

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JULY 21, 2020

Throughout UT's history we have faced many challenges. The University was launched during the Great Recession, endured WW II and the Korean War years, competitively adapted with the start of new state universities in our backyard, survived the ongoing struggles of our weak financial structure and lack of endowment, and came back from the precipitous enrollment declines that caused red ink in the early 90's. Since then, we've steadily built the University, but now we are challenged by a severe health safety crisis combined with another economic downturn. It has never been easy for UT, yet despite the challenges we have stayed focused on surviving, thriving, moving forward and improving our educational experience.

The 2019-20 year has come to a successful end despite the extraordinary challenges of a world pandemic.

New Spartans

UT began fall 2019 with a new full-time enrollment record of 9,628. UT's full-time enrollment has now quintupled and total enrollment has quadrupled since 1995. We've now had 23 successive years of all-time enrollment records and we've done this while so many schools are struggling and shrinking. Of course, this year has been quite a challenge as we've worked within the dynamic pandemic. There has never been as much uncertainty in the college decision-making process, yet we hope to continue the University's steady enrollment growth as we help students achieve their educational goals.

Strengthening Educational Excellence

For Fall 2019 we added 22 full-time faculty positions and over the past academic year, we also recruited 18 new full-time faculty positions which begin this fall. This large infusion of intellectual talent bodes well for UT's future.

- As always, we've continued to focus on education quality improvements and accreditation initiatives.
 - In Fall 2019 we received new accreditation approval from the National Association of Arts and Design (NASAD). This new accreditation positively impacts 10 of our academic programs, including: Bachelor of Arts programs in art therapy, design, film and media arts, museum studies and visual arts, and Bachelor of Fine Arts programs in art, animation, film and media arts, graphic design and new media. UT is only the second private university accredited in Florida by NASAD.
 - We received new accreditation for our teacher education programs from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).
 - Our forensic science program received new accreditation in Spring 2020 from Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). Only about 49 of these programs are accredited nationally.
 - Reaccreditation of our athletic training programs was received last Spring from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

- UT’s quality educational brand also continued to be recognized with many high rankings, recognitions and distinctions. A few of these testaments to our quality are noted below.
 - UT has again been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* in the top tier in the category Best Regional Universities (South) in its “Best Colleges 2020” guidebook. The Sykes College of Business was also named as a top undergraduate business program. Noteworthy this year is that UT was named in six lists, including: 1) Best Value Schools; 2) Most Innovative College; 3) A+ Schools for B Students; 4) Top Performers on Social Mobility; 5) Best Colleges for Veterans; and 6) Best Undergraduate Teaching.
 - UT was also named to *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance’s* list of the 400 Best College Values for 2019, based on objective measurements of academic quality and affordability.
 - Once again, we’re pleased to see that UT’s RN nursing program was ranked No. #1 in Florida out of 154 programs by RegisteredNursing.org, a nursing advocacy organization.
 - Once again, UT had a 100 percent pass rate on the national NCLEX nursing licensing exam.
 - Just weeks ago, the National Council of State Board of Nursing provided the newest program ranking for both 2018 and 2019 graduates, which are reported in their 2019 and 2020 rankings (see below). UT Nursing is ranked No. #1 everywhere.

NCLEX® PROGRAM REPORTS

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - BS

Report Period: APR 2019 - MAR 2020

RANK OF YOUR PROGRAM BASED ON PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES PASSING

	APR-MAR 2019	APR-MAR 2020
All Programs in Your Jurisdiction	1 of 161	1 of 178
All Similar Programs Across Every Jurisdiction	1 of 876	1 of 926
All Programs Across Every Jurisdiction	1 of 2061	1 of 2123

Notes

The rankings are based on the percentage of your graduates passing the NCLEX-RN® examination compared to other programs with at least ten graduates who took the NCLEX-RN examination during the same reporting period.

All nursing programs with the same percentage of graduates passing the NCLEX-RN examination will have the same rank.

- Several UT programs were recently recognized in the inaugural 2020 PLEXUSS Global Rankings: marine science, criminology and criminal justice and political science.
 - No. 3 in Florida for Best Marine Science Program. In addition, Bio Explorer.net recently ranked our marine science program in the top 10 for marine biology within the U.S.

