

Provosts' Council
June 3, 2014
2:00 – 3:00 PM
JPL 4.04.22 Assembly Room

Dr. Frederick welcomed Dr. Rene Zenteno as the new Vice Provost for International Initiatives and Senior International Officer.

UTSA Day Presentation

Dr. Lisa Montoya, Associate Dean for the College of Business, shared the college's UTSA Day presentation with the Council. She said that the presentation focuses on answering parents' greatest questions about their students' opportunities after graduation. The presentation included a breakdown of the key attractors within each major. Dr. Frederick said this type of presentation is a good model of what the colleges should communicate to incoming freshmen. The presentation effectively connected curriculum to opportunities, stressed the importance of a 4-year plan, and showcased that students' can obtain their desired college experience at UTSA.

UTSA History Project

Dr. David Johnson, Professor Emeritus, told the council that UTSA's 50th anniversary was forthcoming and that the UTSA History Project was commissioned to commemorate the university's anniversary. A commemorative book is being created to celebrate UTSA's accomplishments, as well as the university's impact on students and the community. Dr. Johnson asked the Deans to look for examples of stories that have transformed students' lives to include in the publication. He also recommended contacting founding faculty members to assist with re-telling these stories. He asked that the Deans submit about one dozen stories to him by this time next year. An outline format or 3-page narrative may be submitted. He said that the ultimate goal is for a UTSA graduate to look at the publication and see their experience at UTSA accurately reflected.

GRIP

Dr. Sandy Welch, Sr. Vice Provost, encouraged the Council to contact her team with any issues or "kudos" regarding the GRIP. She gave an update on recent changes that have been implemented as well as future expectations. She noted the reduction in the number of CAP students for this Fall, and the increase in students who are in the top 25% of their high school graduating class (over 70% of the Fall 2013 and Fall 2014 cohorts). She stressed the importance of the role of the Deans and department chairs, as well as faculty members. Dr. Welch also discussed the recent changes in admission requirements (raised twice in the last 3 years) leading

to a stronger cohort of students. She said that the student success information collected each semester is shared with UTSA's leaders, deans, department chairs, and faculty members. The data is then sent through UT System executive evaluations and the university's progress is outlined. She also briefly discussed the monetary gains that UTSA would benefit from if even 1% of students are retained this year.

Distance Learning Fee

Dr. John Frederick discussed UTSA's originally proposed plan to eliminate the Distance Learning Fee and increase the university's Automated Learning Fee. This fee structure change was presented to the Regents but was denied. The Distance Learning Fee currently adds \$25 per credit hour to support Blackboard and only applies to a small number of courses. Since grades from all courses are entered into Blackboard, it may be possible to apply this fee to all courses. Dr. Frederick asked the Council if they had any ideas on how this fee could be implemented as described, without imposing such a heavy financial burden onto students. One suggestion was made to cap this fee (apply it to no more than 3 courses per student, etc.). Another suggestion was made to apply the fee to software used for most writing courses. Dr. Frederick encouraged the Council to send him any ideas for potential application as soon as the Spring semester.