



Guide to

MS 001

The University of Texas at
El Paso Graduate Council
records

1977 – 2014 Span Dates,
1998 – 2012 Bulk Dates,

4 feet, 9 inches (linear)

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University of Texas at El Paso

Biography or Historical Sketch

Created by Senate Bill 183, the State School of Mines and Metallurgy was founded in 1913 due to El Pasoans' requests for a school to train mining engineers and metallurgists to help support the local mining and smelting industries. In 1914 the State School of Mines opened on land and buildings east of Ft. Bliss that were formerly occupied by the El Paso Military Institute. University of Texas Regents named Stephen Worrell as the first dean. On its official opening day, September 23, 1914, twenty-seven male students enrolled in the School. By 1916 two women, Ruth Brown and Grace Odell, also enrolled. Later that year a fire destroyed the School's main building and the campus relocated to land donated by El Pasoans in the Sunset Heights area. After viewing British explorer's Jean Claude White's photographs of the Kingdom of Bhutan in the April 1914 issue of *National Geographic*, Kathleen Worrell, wife of the dean, recommended that the new campus adopt Bhutanese-style architecture because of the similarities between Bhutan's and El Paso's landscapes. Construction on the new buildings began in 1917, and by the end of the 1910s, enrollment grew to over a hundred students.

During the 1920s the school's name was changed to the College of Mines and Metallurgy, El Paso and it merged with El Paso Junior College. This merger caused enrollment to increase to 400 students. The 1920s also saw the establishment of several student life traditions, including the creation of the *Flowsheet* yearbook and Homecoming. In 1931 John G. Barry became the College's first president, though financial troubles from the Great Depression put the College at risk for closure. Despite the difficult economic environment of the 1930s, the College continued to expand. An athletic field was constructed in 1933 (named after longtime dean and professor John W. "Cap" Kidd), and the Centennial Museum opened on campus in 1937. Three years later, the University of Texas Regents approved the creation of the College's first graduate degree (the Master of Arts).

World War II caused many changes at the College of Mines as enrollment declined significantly as young men and women served in the military and in wartime industries throughout the early 1940s. Young women were also encouraged for the first time to take classes in male-dominated fields, such as engineering, to help alleviate worker shortages. After the war ended in 1945 and the passage of the GI Bill of Rights, returning servicemen and women increasingly attended college, and the College of Mines' enrollment reached 2,000. Because of the large number of veterans attending the College of Mines, the school established housing for married veteran students and their families in an area called "Vet Village." In 1949 the College's name changed to Texas Western College of the University of Texas.

The 1950s – 1970s brought several important developments to the campus. As Texas Western College, the school added several buildings to the campus, including Magoffin Auditorium, the Science Building, the Women's Gym, and Miners Hall during the early 1950s. In 1952 Texas Western Press was founded by printer Carl Hertzog, and in 1953 the Schellenger Research Laboratory was created. Moreover, in 1955 Texas Western College became the first white Texas public college to admit African

American students after a lawsuit was filed by Douglass School student Thelma White who was denied admission because of her race. Highlights from the 1960s and 1970s include: the training of the nation's first Peace Corps class in 1961, the construction of Sun Bowl Stadium in 1963, winning the NCAA national championship under Coach Don Haskins in 1966, and protests by MECHA and La Mesa Directiva against school policies and practices in 1971. Texas Western College changed its name to the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in 1967, and during the late 1960s a Chicano Studies program was established. In 1974 UTEP started offering its first doctoral degree – in Geological Sciences.

Throughout the 1980s – 2000s UTEP continued to expand as both undergraduate and graduate enrollment dramatically increased. The new six-story library was completed in 1984, and in 1988 Dr. Diana Natalicio became UTEP's first woman president. In 2004 UTEP celebrated its 90th anniversary and will celebrate its centennial in 2014. As of 2010 UTEP has over 20,000 registered students and is divided into eight colleges: the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Engineering, the College of Health Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Nursing, the College of Science, and the University College.

