

Provost Council
April 28, 2010
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Regents' Room, MB 3.106

AGENDA

**VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY
INITIATIVE**

**JOE DeCRISTOFORO,
CARMEN FIES, &
DAVID HOTCHKISS (UTHSCSA)**

Joe DeCristoforo, Asst. Vice President for Registrar, Dr. Carmen Fies, Asst. Professor in the Dept. of Interdisciplinary Learning & Teaching, and David Hotchkiss, Director of Academic Technology from the UT Health Science Center gave a presentation on Virtual Learning Communities or 2nd Life. Joe has used it in place of conducting face-to-face meetings with registrars from other UT campuses and has found the technology to be very helpful in coordinating meetings with people who live in other parts of the state—has cut down on travel costs.

Dr. Fies uses the technology to teach one of her classes. She stated that today's young students are more computer savvy and that it does not take them very long to learn the proper techniques of creating and moving an avatar. She further stated that some of the older students had difficulty, but within 2 sessions all of her students were communicating properly. She demonstrated part of her classroom island for the Council.

The group's main purpose was to ask for funding as the initial funding is almost exhausted. They also stated that there is a need for more faculty buy-in into using the technology.

The breakdown for funding needs are as follows:

4 islands cost \$7k/year
Grad. Asst salary \$15K
M&O needed \$5k/year

Their suggestion was that each college could contribute \$1,500 towards the cost of the islands and the M&O accounts and that the Provost Office could contribute \$15K towards the graduate assistant salary.

The Provost stated that he would consider the request. He also mentioned that maybe there could be workshops conducted regarding 2nd Life through the Teaching and Learning Center.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

JOHN FREDERICK

- **QEP IMPLEMENTATION**—Dr. Frederick mentioned that annual faculty evaluations need to include a process where faculty that teach Q courses are rewarded. Dr. Welch mentioned that she could add an element in the pedagogy section of FAIR so faculty could list the classes.
- **BUDGET REQUESTS**—Dr. Frederick recently analyzed the M&O budgets of the departments and noticed that each department paid a considerable amount of money on base rates for telephone charges. He stated that the Provost's office would incur that charge which would free up money in each department. Dr. Frederick also stated that Vice Provost Ken Pierce would look into the possibility of removing the charges for audix. More information on that will be forthcoming.
- **UNIVERSITY EVENTS**—Dr. Frederick stressed the need for departments and colleges to submit requests to serve alcohol at university events in a timely manner. In the past few weeks, he has received the permission form for 2 events that occurred well after the event had taken place. Dr. Romo reviewed the request and was reluctant to approve it because people are abusing the policy and it can put the university at risk.
- **PARKING CHARGES**—Dr. Frederick also stated that beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the Provost's office is going to pay an upfront amount to Parking to cover the costs of parking spaces for university/academic sponsored events. However, the caveat is that the party responsible for coordinating the event must coordinate parking plans in advance. Failure to do so and the cost of the event will be paid by the faculty member, department and/or college.
- **PROVOST BLOG**—Dr. Frederick mentioned that he has started a blog. You can find the link on the Provost's website.

FEDERAL INITIATIVES (EARMARKS)

JEFF KANTOR & ALBERT CARRISALEZ

Jeff Kantor, Sr. Assoc. VP for Research and Albert Carrisalez, Assistant to the President, gave a presentation on federal initiatives. Both stated that our local congressmen have asked for approximately \$9 million on behalf of UTSA and Senator Hutchison has asked for \$4 million. Senator Cornyn declined to request any funds on behalf of UTSA. We will know sometime between December 2010 and April 2011 as to whether or not we will receive any federal funding.

RESEARCH UPDATES

ROBERT GRACY

Dr. Gracy stated that the Lab Animal laboratory would be reviewed by the ALLAC accreditation committee in July and further stated that most Tier One universities have this accreditation. He also stated that the

Strategic Plan for Research has been filed with UT System and the Coordinating Board—you can find the report on the VPR website.

Dr. Gracy reported the external reviews of Centers and Institutes have been completed. The Directors and Dean will receive their reports soon and he would begin scheduling meetings to review the reports.

Dr. Gracy mentioned that the 2nd cycle for SALSI reviews are coming out soon and faculty should check the VPR website for any updates.

Dr. Gracy stated that the VPR office recently met and will be updating the VPR website to make it more user friendly. He further stated that he is working on a research report card that department chairs can use during faculty annual evaluations.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

JULIUS GRIBOU

Executive Vice Provost and Senior International Office, Julius Gribou updated the Provost Council on the recent activities in Mexico. He stated that UT System has asked that due to the increased violence in certain areas, that all students and faculty be recalled to the U.S. All UT institutions have been asked to be more vigilant sending students and faculty into dangerous areas. In that regard, all UT Institutions have been asked to create an International Oversight Committee to review study abroad programs and travel requests, especially to Mexico.