

Provost Council
Jan. 18, 2012
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
JPL 4.04.08 Conference Room

AGENDA

DEPARTMENT CHAIR COUNCIL RETREAT

Dr. Frederick informed the Council that he recently held a department chair council retreat. Among the items discussed were:

1. The GRIP tasks and responsibilities, specifically the area in curriculum structure and course delivery and advising and student support services. He mentioned that currently students register for classes based on the number of credit hours they have. Dr. Frederick would like to see if we can move to a registration system that rewards students who are successfully working towards their degree by allowing them to be first in line to register for courses. He would also like for the department chairs to review the curriculum and when courses are being taught in order to determine that the correct courses are being offered to assist students with completing their degree in four years, if possible.
2. The department chairs mentioned that they would like other information on the students enrolled in their classes—such as 1) have they been on academic probation, 2) what is the highest math course they have taken; and 3) is the student re-taking the class, etc.
3. Reviewed the draft annual evaluation white paper and agree with its content. Dr. Frederick informed the department chairs that he is waiting on the Faculty Senate to provide their comments so that the HOP policy can be amended.

REGENTS' OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD WINNERS RETREAT

Dr. Frederick stated that he recently had a retreat with the ROTA winners to discuss the development of a Distinguished Teaching Academy whose purpose will be to assist faculty with teaching skills. The charter members of the Academy will be the UTSA Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award winners, along with the Deans, Dr. Frederick and Dr. Romo. The group discussed the following:

1. Conducting a day-long symposium this fall (on a non-football Saturday), which would begin with a plenary session and then adjourn to break-out sessions. It was suggested that public school teachers could be invited (they could possibly get in-service credit for attending) along with students who can share their experiences, a la, what works and doesn't work.
2. Should we require in-service for instructional development—similar to going to a scholarly conference, but this would solely focus on teaching. Also, could be used during annual evaluation.

3. Criteria for induction into the Academy:
 - a. Recipient of a major external teaching award (Regents, Case, etc.)
 - b. Recipient of UTSA President's Distinguished Teaching Award
 - c. Should it include retired faculty or emeritus faculty?
 - d. Should there be a formal induction ceremony?
 - e. Should the Academy have an advisory board?

GRADUATION RATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (GRIP)

Dr. Frederick mentioned that our GRIP received positive feedback from UT System. We hope that our tuition and fee proposal will receive the same positive feedback and will be accepted/approved by the Regents at their March meeting. Dr. Frederick stated that the GRIP has been divided into strategies and has a point person assigned to a strategy. He plans to meet with the point persons later this year. He also mentioned that the GRIP will be incorporated into the revised strategic implementation plan.

VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PLAN (VSIP)

Dr. Frederick mentioned that there were 24 faculty members that have signed up for the VSIP. Colleges can begin searching for new faculty for a start date of Fall 2013. He anticipates that the colleges will be able to retain 75% - 80% of the salary lines being vacated by those taking the VSIP.

RESEARCH UPDATE

Dr. Gracy provided the following as the research update:

1. At the last UTSA Research Advisory Council (RAC), it was mentioned that the members would like to establish research goals for each college/departments. Dr. Jeff Kantor said that he will be meeting with all of the departments to get their feedback on this request.
2. The RAC also mentioned that they would like to look for opportunities to showcase the research that is currently being conducted by our faculty and students. The RAC stated that they were familiar with the individual college research days, but wondered if we could/should have an university research day and open it to the public (similar to the Research Day at the Capital in Austin).
3. The federal government is considering making changes in their policies which would provide additional minority research support at the NIH, DOD and DOE. He stated that these changes should benefit UTSA.
4. UT System governmental relations, Bill Shute, sent an email regarding a bill that may be introduced to congress. The bill is in relation to releasing information on research publications which could divulge proprietary and confidential information. Mr. Shute will keep us apprised.
5. Dr. Gracy said that the following HOP policies are being reviewed:
 - a. Time and Effort
 - b. Cost Sharing
 - c. Use of animals in research

6. Dr. Gracy mentioned that UT System is developing a new template for conflict of interest based on recent federal law changes. However, the draft that he has seen goes beyond what the federal government requires to be reported. He, and his team, are drafting a new policy.

UPDATE ON NEW ACADEMIC/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Julius Gribou, Executive Vice Provost, provided an update on the new academic/administration building that we are hoping to receive PUF funds:

1. A 5 story building located near the North Paseo Bldg.
2. Academic Affairs will occupy ½ of the building with the IS department in the College of Business, the Computer Science department in the College of Sciences, the ICS Center, CIAS, and 8 – 10 classrooms.
3. The other ½ of the building will be comprised of offices that are currently located off campus at University Heights.
4. Opening: Fall 2013 or Spring 2014.