[Sources: UTEP web site; UTEP Collection, MS 001]

Series Description or Arrangement

This series was left in the order found by the archivist [primarily chronological order].

Scope and Content Notes

The University of Texas at El Paso Graduate Council records date 1977 – 2014, bulk 1998 – 2012. Types of records include minutes, memorandum, correspondence, and reports.

Provenance Statement

Transferred from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Restrictions

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the University of Texas at El Paso Graduate Council

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Notes to the Researcher

This series is part of the University of Texas at El Paso Collection, MS 001.

See also:

Staff Council records, MS 001.

Faculty Senate records, MS 001.

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
6	1	Minutes, 1 of 3	1977 – 1979
6	2	Minutes, 2 of 3	1977 – 1979
6	3	Minutes, 3 of 3	1977 – 1979
6	4	Minutes and memorandum	1980 – 1981
6	5	Correspondence and memorandum	August – September 1982
6	6	Memorandum	1983
1	1	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	February 8, 1984 – November 19, 1985
1	2	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	March 18, 1986 – June 23, 1987
1	3	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	July 18, 1988 – May 16, 1989
1	4	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	September 19, 1989 – April 9, 1990
1	5	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	April 5, 1993 – July 7, 1993
1	6	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	October 23, 1993
1	7	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	November 22, 1989 – February 15, 1993
1	8	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	April 1994 – May 1994
1	9	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	April 30, 1993 – May 12, 1993
1	10	Minutes	February 10, 1994
1	11	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	April 1994
1	12	Research and Graduate Committee	1994
1	13	By-laws revision, election of May 10, 1994	June 8, 1994
1	14	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	September 1994
1	15	Memorandum with action reports,	November 1994 –

		attachments	February 1995
1	16	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	November 1994 – January 1995
1	17	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	1995
2	1	Memorandum and graduate catalog changes	December 1994 – January 1995
2	2	Memorandum, course changes, MBA curriculum change proposal	December 1994 – February 1995
2	3	Memorandum, civil engineering course forms	December 1994 – January 1995
2	4	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	January 1995 – March 1995
2	5	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	March 1995 – April 1995
2	6	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	January 1995 – May 1995
2	7	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	September 1995 – December 1996
2	8	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	September 1996 – January 1997
2	9	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	1997
2	10	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	1998
7	1	Memorandum with requests	February 9, 1998 – February 24, 1998
7	2	Memorandum with action report	February 10, 1998
7	3	Memorandum, requested changes to courses	February 16, 1998
7	4	Memorandum, request to revise 2 courses	March 4, 1998
7	5	Memorandum with action report	March 31, 1998
7	6	Memorandum with action report	April 9, 1998
7	7	Memorandum with action report	May 5, 1998
2	11	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	September 1998 – January 1999
3	1	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	1999
3	2	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	2000
3	3	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	2000 – 2001
4	1	UTEP job analysis questionnaire;	about 2002

		Tentative Schedule for Implementation of General Education Core Assessment form	
4	2	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	January 2002
4	3	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	June 1994, October 2001 – January 2002
7	8	Memorandum and committee report	April 4, 2001
7	9	Memorandum with action report	September 13, 2001
7	10	Memorandum with action report	October 11, 2001
7	11	Memorandum with new courses and Graduate Catalog changes	October 31, 2001
4	4	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	October 2001 – January 2002
7	12	Memorandum with curriculum changes	November 1, 2001
7	13	Memorandum with proposed changes in biology master's program	November 2, 2001
7	14	Memorandum with action report	November 8, 2001
7	15	Memorandum with curriculum changes, attachments	December 6, 2001
7	16	Memorandum, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, 1 of 2	December 11, 2001
7	17	Memorandum, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, 2 of 2	December 11, 2001
4	5	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	December 2001 – January 2002
4	6	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	December 2001 – February 2002
4	7	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	November 2001 – April 2002
7	18	Memorandum with action report	January 17, 2002
7	19	Memorandum with action report	March 18, 2002
7	20	Memorandum with action report	March 27, 2002
4	8	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	April 2002 – May 2002
4	9	Memorandum with action reports, attachments (PhD in International Business proposal)	April 2002 – July 2002
7	21	Memorandum with action report	May 17, 2002
4	10	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	September 2002 – October 2002
4	11	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	October 2002 – November 2002

