March 2, 2011

Dear Students:

Schools in the University of Texas System, as well as other institutions across the state, are currently in a dilemma as we approach the timeframe for developing students’ financial aid awards for the upcoming 2011-12 school year. We understand that you and your families need to know what grant, loan and scholarship resources will be available to you as you make your plans for next year. Typically, we are able to tell you midway through the spring semester what your financial aid award will be with some degree of certainty and specificity. This year, however, it will be more challenging to give you accurate information any time soon about your financial aid award.

We are in the midst of significant changes both at the federal and state levels as legislative bodies respond to calls for significant cuts in programs at all levels of government. As a result, decisions have not been made about funding levels for several financial aid programs, most significantly Pell grants, TEXAS grants, and B-on-time loans, among others. Without decisions about funding for these programs, financial aid awards at this time can only be estimates. The final aid package may be more or less depending on decisions made by Congress and the Texas Legislature. Since we do not know what funding will be available until sometime in the future, we are significantly challenged in developing a financial aid award you can rely on completely.

We are working very hard to get resolution about these important financial aid programs. Please know that we will make you aware of decisions as they are made and that we will provide you accurate, up-to-date information as it is available. We are committed to your success as a student and will do everything we can to provide you resources to continue your enrollment.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office.

All best wishes,

Ricardo Romo
President