

**Provost Council**  
**Dec 21, 2011**  
**3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**MB 3.106 Regents' Room**

**AGENDA**

**WEBCT/BLACKBOARD SYSTEM**

Rob Robinson, Asst. Vice Provost for Distance Learning, provided a recommendation for the next learning management system for UTSA. In 2010, Blackboard announced that the CE8 platform would no longer provide technical support. Mr. Robinson convened a faculty task force to review our next options. He also conducted a survey of students and faculty. 5 companies gave presentations to the task force. Desire2learn (D2L) scored the highest among the task force members with Blackboard Learn rated second highest. The recommendation is to select Blackboard Learn due to it being a well-established company, addresses all of problems and concerns associated with a management system, scored very well with faculty and will be an easy transition. The goal is to convert over to the Learn system this spring, but operating on both systems until the summer. During the summer we will convert completely over to Learn and be operational in the Fall 2012.

**SACS UPDATE**

Sandy Welch provided a SACS update to the council. Our 5 year review will be upon us sooner than we think, so she has encouraged the colleges to begin working on their portion now. She stated that faculty qualifications was an issue two years ago and it will be again at the 5 year review. She further stated that some appointments are lagging in approval or getting listed in ASAP and that we need to correct that as soon as possible. She also mentioned that faculty in study abroad programs also need to meet our qualifications. Another issue is offering courses off campus. You will need SACS approval at the 25% and 50% marks in order to offer courses off campus. She has asked the Deans for a listing of all courses that have a least one course off campus. She further stated that SACS only meets in June and in December, so if you do not have the approval you will need to discontinue the program and repay the money to students.

**FAIR**

Ken Pierce and Sandy Welch provided an update on FAIR. They are seeking faculty input in order to determine if we should use our resources to completely re-write FAIR or go with another company. Digital Measures representatives met with a Ken and Sandy and are being invited back to meet with a group of faculty members. Dr. Frederick mentioned that Nevada utilized Digital Measures and he liked it. He

cautioned that although it can store a lot of information, faculty will need to take the time to input that information. Ken stated that he would contact customers who use Digital Measures to see if they are satisfied with the product.

## **PROMOTION AND TENURE**

Dr. Frederick informed the Council that letters for promotion and tenure were distributed to the faculty members. For those who did not receive a favorable outcome, the appeal process is now. He reminded the council that the appeal must include new, substantive information or acceptance of grants and publications. An appeal is not about analyzing the evaluation letters/memos. He also stated that he will be conducting a retreat with the department chairs and one of the items to be discussed will be external review letters. He plans on showing good models of letters from the reviewers. He asked the Deans to let him know if they would like copies of the model letters. He further stated that approximately 46% of the external review letters we received were from AAU institutions. He went on to say that he is looking for letters from leaders in the candidate's field. He said that letters from international institutions are acceptable, but did not want to solely rely on them as they usually do not understand tenure.

## **RESEARCH UPDATE**

Dr. Gracy provided the following research update:

1. New deadlines for submitting proposals are being considered. Dr. Gracy asked the Council if the deadline for submitting the grant proposal budget should be 5 days from the due date and then the deadline for submitting the content 2 days from the due date. Or should it be 5/5. The Research Advisory Council wanted the 5/2 option whereas the Deans suggested it should be 5/5. Also, Business Affairs has asked to be included earlier in the project if the grant is going to include major renovations.
2. Seed grant requests are currently open until March 5, 2012.
3. CTRC would like to conduct a retreat with some of our faculty to gauge interest in collaborations. He thought the appropriate departments would be biology, business, computer science and demography. Most of these grants go to Dallas or Houston and can be in the amount of \$300 million.
4. UT System is developing a new conflict of interest policy. It appears that it is going to be more restrictive than the revised federal guideline. The UT System template will also include consulting agreements, travel and placing information on a website. NIH has been asked to reopen discussions with regards to the new guidelines.
5. Faculty Research Activity Summaries will be available on-line for viewing in January and can be downloaded in a calendar year format or a fiscal year format. We are up 17% in research expenditures. The final numbers will be posted on the VPR website and we are anticipating \$80 million on sponsored projects.