

Provost's Council
November 19, 2014
3:00 – 5:00 pm
Faculty Center Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22)

AGENDA

ACADEMIC AWARDS RESOLUTION

Zack Dunn, president of the UTSA Student Government Association, met with the members of the Provost Council to discuss the recent resolution passed by the SGA regarding the criteria for eligibility to be named to the Dean's List and President's List. Last year, students were required to be registered for 12 hours and earn a grade point average of 3.75 to 3.99 in the fall or spring semester in order to be eligible for the Dean's List. In order to qualify for the President's List, students were required to be registered for 12 hours and earn a grade point average of 4.0. Currently students must be registered for 15 hours and achieve the same respective grade point averages to be eligible for either award. The SGA recognizes the importance of the GRIP initiative and improving our graduation rates through encouraging all of our students to register and complete 15 hours each semester. However, the SGA believes that the administration may not have considered students who arrive at UTSA with dual credit or AP hours and that the new criteria may unknowingly omit students who otherwise would have qualified for these prestigious awards.

Furthermore, the SGA felt that it was unfair to the students to define "full-time" student as one who has registered for 15 hours, when the vast majority of scholarships, state aid, and federal aid define "full-time" as one who has registered for 12 hours. In addition, the SGA reviewed the criteria for these awards at other colleges in the area, as well as other UT System universities and discovered that the criteria is 12 hours. The APRC committee of the Faculty Senate also weighed in on the SGA's resolution and agreed that UTSA should amend its policies and return the criteria to 12 hours. The members of the Provost Council agreed with the SGA and the Faculty Senate.

TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION & NEW UT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Ken Pierce, Vice Provost for OIT and CIO, announced that in the next week or so, the UT System schools will receive a letter from the Chancellor notifying us that we will be required to implement a 2 factor authentication system by Aug. 31, 2015. Recently several companies reported accounts/information being accessed and altered. In one instance, employee paychecks were being routed to different bank accounts without their knowledge. The two factor authentication will enhance security and hopefully prevent someone from having unauthorized access to information. It will only affect those who attempt to log-on to our systems from a

remote site. If you are logged onto the UTSA website at your desk, you will not need the two-factor authentication in order to access your files. Mr. Pierce mentioned that UT System is currently looking at two vendors—Duo or Toopher. More information will be sent to the UTSA community when available.

STUDENT SUCCESS COLLABORATIVE & KICK-OFF EVENT IN FEBRUARY

Dr. John Frederick, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, informed the Council that UTSA has signed up for the Education Advisory Board's Student Success Collaborative (SSC). Dr. Frederick mentioned that the EAB wanted us to enroll in this tool several years ago, but he was reluctant because it was in the testing phase. Now, over 100 institutions are utilizing this tool, along with several UT System universities, including UTEP. In addition, the UT System is considering investing in a system-wide membership. Therefore, Dr. Frederick believed the timing was right for UTSA to invest in a membership. The tool is a predictive algorithm used to determine student success. For instance, if a student enrolls in a class and earns a certain grade, the tool will help determine if that student can be successful in that field of study. This will be a valuable tool for our students and advisors in assisting with selecting a major. Dr. Frederick stated that it will take 4 – 6 months to enter all of the data and test for accuracy before EAB will give access to advisors. Dr. Frederick mentioned that Dr. Sandy Welch, Sr. Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness will take the lead on this project. EAB also wants to host a kick-off event in the spring to introduce this tool to the advisors.

COLLEGE TRANSITION CEREMONY

Dr. Frederick led a discussion on conducting college transition ceremonies for students enrolled in University College. He mentioned that fall 2014 marked the first year that incoming freshman were enrolled in University College. Once a student completes 30 hours, they are eligible to transfer to the college that houses their major. It was suggested that a college transition ceremony should be incorporated into the programming so that students can feel a sense of accomplishment. The questions that need answering are: When should this ceremony take place (spring or fall semester), should each college host and plan their own ceremonies, who should be involved with the planning process, should each student receive a gift or token of accomplishment, and who pays for the ceremonies.

Dr. Williams mentioned that Tammy Wyatt and Susan Colorado have already begun discussions surrounding these ceremonies, so the Deans should set up meetings with them to go over their ideas.

After much discussion, it was decided that:

1. The ceremonies should take place in the spring:
 - a. Sometime in April, maybe in connection with other Fiesta events. The colleges should avoid dates that are too close to finals and commencement;
 - b. The one exception may be the College of Architecture, Construction and Planning. The Department of Architecture does not make their decisions on

which students are eligible to continue in the studio programs until the end of June. Plus, they already host a “welcome” reception to sophomores in the fall. Associate Dean Baron believes they would like to continue this practice; however, he did think that the Dept. of Construction Science could host a ceremony in the spring.

2. The ceremonies should have similar elements, but could include elements that are unique to each college.
3. Each college should engage their faculty, staff, students, and representatives from Student Affairs, such as Barry McKinney and the Special Events Office to plan their own ceremonies this spring.

There was also discussion as to whether or not parents should be invited to the ceremonies. Several commented that for our first generation students, including their parents signifies to them that their students belong in college. Another person commented that this ceremony may help with retention. After some reflection, including parents would add a layer of size and complexity to the event that may exceed our ability to deliver a quality experience for family members. Therefore, it’s probably best to focus on designing an event solely for the students.

Also, it was undecided as to whether or not these ceremonies should occur on the same day. Again, due to space limitations, it may prove difficult to accomplish that and the ceremonies may need to be spread out over several days.

The issue of funding this event was also discussed as most colleges have not budgeted for this ceremony. It was suggested that the colleges ask donors for funds to pay for the reception and possibly the small gift or token of accomplishment (this could be a tassel in the color of the college, a pen with the college’s name on it, etc.).

PEOPLESOFT

Dr. Frederick mentioned to the Council member that he recently had lunch with some of the department chairs and that they spent a great deal of time discussing the problems their offices are experiencing with PeopleSoft. The chairs mentioned that the assistants bear the brunt of the challenges surrounding this conversion and that it is difficult to conduct normal business operations. Dr. Frederick mentioned that Dr. Romo along with the presidents of UTEP and UTA have raised these concerns with UT System. One item that came out of the meeting is that the ARDC, which houses the implementation team in Arlington is down ½ of their workforce (approximately 31 people). Dr. Frederick also mentioned that UTSA has experienced its own share of turnover within our PeopleSoft team. He asked for everyone to be patient, but to feel free to bring any major difficulties to his attention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sam Gonzales named Interim VP for Business Affairs

Candidates for the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School will be on campus: Dec. 4th & 5th; Dec. 10th & 11th; Dec. 15th & 16th and Dec. 18th & 19th

Next Provost's Council Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 17th; 3:00 – 5:00; Regents' Room

**Honors College Commencement Ceremony:
Thursday, Dec. 18th; 4:30; UC Ballroom**

Commencement Ceremonies (Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center):

Friday, Dec. 19th at 4:00: COE, COLFA and University College

Saturday, Dec. 20th at 10:00: COEHD and COS

Saturday, Dec. 20th at 4:00: COA, COB AND COPP