

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas State University System

SRSU Policy: The Center For Big Bend Studies: History, Objectives, And Administration

SRSU Policy ID: APM 1.11

Policy Reviewed by: Director for CBBS

Approval Authority: Executive VP & Provost

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A. History

The Center for Big Bend Studies originated with the idea of graduate students and professors in the 1970s that Sul Ross State University, as the cultural center of the vast Trans-Pecos region of Texas which encompasses the area of the Big Bend of the Rio Grande, should be the center of efforts and studies to understand and relate the cultural and historical development of the region. Efforts to initiate a program in the University for that purpose were made in 1982 and 1983 when the administration began planning, established an endowment fund, and supported meetings and symposia on topics relating to the Big Bend. In February 1987, the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System gave formal approval for the Center, and a Director was named to begin work on September 1, 1987. In September 2003, the Friends of the Center for Big Bend Studies (a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization) was established to raise funds to support the missions and programs of the Center.

B. Mission

The Center for Big Bend Studies fosters interdisciplinary scholarship of the diverse prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures of the borderlands region of the United States and Mexico, with emphasis on the area encompassed by Trans-Pecos Texas and north-central Mexico. The Center is committed to the recovery, protection, and sharing of this region's rich cultural legacy through dynamic programs involving research, education, public outreach, and publication.

C. Objectives

The general purpose of the Center is to support and promote programs and scholarly activities (including research, instruction, and publications) relating to the cultural and historical development of the Trans-Pecos, Big Bend region of Texas and Mexico. Emphasis will be given to activities involving the arts and humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, education, economics, and business (including agricultural-business enterprises). The region is broadly defined to include the borderland region of the Rio Grande and adjacent areas in Texas and Mexico, extending northward to the Guadalupe Mountains in southern New Mexico and down the Pecos River from the vicinity of the Guadalupe to the Rio Grande and southeastward to the vicinity of Del Rio, Texas and Ciudad

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Acuna, Coahuila. Objectives of the Center include the following:

1. Develop and promote programs of interest to the general public on topics relating to the Big Bend region.
2. Develop research opportunities for students and faculty who are interested in working on topics relating to the culture and history of the region.
3. Provide assistance when appropriate to the Archives of the Big Bend and the Museum of the Big Bend in identifying, collecting, and interpreting materials relating to regional culture and history. (Items acquisitioned for placement in the Archives and the Museum will be in conformity with the current collection policies of the Archives and Museum.)
4. Publish research on the culture and history of the region through several publication series.
5. Cooperate with professional organizations, state and federal agencies, and individual scholars on projects relating to the culture and history of the region.
6. Conduct joint projects with academic departments on campus and in the Rio Grande College of Sul Ross State University involving instruction, research, and public events relating to the borderlands of Texas and Mexico.
7. Develop the Center as a liaison body and facilitator for public and private research and educational activities relating to the culture and history of the Big Bend region.
8. Enhance the image of Sul Ross State University as an important asset of the State of Texas in instruction and research.

D. Administration

The Center for Big Bend Studies is a department of Sul Ross State University authorized by the governing body, the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System, and under the general administration of the President of the University. A Director, appointed by the President, is responsible for the management of the Center.

1. The Director

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The Director reports to the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs for management of the Center, including program, personnel, and budgetary administration. The Director also is a member of the faculty with teaching and other responsibilities in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

2. The Advisory Council

An Advisory Council, appointed by the President, provides assistance in the formulation of policy and is advisory on matters which are submitted for its consideration. It assists the Director in developing and maintaining a statement of purpose and goals which is consistent with the educational, research, and public service functions of the University; in developing general policies required to attain the objectives of the Center; in assisting in review and evaluation processes and in planning for subsequent activities; and in developing recommendations for implementing, supplementing, or changing the general administrative policies of the Center. The Council is chaired by the Director of the Center and reports to the President who sits as an ex officio member. It meets as called by the Chair which must be no less than one time each long semester.

3. The Friends of the Center for Big Bend Studies

The Friends of the Center for Big Bend Studies was organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. The board raises funds to support the mission and programs of the CBBS as well as special projects of the Center; promotes the CBBS as it fosters interdisciplinary scholarship of the diverse prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures of the borderlands region of the U.S. and Mexico, with emphasis on the area encompassed by Trans-Pecos Texas and north-central Mexico; and assists the CBBS in other endeavors as the Board may deem appropriate. The CBBS Director reports to the Friends Board of Trustee members, who are appointed by the President of the University.

E. Center Associate Members

1. Center Associate Members are persons who contribute to the support of the Center by making annual membership contributions. The effective dates of membership are from June 1 through May 31 each year. Membership dues are used to support the publication program of the Center.

2. Center Associate Members will:

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- a. Receive annually *The Journal of Big Bend Studies* and the newsletter, *La Vista de la Frontera*.
 - b. Receive a 25% discount on other publications of the Center.
 - c. Receive a 10% discount on purchases made at the Museum of the Big Bend gift shop.
 - d. Receive a \$5 discount on registration for the annual CBBS conference.
- F. Endowment
1. An endowment has been established in the University entitled “Center for Big Bend Studies Endowment.” Created by private contributions, the endowment is a permanent fund, the principal of which is to be held in perpetuity and may not be expended for any purpose. All contributions to the endowment received by the University are subject to the terms and conditions of the establishing document on file in the University and dated September 21, 1992.
 2. Ninety percent of all income from the investment of the Endowment is deposited in the Center for Big Bend Studies Excellence Fund, and ten percent of all income is returned to the principal of the Endowment, allowing it to experience continued growth.
 3. Other endowments may be established with private contributions. Separate endowment funds and excellence funds will be set up following university protocol.
- G. Excellence Fund
1. The Center for Big Bend Studies Excellence Fund administers income resulting from the investment of the Endowment and miscellaneous private contributions to the Center. The income is allocated and expended for the operations of the Center to enhance the fulfillment of its mission as a department of Sul Ross State University. Allocations are made upon the recommendation of the President of the University and approval of the Board of Regents in accordance with budgetary policies of the Board. The Director of the Center serves as advisor to the President in matters of fund allocation.
 2. Allocations will be expended for publications, research projects, and/or

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other items appropriate to the mission and promotion of the mission of the Center for Big Bend Studies.

3. Other Excellence Funds will be established as Endowments are received by the Center, following university protocol.