

Provost Council
March 4, 2009
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
MB 4.106 Conference Room

AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

P-20 INITIATIVES PRESENTATION

RACHEL RUIZ

Rachel Ruiz, Asst. Vice President for P-20, gave a presentation to the Council regarding the P-20 Initiatives program at UTSA. She stated that the major goals for the program are outreach, college readiness, academic programs, and financial assistance/mentoring. The outreach programs include the dual credit partnerships with San Antonio ISD, Judson ISD and East Central ISD, the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation which targets students interested in the STEM disciplines and the UTSA Early College High School which partners with East Central ISD, Southside ISD and Southwest ISD. The Early College High School program, along with being an outreach program, addresses college readiness issues for underserved and underrepresented students. Dr. Ruiz is excited about strengthening the P-20 programs at UTSA and welcomes any suggestions that the Council has in that regard.

ENHANCING THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

GAGE PAINE

Dr. Paine, Vice President for Student Affairs, addressed the Council to discuss ways in which UTSA could enhance the freshman experience. Her department has created an Orientation Advisory Board which is reviewing proposals to improve student orientation. Also, another thought on improving the freshman experience is to include summer reading in the first year seminar classes and tie it to Roadrunner Days. According to Dr. Paine, many of our students are not “college ready” and we tend to lose one-third of our students between the freshmen and sophomore years. An idea that is not a popular one, but should be discussed, is one of creating an Undergraduate College for those students who are unsure of a college major. It seems that we press our students to declare a major as freshmen when in reality they are unclear and need advice on majors and careers. An Undergraduate College could relieve some of that pressure and may help us with our admissions and retention rates.

The Council agreed with Dr. Paine’s assessment, but was undecided about the Undergraduate College. The Council seemed to feel strengthening our own advising centers would help our students.

FAIR VITA/ANNUAL REPORT MODULE

SANDY WELCH

Dr. Welch demonstrated the FAIR VITA/Annual Report Module to the Council. She walked the Council through each of the steps so that they could see each screen and its capabilities. This system is designed to assist faculty with preparing their Annual Reports and also for the upcoming SACS accreditation.

QEP UPDATE

NANDINI KANNAN

Dr. Kannan briefed the Council on the QEP. The title of the QEP is Quantitative Scholarship: From Literacy to Mastery. The timeline at this point is to have a draft of the document to SACS by August, 2009. In Oct. 2009, a draft will be sent to consultants for review and recommendations with the proposal being submitted to SACS in December 2009. If accepted, the implementation will begin in Fall 2011.