

Provost's Council
October 17, 2013
3:00 – 5:00
Regents' Room (MB 3.106)

AGENDA

CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION

Mr. Robert McKinley, Assistant Vice President for the Institute of Economic Development, and Mr. Rey Saldaña, Project Manager for the Office of the Vice President for Community Services, updated the Provost's Council on UTSA's intent to file an application with the Carnegie Foundation to determine whether or not the institution qualifies for recognition as a community engaged institution. Mr. McKinley stated that UTSA would benefit from this classification as it will bring more recognition to the university, allow us to respond to the needs of the community, provide a benchmark versus our peers and aspirants, reinforce teaching and research, and should assist with the capital campaign. Mr. McKinley pointed out that the Foundation reviews applications every five years, with the next review occurring in 2015. Mr. McKinley has put together a leadership team comprised of himself, Mr. Saldaña, Dr. Rogelio Saenz, Dean of COPP, Yvonne Pena, Assistant Dean of Students, and Tim Brownlee, Associate Director of Internal Communications. This group will be charged with gathering all of the information and completing the application which is due on April 15, 2014. The Foundation will notify the university in December 2014, with final results announced in Jan. 2015. Mr. Saldaña stated that he will contact each of the Deans, and other key stakeholders, to gather data on community service projects that the students and faculty are engaged in, locally, state-wide, nationally and internationally, so that it can be added to the application.

NETWORK ACCESS CONTROL

Mr. Anthony Espinoza, Information Security Office, met with the Council to discuss the Network Access Control project that integrates hardware and software to set up rules for how electronic devices connect to the UTSA network. The project ensures that minimum security requirements are met prior to a device being allowed to connect to the network. This better ensures the security of the network and data by only allowing authorized persons/devices access to the network.

Mr. Espinoza stated that the project will be implemented over the next few months. In the first phase, only wired devices will be affected. A new log-in screen may be displayed on the monitors and employees will be asked to provide their UTSA ID and passphrase to confirm the authentication. The second phase of the project deals with security posture assessment. There are on-going discussions to determine the standards for minimum security prior to allowing a device access to the network. OIT plans to get input from various stakeholders across the university.

TEACHING ACADEMY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and member of the UTSA Academy of Distinguished Teachers, presented the findings of a report commissioned by the Incivility/Mental Illness Committee of the Academy. The group, consisting of Dr. McNaughton-Cassill, Dianne Abdo, Karen Dodwell, Ermine Orta and Rick Utecht, met over the summer to discuss how to help faculty deal more effectively with incivility and mental illness in the classroom. The group acknowledged that most faculty are not qualified to determine whether or not a student is suffering from a mental illness or is deliberately being disruptive. In addition, most faculty do not know who to turn to for advice or to discuss their concerns about their own personal safety and the students in their classrooms.

The committee met with the UTSA Behavioral Intervention Team, comprised of Kevin Price, Associate VP and Dean of Students, Thomas Baez and Jeff Gatlin, from Counseling Services, Dianne Hengst, from Disability Services, Anne Jimenez, from Student Conduct and Community Standards, and Tom Calucci, from UTSA Police Department, to discuss their role and how to inform faculty of this resource. The committee also met with John Danner, from Legal Affairs, to discuss the new Title IX reporting requirements for university faculty and staff that observe or hear about incidents involving sexual harassment or assault involving UTSA students. The new reporting requirements do not guarantee confidentiality if a student confides in a faculty or staff member regarding the above-mentioned incidents.

Dr. McNaughton-Cassill stated that she has been asked to represent faculty on a panel discussion dealing with mental illness on campus and sponsored by Disability Services in March 2014. She mentioned that faculty and staff will be invited to attend. She has also given a talk to TA's during one of their training courses. Her talk is being converted into a learning module and will be used in future training. She asked the Council for other suggestions where faculty and staff can learn more about this topic and the resources available to them. Dr. Frederick mentioned that Dr. Zapata, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Support, is working with people on his staff and Rebecca Luther, Director of Communications for Academic Affairs, to develop a Faculty Resource Page. This information can be added to that source which will be available to faculty and staff in the near future. Dr. Frederick also recommended that Dr. McNaughton-Cassill give a presentation to the Department Chair Council and the Faculty Senate.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE INQUIRY DAY

Dr. Bernard Arulanandam, Assistant VP for Research Support, and Dr. Donovan Fogt, Director for Undergraduate Research, announced that April 24th will be the inaugural Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Day at UTSA. Dr. Fogt stated that this event will not replace the college research days, but will provide another vehicle and focus solely on undergraduates.

ADVANCED VISUALIZATION LAB

Dr. Yusheng Feng, Director of the Advanced Visualization Lab, gave a presentation on the VizLab. He recapped the establishment of the lab and its current operations/features. The core facility, established in 2011, includes the 14.5 ft. x 6 ft. Viz-Wall, the Haptic Systems and Stereoscopic Display 82" monitor. New features that have been added include: a 3D printer, multi-touch display, lean motion interactive control, and an Oculus VR Rift enhanced by hand motion controller. The lab is expected to receive a zSpace virtual reality tablet soon.

The Vizlab has hosted tours to internal and external groups and participated in various outreach activities with the university. In addition, there is some research activity going on and some engineering classes are conducting lab work. Dr. Feng stated that the Vizlab is ready for the next phase which would include forming an advisory committee consisting of faculty from each college along with representatives from industry to broaden the participation in research and education. He has asked each Dean to identify a faculty member who would be willing to serve on the advisory committee and to also identify one-two faculty members in each college to conduct pilot programs in either teaching or research. Dr. Feng asked for the Deans to submit their names to him by the end of October.

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS ACADEMIC PLAN

Dr. Frederick announced to the Council that he would like to form a committee who would begin develop a strategic academic plan for the Downtown Campus. The purpose would be to review activities and academic plans currently in place at the DT Campus and to see if they are aligned with the overall mission of the university and the DT Campus. Dr. Frederick has asked Dr. Jesse Zapata, Vice Provost for the Downtown Campus to convene the group, provide a foundation for their review and to present recommendations to Dr. Frederick in the Spring 2014. The Deans that volunteered to serve on the committee are: John Murphy, Dean of COA, Rogelio Saenz, Dean of COPP, Betty Merchant, Dean of COEHD, Dan Gelo, Dean of COLFA, and George Perry, Dean of COS. Gerry Sanders, Dean of COB, stated that he would provide a name from the MBA program to participate on this committee.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST/COMMITMENT POLICY

Dr. Frederick provided an update on the UT System Conflict of Interest/Commitment Policy. He reminded everyone that this is a new policy that is still being formulated. In the original policy, UT System wanted to collect data at the System level which would require our employees to enter data twice in to different systems. Currently, we utilize Click Commerce, entering data to determine conflicts of interest. We have since learned that Click Commerce has additional features that may satisfy UT System and the new policy. Our research department, and UT System, is currently reviewing the new features and as soon as we have more information, Dr. Frederick will provide it to the Council members.