

**Provost's Council**  
**October 20, 2015**  
**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Assembly Room, JPL 4.04.22**

**AGENDA**

**UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS AMÉRICAS PUEBLA**

Dr. Cecilia Anaya de Parrodi, provost and vice president for academic affairs, was visiting UTSA along with others members of her delegation to discuss possible collaborations between our universities. Dr. Anaya gave a brief overview of her university, which was founded in 1940 and has been accredited by SACSCOC since 1959. She stated that UDLAP offers bachelors, masters and doctoral degree programs in business, engineering, humanities, arts, and sciences. The student body enrollment is around 8,400, with a 17:1 student/faculty ratio. Dr. Anaya is eager to begin the process of creating a long-term partnership with UTSA that would include study abroad programs, visiting scholars, research activities, and working with the Institute of Economic Development to assist businesses in Mexico. Dr. René Zenteno, UTSA's vice provost for international initiatives, will be working closely with UTSA constituencies to develop the various collaborations with UDLAP.

**PIVOT GRANT**

Dr. Rhonda Gonzales, associate professor in the Department of History, updated the council members on the Title V Grant that UTSA, in partnership with Alamo Colleges, was awarded from the U.S. Department of Education. It is a five (5) year grant worth \$3.2 million and will focus on assisting Hispanic students, low SES, first-generation, and transition students to be successful in their academic careers. The activities will align with UTSA's Graduation Rate Improvement Plan goals and will work with those involved to increase faculty-student engagement, provide assistance in redesigning high DFW courses, and building peer-to-peer communities of support. The four (4) activities are: Alamo Runners, Roadrunner Transition Experience, First to Go and Graduate (F2G&G), and Math Matters. Alamo Runners will focus on students who were accepted to UTSA but opted to enroll in one of the Alamo Colleges. This activity will work with a coordinator at Alamo College to encourage those students to enroll in classes at Alamo College and UTSA, then transfer and graduate from UTSA.

Roadrunner Transition Experience will focus on students who are not eligible to participate in the First Year Experience. This would include veterans, older students, transfer students, etc. This activity will focus on creating resources and programs to increase transfer student retention and graduation rates.

Approximately 50% of UTSA students are first generation college students. The First to Go and Graduate (F2G&G) activity will create resources and programs designed to improve retention and graduation rates. F2G&G will feature student coaching by first-generation faculty at UTSA, peer mentors, and a Council comprised of students and faculty.

Math Matters was developed with the cooperation of the Department of Math at UTSA and will focus on redesigning Math 1073, to help lower their DFW rates. Students in the Alamo Runners activity may select this course as part of their dual-enrollment.

Dr. Gonzales mentioned that the program has partnered with several offices at UTSA, including the Tomás Rivera Center, Library, University College, Student Support Services, F2G&G Student Organization, Residence Life, and the Alumni Association to ensure the success of the grant. Dr. Gonzales also provided suggestions to the Deans that would help ensure the success of the program. Those suggestions include:

- Encouraging faculty to work on the initiatives;
- Support course releases for faculty who are willing to be F2G&G coaches;
- Help identify faculty who would be willing to serve on the F2G&G Council;
- Support development and use of curriculum/pedagogy (best practices) for first generation and transfer student success;
- Identify one high DFW course and prioritize its redesign (once her team completes the redesign of Math 1073 they will be available to offer assistance to others);
- Validate faculty involvement with credit during their annual review; and,
- Welcome/invite her or her team to educate faculty on the grant and ways they can assist to improve student success.

Dr. Gonzales stated that a survey will be sent out to faculty to introduce the grant and ask them to self-identify as to whether or not they were first-generation students and gauge their interest in participating in the F2G&G activity.

## **SACS INTERIM REPORT**

Dr. Sandy Welch, senior vice provost for institutional effectiveness, mentioned that her office is currently editing the narratives for the SACS 5<sup>th</sup> Year Interim Report. She stated that as her team is reviewing and editing, additional information may be needed and asked that if contacted to respond immediately as this project is time-sensitive. She further stated that one area that needs improving is with written student complaints. Dr. Welch stated that some areas have a good policy in place; whereas, others do not. She offered to resend a template that Carol Gonzalez, the Student Affairs ombudsperson, utilizes to track written student complaints.

## **FACULTY WORKLOAD AUDIT**

Dr. Frederick reported on the UT System Faculty Workload Audit that was recently conducted. He stated that we fared very well, except on one item—written plans for presidential credits for research. He stated that the College of Business, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, and College of Public Policy all have good models for documenting a research plan when a faculty member is given a course release/presidential credit for conducting research. Dr. Frederick stated that he will be discussing this topic with other UT System provosts at their next quarterly meeting and will provide any updates that are warranted.

## **SUMMER ENROLLMENT**

Dr. Frederick continued his discussion on increasing summer enrollments for 2016. He stated that he has convened a tiger team, comprised of associate deans, representatives from Student Affairs, Business Affairs, the Library and the Provost's office, who will be reviewing courses that have been offered in the past during the summer, courses that could be offered, funding for summer courses, funding for students, and developing a marketing campaign to bolster enrollment. Dr. Frederick also stated that the team will be working with the Admissions Office to develop a simpler admissions process for certain students, such as students who are enrolled at another university, but are home for the summer. His thought is that these students are not asking to be admitted to UTSA, so there should be a simpler process for enrolling them in our summer courses. He is also considering by-passing the normal admissions process for graduate programs—such as a “get your feet wet, take a course during the summer” to increase summer enrollment for working professionals. If the student is successful and likes graduate work, he/she can then go through the normal processes to be admitted to a graduate program. Dr. Frederick mentioned that there are several marketing ideas that he would like the tiger team to consider and encouraged the deans to submit any ideas/concerns they may have to him.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Next Provost's Council Meeting:**

**Wed., Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>; 3:00 – 5:00  
Regents' Room, MB 3.106**

**Commencement Schedule:**

**Honors College:**

**Fri., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>; 4:30  
HUC Ballroom**

**COE, COLFA & University College:**

**Sat., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>; 10:00 – noon  
Alamodome**

**CACP, COEHD, & COS:**

**Sat., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>; 4:00 – 6:00  
Alamodome**

**COB & COPP:**

**Sun., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>; 2:00 – 4:00  
Alamodome**