

Council chooses four-division format

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New reorganization plan

The organization of the college's academic programs will shift to a four-division format in the fall.

Michael Gutierrez, executive vice president of academic affairs, said the new divisions will be Arts and Communications, STEM, Career Tech and Social Sciences.

The removal of the College Readiness and Mathematics division allowed for the addition of a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math division and the expansion of the current Arts, Language and Literature division. Employees in College Readiness will take on new roles in other divisions.

Gutierrez said in a campus-wide email that the changes "will create opportunities for faculty, staff and administrators to collaborate in different and creative ways."

A forum was held in early February, allowing audience members to comment on the pros and cons of the three proposed models.

Discussions about reorganizing academic programs at Eastfield have been ongoing for the past year. Collaborative efforts among faculty and administrators produced the three options.

After receiving input from faculty, staff and administrators, Gutierrez recommended that the executive council adopt Option 3, the four-division option. It was approved on March 4.

Changes include shifting computer science

Arts & Communications	STEM	Career Tech	Social Sciences
ART	MATH	AUTO BODY	ACCOUNTING
DANCE	DEV MATH	AUTO TECH	BUSINESS
DRAMA	TECHNICAL MATH	BUS OFFICE SYSTEMS	MGMT/ MARKETING
ENGLISH	ENGINEERING	CAD	
ESOL	COMPUTER SCIENCE	COMPUTER TECH	
FOREIGN LANG	PHYSICS	ELECTRONICS	
HUMANITIES	BIOLOGY	ELEC TELECOM	
MUSIC	CHEMISTRY	HVAC	
SPEECH	GEOLOGY	MECHATRONIC	
COMM	ANATOMY/ PHYSIOLOGY	ALT/SUSTAIN ENERGY	
SIGN LANGUAGE	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	WELDING	
DEV READING	NUTRITION		
DEV WRITING	PE		
DIGITAL MEDIA			
			ANTHROPOLOGY
			HISTORY
			CHILD DEV
			PARENT/CHILD STUDY
			CRIMINAL JUSTICE
			PHILOSOPHY/ RELIGION
			ECONOMICS
			PSYCHOLOGY
			GEOGRAPHY
			SOCIAL WORK
			GOVERNMENT
			SOCIOLOGY
			SUB ABUSE/ COUNSELING
			TEACHER PREP
			LEARNING FRAMEWORK
			HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

SOURCE: EASTFIELD COLLEGE

and all math courses to the new STEM division. This grouping aligns with the statewide and national push to create more STEM students.

Arts and Communications will pick up developmental reading and writing courses as well as digital media and sign language.

The four-division plan will "enable discipline

alignment and departmental cohesion and will give students even more dynamic opportunities for success, achievement and completion at Eastfield College," Gutierrez said.

Executive Dean Gretchen Riehl of Science, Physical Education and Athletics believes her new division promotes student success by con-

centrating similar disciplines.

"The sooner you connect students to who they want to be or to people doing what they want to do, the more successful they'll be," Riehl said.

The changes will double the size of the Science, Physical Education and Athletics division. Marilyn Turner, an administrative assistant in College Readiness, will move to the STEM division to help with the increased workload. While it's too early to know if more faculty or space will be needed, Riehl is excited to expand.

"The faculty members coming [to the division] are really stellar people and have the good of students at heart," she said. "There may be road bumps, but we'll get through it."

Executive Dean Ricardo Rodriguez of College Readiness and Mathematics will take on new duties at the college, while Associate Dean Judith Dumont and secretary Neyra Balk will join the Arts and Communication division under Executive Dean Rachel Wolf.

Wolf hopes the teamwork and conversations among faculty will continue under the new organization plan.

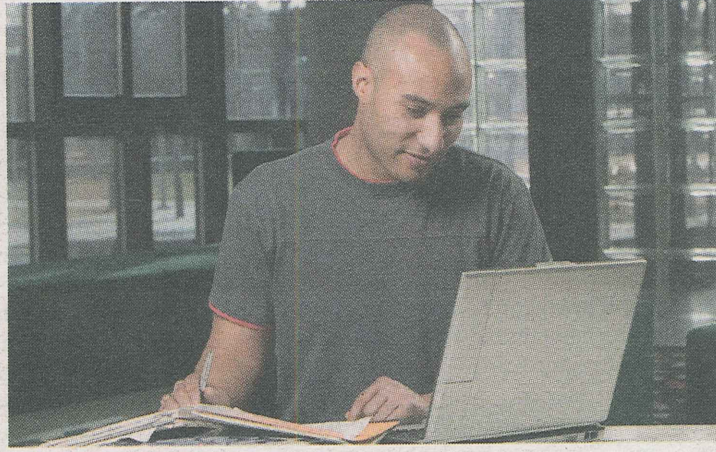
"If people are working together, collaborating and engaged with one another, they'll be the same with students," she said.

Gutierrez said he is excited to see the new direction the college is taking.

"I know that Eastfield is no stranger to innovation, so I am especially pleased that so many embraced this change," he said.



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OPINION

Fiscal insanity or fiscal responsibility?

RAYMOND THOMAS PRONK
Staff Writer

Part 1 appeared in the March 4 issue of the Chronicle.

Fiscal insanity is rampant in Washington among the ruling elites in the Democratic and Republican parties.

