the graduate college Speak with graduate college students and gather their concerns.

S M Sarwar: Candidate for Graduate Senator

Biography: Anyone can define S M Sarwar within three terms only: humanitarian volunteer,



open-source contributor, researcher. He is now pursuing his MS in Computer Science and working as a Graduate Research Assistant. After joining UTRGV from fall 21, he has started working as Secretary at Engineers Without Borders UTRGV, and from spring 22, he took over a Vice President role at CEO - Edinburg. Moreover, he has a membership of 10 other organizations at UTRGV. Besides the academic part, now, he is working voluntarily as a Reps of Mozilla and now mentoring two Mozilla communities of India. In addition, he has 7 years of volunteer experience with the United Nations, Translators without borders, Mozilla, Google, Code.org, Docker, and many Bangladesh-based

organizations. Even during his undergrad time, he worked closely with the beginning time of 5 different student organizations and traveled to different countries to participate in leadership-related workshops.

Platform Statement: * Create more skill development-related activities for students. * Focus on student engagement with different programs * Work to increase grad student participation ratio with different programs

Jacob Ruben Flores: Candidate for Senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship

Biography: I am finance major seeking a position in student legislation to bring a voice to the students. Just a kid from Mission with a big mission to make campus life better and inclusive to all.



Platform Statement: My mission statement is simple. I want to bring a voice to all, I want a campus that's inclusive to all and last but not least I want a student body that can network with itself and it's community to provide a well rounded college experience.

Josiah Gonzalez: Candidate for Senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship

Biography: I am Josiah Gonzalez, I am an 18 year old freshman studying finance. I am currently an FYI and Enactus member. I aspire to be the best person I can possibly be and to work hard for people in need.



Platform Statement: As senator I will work towards giving students the best quality of education in the college of business. Working towards fixing our college of business. And to be a person where students can voice any concern they have towards their college of business.