

Provost's Council
December 17, 2008
3:00 – 5:00 PM
MB 3.106 Regents' Room

AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

RESEARCH LAB SPACE ASSIGNMENTS

DAN SIBLEY & JULIUS GRIBOU

Dan Sibley and Julius Gribou presented to the Council a report outlining research space utilized by each college based on percent of annual grant expenditures. The report is designed for the Council to see how space has been allocated and whether the research faculty continue to warrant the space based on their respective research productivity (based on annual grant expenditures). During fiscal year 2007-2008, College of Sciences had both the greatest percent of assigned square footage (63.15%) and annual grant expenditures (70.45%) with College of Engineering coming in second and College of Liberal and Fine Arts in third.

Dan also presented the Council with a spreadsheet that can track individual principal investigators, their research expenditures, research expenditures per assigned square footage, and whether they are meeting stated goals. This spreadsheet can assist each Dean, the Provost and Vice President for Research with assessment and assigning lab space accurately and fairly.

REVIEW OF CENTERS & INSTITUTES

BOB GRACY

Dr. Gracy stated that the external review of the Centers and Institutes is in process. He is hopeful that the reports will be ready for dissemination in January, 2009.

Dr. Gracy also stated that our congressional representatives want to continue to receive federal earmarks suggestions, but to be mindful of the project's that are attractive at the federal level, such as energy and economic recovery, when asking for these funds. Further, Dr. Gracy stated that we need to view the federal earmarks as seed money and not sustainable funds.

ETHICS

MARIANNE WOODS

Dr. Woods reported to the Council that UTSA currently has several active cases of ethics violations ranging from conflict of interests, nepotism, changing the scope of a grant, inappropriate hiring of personnel, absence of a principal investigator, etc. which is becoming problematic. She implored the Deans to communicate to their Department Chairs that UTSA is serious about confronting

the violations. Also, Dr. Woods asked the Deans to communicate to the Department Chairs to closely review the grants before signing off on them to make sure they are in compliance. There are severe consequences to the university if we violate state and federal grant policies.

Dr. Woods also mentioned that she would like to see a mandatory training course implemented at UTSA for principal investigators.

SACS UPDATE

SANDY WELCH

Dr. Welch announced to the Council that the Quality Enhancement Plan has been selected and will be headed up by Dr. Nandini Kannan. The QEP is “Quantitative Scholarship: From Literacy to Mastery.”

**JANUARY PROVOST COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD AT DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
SOUTHWEST ROOM (DB 1.124)**