- No. 4 in Florida for Best Criminology Program
- No. 4 in Florida for Most Prestigious Private College or University Offering a Political Science Program
- UT’s speech communication program was considered one of the nation’s top undergraduate communications programs this year, after receiving the Rex Mix Program of Excellence Award at the 2019 annual convention of the National Communication Association.
- For the 13th year in a row, UT’s Sykes College of Business was named as an outstanding business school by the Princeton Review and recognized as one of the 248 best schools in the world. For the fourth year in a row, UT has also been named to Bloomberg Business Week’s Best U.S. Business Schools of 2019-2020.
- More than 40 million visitors per month use Study.com to research potential schools. The site selected UT’s finance program as No. #4 in the U.S. based on academic and career resources for finance students, the quality of education and program accessibility, among other factors.
- UT was named as one of the top 50 schools in the country for entrepreneurship studies by the Princeton Review and *Entrepreneurship* magazine.
- UT was included in Phi Theta Kappa’s 2020 Transfer Honor Roll, which identifies the top four-year colleges and universities that create dynamic pathways to support transfer students. UT is one of only 122 institutions nationwide selected to receive this honor and it is awarded to the top 25 percent of colleges that earned the highest transfer friendliness ratings.
- UT was recognized as one of 77 universities accepted into the 2020-2021 cohort of First-gen Forward institutions. The First-gen Forward designation recognizes institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students.
- In 2018, UT was one of only about 100 select institutions invited to join the Coalition of Access, Affordability and Success. This elite membership continues to positively impact UT’s student academic profile.
- UT is one of 10 universities that applied for and was accepted into a Coalition for College Pilot Program with access to over 200,000 first generation and minority high school students. UT is provided the opportunity to provide helpful videos, tutorials and events for these students. We are proud to partner with nine other coalition universities, which include Harvard, Yale, University of Michigan, Virginia Tech and others.
- The *Minaret*, UT’s student newspaper, was one of five student newspapers in the country to be given a green seal of approval by NewsGuard, a company that evaluates websites for their credibility and transparency. The *Minaret* was given the seal of approval after an extensive review process by NewsGuard’s staff.
- Importantly, we continued with efforts to develop new academic programs for a more secure enrollment future for students and the institution.

- We created new undergraduate level academic programs in actuarial science as well as in Communication and Speech Studies.
- We also created new graduate level academic programs in business analytics and professional communication.
- Finally, we hired the founding director for the new computer science program which we expect to start in Fall 2021.
- Due to COVID- 19, we prepared for and implemented the sudden shift to remote learning which include remote student support and services throughout the University.

Student Life

- The Student Affairs division quickly pivoted in March to a full-service remote division based on the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff continued to serve students individually through video conferencing technology, repurposed face-to-face programs to virtual offerings and fully utilized social media to educate, engage and entertain students.
- Medical services within the Dickey Health and Wellness Center led the health response to the COVID-19 crisis and continues to be at the epicenter of our ongoing preparation for the fall. Our partnership with Tampa General Hospital (TGH), the area’s only trauma hospital, is particularly valuable at this time.
- Residence Life quickly created processes for quarantining and isolating students during the COVID-19 situation. This tough and unprecedented situation was handled professionally and smoothly.
- Due to UT’s enrollment growth and space constraints, we transitioned to a hybrid orientation model that encompassed an online orientation along with an 11-day Week of Welcome which featured numerous programs and events.
- We launched Spartan Ready to Work, our Student Employment Development Program aimed at competency development for student employees. This new program will focus on enhancing work readiness and student retention by training work supervisors to help develop UT skills. Note that UT employs 1,700 student workers, so this pilot program will have a substantial impact when fully developed.
- We expanded our Fraternity and Sorority Life community to 27 by adding the national sorority Delta Phi Epsilon. We also added several new student organizations and club sports. Student organizations, clubs and teams now total about 300.
- We completed year two of our JED partnership that completed research and assessment of UT’s mental health programs. Through this collaboration we review best practices as we prepared for the launch of a new strategic plan to address student mental health needs which have elevated nationally.
- We launched the Ajivar mobile app that teaches mindfulness, resiliency and emotional intelligence with 1,500 current UT students, faculty and staff as users.
- We successfully executed four virtual commencement programs (one for each of University college) which included a personalized virtual message and their virtual diploma being presented in a minaret.

- Even with a shortened and disrupted athletics season, UT did well. This can be seen through a variety of sports recognitions received:
 - UT won three Sunshine State Conference championships in women’s basketball, women’s cross country and men’s swimming. The UT men’s swimming team went undefeated this regular season for the first time in school history. Six teams were in NCAA post season competition or were selected for the post season, but were unable to compete due to COVID-19.
 - We had three Division II National Players of the Year:
 - Women’s Golf – Kiira Riihijarvi
 - Men’s Lacrosse – Ross Dickerson
 - Women’s Lacrosse – Claire Swanson
 - We had 34 athletic All-Americans as well as numerous SSC conference awards for both athletes and coaches.
 - Expectations are high for additional awards for UT student athletes, as 155 athletes made the Dean’s List in a broad range of academic programs. The overall average cumulative GPA across all athletes was a 3.22 GPA on a 4.0 grade scale. Two teams, women’s swimming and women’s rowing, had spring semester average team GPAs of 3.7. Thirteen men and women swimmers were selected for the Scholar All-American team.
- UT completed a comprehensive review of athletic protocols and procedures for athlete concussion management.