In February Congress suspended the national debt ceiling through March 15, 2015 thereby increasing it to nearly \$18 trillion. On March 4 President Barack Obama proposed a fiscal year 2015 U.S. Federal Government Budget to Congress that is massively out of balance with estimated government spending outlays exceeding total tax revenues by more than \$500 billion.

In order to meet its obligations and pay its bills, the federal government must borrow money. The Department of the Treasury must sell Treasury securities, including bills, notes and bonds. By doing this, the national debt of the United States is increased. Both the interest and principle on this debt must be paid off by existing and future generations of American taxpayers.

In the last 12 years the massive deficit spending by both Republican and Democrat Congresses and presidents has resulted in increases in the gross national debt by nearly \$10 trillion. Since Obama has been in office, the deficits for fiscal years 2009 - 2013 have exceeded \$6 trillion and resulted in a massive increase in the national debt.

Table 2 right summarizes the increases in national debt resulting from the yearly budgetary deficits.

Some would argue that once the U.S. economy begins to grow again greater than its historical growth rate of about 3 percent per year for real gross domestic product, unemployment will decline, government tax revenues will increase and deficits will be significantly reduced.

The unemployment rate has been greater than 6.5 percent for the past 63 months and greater than 8 percent for 43 of these 63 months, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. The U.S. economy is growing at less than 3 percent per year, measured by real gross domestic product growth, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce.

Until federal spending is brought under control by cutting both discretionary spending for all departments and agencies and mandatory spending for entitlement programs including Social Security, Medicare, Obamacare, welfare programs including Medicaid, food stamps and income security, the economy will continue to stagnate with low growth rates and high unemployment rates.

The time has come to live within the means of the American people and bring federal government spending under control with balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility.

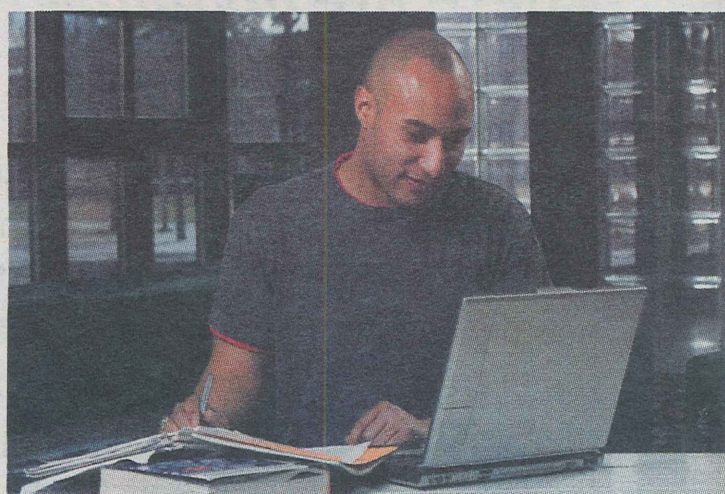
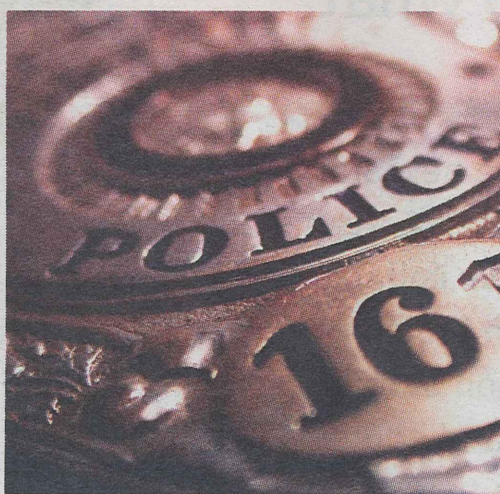
Table 2, Summary of Total Debt Held By Public, Intragovernmental Holdings and Gross Debt by President, Party Controlling Senate and House of Representatives for Fiscal Years 2002 - 2013 [in millions of dollars]

Fiscal Year	President (Party)	Party Controlling Senate	Party Controlling House of Representatives	Total Debt Held By Public	Total Intragovernmental Holdings	Total Gross National Debt
2002	George W. Bush (R)	Republican	Republican	3,553,180	2,675,056	6,228,236
2003	George W. Bush (R)	Republican	Republican	3,924,090	2,859,141	6,783,231
2004	George W. Bush (R)	Republican	Republican	4,307,345	3,071,708	7,379,053
2005	George W. Bush (R)	Republican	Republican	4,601,239	3,331,471	7,932,710
2006	George W. Bush (R)	Republican	Republican	4,843,121	3,663,853	8,506,974
2007	George W. Bush (R)	Democrat	Democrat	5,049,306	3,958,348	9,007,653
2008	George W. Bush (R)	Democrat	Democrat	5,808,692	4,216,033	10,024,725
2009	George W. Bush (R) Barack Obama (D)	Democrat	Democrat	7,528,018	4,325,124	11,853,142
2010	Barack Obama (D)	Democrat	Democrat	9,022,808	4,538,815	13,561,623
2011	Barack Obama (D)	Democrat	Democrat Republican	10,127,031	4,663,309	14,790,340
2012	Barack Obama (D)	Democrat	Republican	11,269,586	4,796,656	16,066,241
2013	Barack Obama (D)	Democrat	Republican	11,976,279	4,761,904	16,738,184

Source: Treasury Direct, Department of the Treasury, Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States, September 30, for Years 2002-2013, Table 1 -- Summary of Treasury Securities Outstanding (Millions of dollars).

Staff graphic Raymond Thomas Pronk

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