4	12	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	September 2002 – January 2003
4	13	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	October 2002 – January 2003
4	14	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	November 2002 – January 2003
4	15	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	December 2002 – January 2003
4	16	Memorandum with action reports, attachments	October 2002 – January 2003
7	22	Memorandum with action reports	December 9, 2002
7	23	Memorandum with action report	February 14, 2003
7	24	Memorandum with action report	April 10, 2003
7	25	Memorandum with action report	May 8, 2003
7	26	Memorandum with action report	May 13, 2003
7	27	Memorandum with action report, 1 of 3	August 26, 2003
7	28	Memorandum with action report, 2 of 3	August 26, 2003
7	29	Memorandum with action report, 3 of 3	August 26, 2003
7	30	Memorandum with action report	October 9, 2003
7	31	Memorandum with action report	November 13, 2003
7	32	Memorandum with action report	November 19, 2003
8	1	Memorandum with action report	January 15, 2004
8	2	Memorandum with action report	January 26, 2004
8	3	Memorandum with action report	February 19, 2004
8	4	Memorandum with action report	March 11, 2004
8	5	Memorandum with action report	April 18, 2004
8	6	Memorandum with action report	May 13, 2004
8	7	Memorandum with action report	June 10, 2004
8	8	Memorandum with action report	July 9, 2004
8	9	Memorandum with action report	September 9, 2004
8	10	Memorandum with action report	September 14, 2004; October 12, 2004
8	11	Memorandum with action report	October 14, 2004
8	12	Memorandum with action report, 1 of 2	December 2, 2004
8	13	Memorandum with action report, 2 of 2	December 2, 2004
5	1	Memorandum and action reports	2005 – 2007
10	1	Memorandum with action reports	January 19, 2005
8	14	Memorandum with action reports, 1 of 2	January 21, 2005
8	15	Memorandum with action reports, 2 of	January 21, 2005

		2	
8	16	Memorandum with action report	February 22, 2005
8	17	Memorandum with action report	March 25, 2005
8	18	Memorandum, proposed changes in Psychology graduate curriculum	April 22, 2005
8	19	Memorandum with action report	April 29, 2005
8	20	Memorandum with action report	May 5, 2005
8	21	Memorandum with action report	May 27, 2005
8	22	Memorandum with action report	November 10, 2005
8	23	Memorandum with action report	December 8, 2005
10	2	Memorandum with action report	February 7, 2006
10	3	Memorandum with action report	May 8, 2006
10	4	Memorandum with action report	July 27, 2006
10	5	Memorandum with action report	July 27, 2006
10	6	Memorandum with action report	December 6, 2006
5	2	Memorandum and action reports	2006 – 2007
10	7	Memorandum with action report	January 17, 2007
5	3	Curriculum changes, memorandum, and degree proposals	2007
5	4	Memorandum and action reports	2007
5	5	Memorandum and action reports	2007
5	6	College of Science degree plan materials	about 2007
5	7	College of Science degree plan materials	about 2007
5	8	Memorandum and action reports	2007 – 2008
5	9	Memorandum and action reports	2008
6	7	Graduate Council action report	2008
5	10	Memorandum and action reports	2009
9	1	Memorandum with action report	April 10, 2009
9	2	Memorandum with action report	June 3, 2009; June 10, 2009
9	3	Memorandum with action report, minutes	November 3, 2010; February 15, 2011
9	4	Memorandum with action report	December 1, 2010; February 15, 2011
9	5	Memorandum, action report, other attachments, 1 of 3	December 2011, May 1, 2012
9	6	Memorandum, action report, other attachments, 2 of 2	December 2011, May 1, 2012
9	7	Memorandum, action report, other	December 2011,

