

Provost Council
Feb. 15, 2012
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
MB 3.106 Regents' Room

AGENDA

PASSWORD INITIATIVE

Ken Pierce, Vice Provost for Information Technology, and Steve Werby, Information Security Officer, attended the meeting to discuss the upcoming change in passwords we use to log onto our respective computers. The recent IT report/assessment from Deloitte indicated that computer hackers can determine passwords that contain 14 characters or less. Currently, we use a minimum of 8 characters, using an uppercase letter, and special character, and a number. Also, our passwords expire every 180 days. There are two alternatives:

1. Go to a 12 character log-in with uppercase letters, special characters and numbers to increase the length and complexity. The passwords would continue to expire every 180 days; or,
2. Go to a passphrase. A passphrase is a set of words or sentences. Minimum of 15 characters and up to 127 characters. The passphrase is not required to use uppercase, special characters or numbers and does not have to be reset every 180 days. It would only need resetting if you forgot the passphrase.

The IT office has sent out a survey to gauge which alternative is more appealing. So far, the passphrase is the one most chosen. The Deans and Vice Provosts concurred that the passphrase is the one they would prefer. IT will be sending out notifications beginning in March. You do not have to change your log-in password until you receive an expiration notice. In addition, you will be asked to provide an alternate email address or phone number which will be used to reset the passphrase in the event that you have forgotten it. Also, the passphrase will no longer require you to answer security questions in order to reset the passphrase.

UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Rebecca Luther, Academic Affairs Communications Coordinator, reminded the Council about the upcoming University Excellence Awards in April. She stated that we are combining the staff and faculty awards and have a new approach for notifying the recipients of the various faculty and staff awards. This year, she will enlist the assistance of the Deans and/or department chairs or supervisors to surprise the recipient in their classroom or office. The presentation will be videotaped and shown at the awards ceremony in April. The Deans all agreed that this was a great idea and would be happy to be a part of the notification.

FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS/WORKLOAD

Dr. Sandy Welch, Vice Provost for Accountability, et al, to inform the Council that her office will be shifting responsibility of monitoring compliance on faculty workload and qualifications to the department chairs and colleges. Her staff will be available to train the staff in the colleges and departments. Her office will conduct spot audits to ensure that the departments and colleges are compliant. She asked for each dean to provide a contact (Associate Dean) for communications purposes. Dr. Welch stressed the importance of ensuring that the faculty are qualified as this is a large part of our reaccreditation with SACS.

RESEARCH UPDATE

Dr. Frederick provided the following information as an update on the recent changes in the Vice President for Research area:

1. The transition for him being named as the Interim Vice President for Research as occurred and he will be scheduling meetings with the various offices that report to VPR and other constituencies to understand their job duties, challenges, and needs.
2. There will be a discussion at the March Dean's Council to discuss his findings and to ask the Deans about their research challenges and needs.
3. He plans to meet with the department chairs at their March meeting to ask about their challenges and needs as it relates to research
4. He hopes to have a draft of his review of the research area so that he can determine what changes need to take place and how to implement those changes
5. He hopes to start conducting open forums in April/May.
6. He would like the Dean's to set up a council, with him as an ex-officio member, to oversee the centers and institutes. Jim Massaro currently oversees the external reviews and will work with the Deans with future reviews.
7. UT System has developed a new conflict of interest policy based on new federal rules which were released Fall 2011. Marianne Woods is overseeing the review and assisting with developing our response which is due by May 1st.