

**Provost's Council**  
**April 15, 2015**  
**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Regents' Room, MB 3.106**

**AGENDA**

**FACULTY AWARDS**

Dr. Nancy Martin, Associate Provost for Core Curriculum and QEP, attended the meeting to discuss nominations for faculty awards. Dr. Martin mentioned that information regarding each award and past winners can be found on the provost's website under: <http://www.utsa.edu/facultyawards/>. She also mentioned that over the past few years fewer faculty are being nominated for the awards. Her process includes sending out the call for nominations to the Deans and Department Chairs, but she was wondering if there were other ideas to help promote the awards, especially since faculty cannot self-nominate. A few of the Deans mentioned that they either have or will be setting up college awards committees to assist with the nomination/review process. It was also suggested that the Deans ask their faculty how to improve the quantity of nominations and they would send those suggestions to Dr. Martin. One of the Deans mentioned that it would be nice if the Provost would recognize the nominees, as the faculty are aware they are being nominated for an award, but do not know the outcome. Dr. Frederick stated that he was amenable to sending out letters to the nominees.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW VICE PROVOST AND DEAN- THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

Dr. Frederick introduced the new Vice Provost and Dean of The Graduate School, Dr. DeBrenna Agbényiga, to the Council members. She stated that she was very excited to be at UTSA and looks forward to working with everyone to improve and enhance graduate programs.

**GRIP UPDATE**

Dr. Sandy Welch, Sr. Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, updated the Council members on the recent presentation by members of the Student Government Association (SGA) at the recent GRIP Cross-Campus team meeting. The students stated that the number one tool faculty can use that will enhance their success is Blackboard and entering grades into the system. The students mentioned that the second tool they believe will help with their success is EARN—the early alert system. The students from this group did not receive any messages from faculty this Spring—kudos or warnings. In addition, the students stated that it is difficult to make decisions on whether to drop a class when grades are not posted in Blackboard. Dr. Welch stated that approximately 1,100 freshman are on warning or probation. A few of the Deans stated that EARN is not easy to learn and does not communicate with Blackboard, so there are several steps faculty have to go through to send an early alert. In addition, the Deans stated that the grades in Blackboard can be misleading if you do not set up the gradebook correctly. Also, there is no training classes at night for NTT faculty who teach at night. These faculty have daytime jobs

and would have to take off time from their full-time employment to attend a training class. It was mentioned that there is a video on OIT's website that provides instruction on setting up a grade book.

Dr. Welch also encouraged the Deans to review the list of students who did not return from the Fall semester to find out why they didn't return and to see if we can assist them. She stated that some of the students were in good standing academically, so we need to reach out to them to see why they did not return to UTSA.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Mr. Sam Gonzales, VP for Student Affairs and Interim VP for Business Affairs made the following announcements:

Beginning April 11<sup>th</sup>, all Faculty A & B parking spaces will be open to all on the weekends only (no tickets will be issued). This change should help with weekend events. Planning for a new parking garage has started with the location south of the Fine Arts Building and east of the BSE Building and will have a walkway connecting the garage to the building. It is uncertain when construction will begin—depends on funding. However, Mr. Gonzales noted that the students are not buying as many permits as in the past. The trend his office has noticed is students are parking in the existing garages and paying the hourly fee.

The Call Center in the JPL will move to the Baurele Garage freeing up space to enlarge the dining area/services.

Enrollment numbers for Fall 2015 are higher at this point in time from 2014. He stated that we could see a 2015-2016 freshman class around 5,200 to 5,500. As of today, 2,662 students have paid to attend summer orientation. Mr. Gonzales stated that of the current admits, 72.1% are from the top 25% and unranked quartile and 28% are from the bottom 75% quartile. He also stated that his area has hired three new recruiters for Dallas, Austin and Houston and have spent money on advertising on social media.

## **GRANT ACCOUNTING**

Dr. Can Saygin, Asst. Vice President for Research, met with the Council members to discuss workflow for joint functions between departments, colleges, research service centers and the office of research in order to manage various activities such as travel, purchase orders, employment appointments, account reconciliations, etc. A few of the Deans stated that they are reluctant to have departmental administrative assistants assume these responsibilities as there are a lot of turnover in these areas and training would become problematic. One Dean mentioned that they already have someone in their office working with the Research Service Centers and that seems to be working well. Dr. Saygin stated that he will meet with all of the Deans individually to discuss the workflow/joint functions to determine how best to manage these processes. In addition, Dr. Saygin mentioned that he is aware of the current difficulties with PeopleSoft displaying account balances, and that his office is working on the PI portal that will provide that information. However, until the balances can be reconciled, his office does not want to provide access to the PI's.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Nominations for 2015-2016 Leadership UTSA due**

**University Excellence Awards Ceremony: April 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00; UC Ballroom**

**Honors College Graduation Ceremony: May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.; UC Ballroom**

**Commencement Ceremonies: May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>: Alamodome**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.: COEHD and COS**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.: COE, COLFA, and UC**

**May 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.: COACP, COB, and COPP**

**Next Provost's Council Meeting:                      Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 – 11:00  
Regents' Room**