		attachments, 3 of 3	May 1, 2012
9	8	Memorandum with action report, minutes	February 1, 2012; April 25, 2012
9	9	Memorandum with action report, other attachments	March 7, 2012; April 24, 2012
9	10	Memorandum with action report, 1 of 2	April 4, 2012; April 24, 2012
9	11	Memorandum with action report, 2 of 2	April 4, 2012; April 24, 2012
9	12	Memorandum with action report from March 2013	April 22, 2013
9	13	Memorandum with action report from February 2013	May 3, 2013
9	14	Memorandum with action report from April 2013	May 14, 2013
10	8	Memorandum with action report	January 13, 2014
9	15	Memorandum with action report	April 17, 2014
10	9	Memorandum with action report	April 17, 2014
11	1	Memorandum with action report	September 27, 2010
11	2	Memorandum with action report	December 2, 2010
11	3	Memorandum with action report	March 4, 2011
11	4	Memorandum with action report, 1 of 4	April 27, 2011
11	5	Memorandum with action report, 2 of 4	April 27, 2011
11	6	Memorandum with action report, 3 of 4	April 27, 2011
11	7	Memorandum with action report, 4 of 4	April 27, 2011
11	8	Memorandum with action report	December 4, 2009
11	9	Memorandum with action report	January 13, 2010
11	10	Memorandum with action report	March 5, 2010
11	11	Memorandum with action report, 1 of 2	February 11, 2009
11	12	Memorandum with action report, 2 of 2	February 11, 2009
11	13	Memorandum with action report	November 9, 2009
11	14	Memorandum with action report	October 13, 2009
11	15	Memorandum with action report	September 3, 2009
11	16	Memorandum with action report	March 16, 2009
11	17	Memorandum with action report	May 12, 2010
11	18	Memorandum with action report	April 9, 2010
12	1	Degree Proposal Approval Page	February 14 – June 18, 2014
12	2	Degree Proposal Approval Page	March 27 – June 18, 2014
12	3	Graduate Curriculum Change Memorandum	April 8, 2014

12	4	Memorandum, Master of Accountancy	February 13, 2014
12	5	Memorandum on Certificate of Accountancy	February 13, 2014
12	6	Minutes	May 7, 2014
12	7	Memorandum with action report	June 16, 2014
12	8	Minutes	February 5, 2014
12	9	Degree Proposal Approval Page – Changes to PhD in Rhetoric and Composition	October 29, 2013 – June 9, 2014
12	10	Degree Proposal Approval Page	October 29, 2013 – June 9, 2014
12	11	Graduate Memo	November 25, 2013 – January 15, 2014
12	12	Memorandum with action report	June 11, 2014
12	13	Memorandum with action report	April 25, 2011
12	14	Memorandum with action report	July 6, 2011
12	15	Memorandum with action report	July 6, 2011
12	16	Memorandum with action report, 1 of 3	July 25, 2011
12	17	Memorandum with action report, 2 of 3	July 25, 2011
12	18	Memorandum with action report, 3 of 3	July 25, 2011
12	19	Memorandum with action report	December 6, 2010
12	20	Memorandum with action report	June 3, 2010
12	21	Memorandum with action report	June 3, 2010
12	21	Memorandum with action report	February 15, 2012
13	1	Memorandum with action report	June 16, 2014
13	2	Memorandum with action report	July 10 – September 25, 2013
13	3	Memorandum with action report, 1 of 3	June 4, 2014
13	4	Memorandum with action report, 2 of 3	June 4, 2014
13	5	Memorandum with action report, 3 of 3	June 4, 2014
13	6	Memorandum with action report	June 16, 2014