

**Provost's Council**  
**September 17, 2014**  
**2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**BV 1.338 Assembly Room**  
**Downtown Campus**

**AGENDA**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Dr. Mickey Stevenson, Assistant Vice President for Research Integrity, updated the members on the two Conflict of Interest policies (HOP 1.33 and HOP 10.04). HOP 1.33 is a general policy on conflict of interest and commitment and applies to all UTSA employees (faculty and exempt staff, especially those with authority over financial transactions and contracts). HOP 10.04 applies to all UTSA research faculty and appropriate staff. Dr. Stevenson stressed that in most cases, any conflict can be managed with a proper management plan, which is also the goal of the Conflict of Interest Committee who reviews plans. She also reminded the Council that prior approval for outside activities, such as service on a Board of Directors, must receive prior approval. Questions can be submitted to The Office of Institutional Compliance, if it's related to HOP 1.33 or to The Research Integrity Office if it's related to HOP 10.04.

**ADVANCE GRANT**

Dr. Gabriel Acevedo, Associate Professor of Sociology and Co-PI on the ADVANCE grant, met with the Council members to inform them on a recent grant awarded to UTSA from the National Science Foundation to conduct an institutional gender climate research study at UTSA. Dr. Acevedo stated that although the grant is for women in the STEM fields, the Co-PI's are going to send the survey out to all tenured and tenure-track faculty. The Co-PI's will also interview 20 – 25 faculty members which will provide a qualitative analyses of attitudes and experiences of faculty at UTSA to complement the quantitative analyses that will result from the survey. Dr. Acevedo mentioned that this is a two-year grant and at the end, the group plans to apply for the larger multi-year grant.

The survey link will be sent to all faculty via email on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and will remain available until Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>. The group will also set up a website to disseminate findings, conclusions and resources available to implement workplace changes. The group hopes the survey will identify specific issues, if any, in the recruitment, retention, and recognition of women faculty in STEM and SBS disciplines.

**E2F2 FILM FESTIVAL**

Sunay Palsole, Associate Vice Provost for Distance Learning announced the upcoming inaugural Educational Experience Film Festival that will be held on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Buena Vista Theater at the

Downtown Campus. The goal of the festival is to showcase the use of digital media as a teaching tool. As of this date, the committee has reviewed 76 entries, all of which will be posted on-line and played on monitors during the film festival. The winning entries will be played in full during the awards ceremony with faculty member, John Phillip Santos serving as the master of ceremonies.

## **SACSCOC REMINDERS & GRIP LAUNCH**

Dr. Sandy Welch, Sr. Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, provided an update on SACSCOC Fifth Year Interim Report which is due in March 2016. She stated that various offices are currently working on narratives and supporting documentation which needs to be collected this year. She also reminded the Deans to be mindful of having adequate full-time faculty for all of their programs. In the past SACS required 25% of total faculty had to be full-time for each department. Now, each department must justify adequacy by program and based on teaching needs, expected research, and expected service. Dr. Welch also mentioned that assessments for AY 2013-2014 are mostly complete, there are a few outstanding and she provided each Dean with a list of those departments that still need to submit their assessments.

Dr. Welch then provided an update for the GRIP. She stated that faculty need to be diligent in utilizing the new technology that has been implemented this Fall, which is EARN, the early alert system and entering grades into Blackboard. The EARN system will be key for the students and advisors as the goal is to know if students are struggling early enough to intervene before the student fails the course or drops out of college. Dr. Welch also mentioned a recent study from the Education Advisory Board that looked at graduation rates and students classified as the “murky middle” who are students that have a GPA between 2.2 to 3.2. According to their data, this group is susceptible to dropping out, even though they are making some progress. She went on to state if faculty will utilize EARN, we can catch these students early enough in their academic careers and get them back on track towards successfully completing their degree. Dr. Welch encouraged the Deans to continually talk to their respective chairs and faculty on the importance of the GRIP and its initiatives and to recognize that we are all responsible for the success of our students.

## **INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES**

Dr. René Zenteno, Vice Provost for International Initiatives briefed the Council on priority projects his office is currently working on for 2014-2015, which are to:

- Develop a UTSA strategic plan for internationalization
  - The plan will take into consideration UTSA’s role as an HSI; complement the academic and research goals for Tier I status, along with the research interests of faculty and students regional and academic interests. The plan will also focus on joint research and innovation and leverage externally funded opportunities to support the initiatives.
- Restructure the UTSA risk management program for international travel
  - Currently the IOC reviews all of the requests for international travel for approval/disapproval. The committee would like to see if this part could reside with each Dean since they should have a better understanding of the travel needs of their faculty.
  - Dr. Zenteno would also like to review the areas that have been deemed restricted, such as parts of Mexico, to see if the restricted tag can be lifted.

- Expand study abroad opportunities for our students
  - In 2012-2013, 354, or 1.2%, UTSA students participated in a study abroad program. By comparison, UT Austin had 5.1% of their students participate in a study abroad program. Dr. Zenteno mentioned that finances are a huge factor for students and he would like to find ways to increase the financial support or to develop more cost-effective, affordable programs.
- Enlarge the number of international students in our graduate programs
  - There are approximately 2,200 international students studying at UTSA, with the top 5 countries being Saudi Arabia, India, Mexico, China and Kuwait. The top 5 majors are electrical engineering, pre-business, pre-engineering, computer science and mechanical engineering. Dr. Zenteno stated that there is room for growth in this area which will enhance UTSA's ability to advance top-quality research.
- Develop more strategic partnerships in Latin America
  - Strategic Partnerships with Monterrey Tech have been established which allows students and faculty from both universities to participate in education, research and cultural/student exchange programs. Dr. Zenteno would like to use this model to create partnerships in other Latin American countries.

Dr. Zenteno ended his presentation by asking the Deans to consider the following questions for future discussions related to international initiatives:

- What international partnerships would most benefit your academic and research goals and interests?
- What aspects of organizational capacity (policies and structures) need to be addressed in our efforts to internationalize UTSA?
- What are some ways that internationalization can promote and support academic initiatives in service learning?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**State of the University Address**  
**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 3:00 – 5:00**  
**UC Ballroom**