Campus Transformation

- This year we continued our total transformation of Information Technology and Security which began over five years ago when we completely reorganized the ITS department and began rebuilding much of our campus technology infrastructure.
 - After several years of rebuilding the technology system, we’re pleased to replace UT’s outdated legacy student information system with Workday Student and My UTampa. These new cloud-based systems offer enhanced data and access security, single sign-on access, ease of use and the ability for students to use mobile devices to register for classes and obtain up-to-date and accurate information about degree programs, billing and financial aid.
 - UT added international certification for excellence (ISO/IEC 22301) in maintaining an effective and resilient business continuity program. UT is the only U.S. University to hold this distinction. We’re excited to add this to our international certification for cybersecurity (we’ve had this unique certification since 2015).
 - This past year also included modernization of Wi-Fi coverage in several campus buildings and areas as well as upgrades of audiovisual equipment in classrooms, voice over IP phone systems and installation of additional remote printing stations in multiple areas of campus.

- The University continued with physical campus transformations that eliminated more of the old, hand-me-down buildings and improved our overall education and service environment.
 - Construction of the Ferman Center continues, and completion is targeted for late fall. This 90,000 sq. ft. facility is a game changer for the College of Arts and Letters and its 50 major, minor and certificate programs. They'll soon have one of the best facilities in the country.
 - The new Science Research Laboratories building -- located on Kennedy Boulevard -- was designed and constructed this year just in time for the new 2020 academic year. These labs will accommodate growth and development in the natural sciences.
 - We also continued planning for upcoming building projects: phase II of the Fitness and Recreation Center, a proposed new parking garage and a new technology building.
 - Preservation architects were hired to develop a comprehensive new Plant Hall master plan. This plan will provide a thorough review of Plant Hall and a prioritization of the numerous restoration aspects needing attention in this almost 130-year-old National Historic Landmark building. This plan is critical to the preservation of this signature building for both the institution and the community.

Operations

UT's operations achieved much this year and were incredibly challenged.

- We began the year with emergency management focusing on hurricane preparations and fall hurricane threats. We ended the year with emergency services working on the COVID-19 crisis.
- Emergency management required leadership of many groups and subgroups, e.g., the Emergency Operations Team, the Emergency Communications Group, Night Operations, COVID-19 Core Group, the COVID-19 Calendar Group, the Health Safety Task Force and the Tampa Bay Emergency Manager meetings. These various groups worked to enhance safety, ensure Clery Act compliance, and facilitate training and operational preparations. Staff also underwent an active shooter mitigation program.
- Campus Safety personnel dealt with a flood of electric scooters on UT property, North Boulevard traffic congestion and parking limitations.
- A new Campus Safety Security Assistant (CSSA) program was launched to incorporate student monitors at residence hall desks as extensions of safety department services.
- Mail Services completed its first full year in operating UT's new postal services with the innovative intelligent locker system. Note that the onset of COVID-19 did not deter mail delivery as our intelligent parcel lockers offered a safe way to transfer packages and letters.
- Institutional Research was extraordinarily busy responding to the expansion of institutional compliance requirements, supporting more accreditations and providing countless new reports as part of UT's new enterprise software system.

- Programs and services for veterans were further developed and improved as UT continued to be recognized as a Military Friendly University. A new veteran's honor society, called Salute, was also founded. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs compliance audit resulted in a rank of "Commendable". The auditor's letter said that "it is notable that the student veterans who provided feedback during student interview sessions expressed great satisfaction with their learning experiences at UT and with your certifying officials' handling of their VA education benefits".

Securing Our Future

- We prepared materials for rating agency reviews, selected bond underwriters, prepared all bond materials, worked through the City as conduit issuer for our bonds and met with prospective bond investors. Despite economic and pandemic disruptions, we were ultimately successful with our bond issues. In fact, our bond offerings were over-subscribed and investors made numerous comments about the UT success story. These new bonds will help secure our future for important new facilities and eliminate the 100-year-old fairground buildings that still exist on campus.
- We worked on plans for our next capital campaign and continued to secure some leadership gifts, although our campaign launch has been slowed by the pandemic.
- Thanks to the leadership of trustees and alumni, we ended the academic year with a record "Give Day" fundraising effort to provide additional support for students needing emergency financial aid.
- We implemented new state-of-the-art development software, Raiser's Edge to facilitate improved services, support, analytics and donor stewardship.
- UT's online/web communications were transformed with a complete web redesign process. The new website will be launched in August. We also created a new online presence for the *UT Journal* and refreshed the *Journal's* design.
- We researched and developed a news subscription service so the extended UT community can receive the latest news and developments from campus.
- New trademark protection was secured for UT's logos and wordmarks and licensing royalties grew to record levels.
- We created a wide variety of new and revised brochures/publications as well as many news releases, feature stories, videos and social media campaigns. A new UT Now electronic monthly update was launched as part of keeping alumni and friends current on UT happenings.

In Appreciation

The activities highlighted are only a few examples of what we've accomplished this year. All in all UT had an exciting year of achievement and progress that was not dimmed by the historic pandemic! **I thank all of our Trustees, Chiselers, Fellows, Counselors, alumni, UT faculty/staff, students, parents and friends for your help and support.**