

**College of Sciences (COS)
Meeting of Dean's Executive Council
16 February 2009**

Present:

Dean - George Perry

Department Chairs - Edwin Barea-Rodriguez, Alan Dutton, Waldek Gorski, Miguel Jose-Yacaman, Sandy Norman, Kleanthis Psarris

Associate Deans - Raymond Baird, Craig Jordan, George Negrete, Andy Tsin

Center/Institute/Program Directors - Karl Klose, Joe Lazor

Assistant Dean - Garry Castellanos

COS Undergraduate Advising Director - Patti Gonzalez

COS Retention and Graduation Analyst - Diane Elizondo

Guest Speaker - Terry Wilson

Guests - Libby Chaskin, Judy Fowles

Summary Notes

Faculty Salary Grant Buyouts

Garry stated Terry Wilson, Assistant Provost for Academic Budgets, Planning and Compliance, was invited to attend the meeting to discuss faculty salary grant buyouts. Janet Parker, Associate Vice President for Financial Affairs, was invited to attend but she indicated that this was an issue that should be reviewed by the Provost's Office first.

A discussion began about faculty members not always taking grant buyouts. The problem with buyouts is that money goes back to the department but it does not roll forward. Some department chairs are requesting funds to roll forward.

Terry stated she had a preliminary meeting with Dr. Frederick and discussed his philosophy regarding funding derived from course buyouts. First, the funds should remain with the college to support its mission and goals. Second, a portion of the funds should/could remain with the department to support department goals, but funds should not be set aside in an account for a specific principal investigator. Terry also responded to questions regarding the end of the year "lapsing of funds." She noted that unused state funds are "swept" by the business office; 50% of the funds remain in VPBA for deferred maintenance expenses and 50% is returned to the Office of the Provost. Terry also mentioned that she could facilitate a funds trade, where some state funds could be swapped out for non-state funds that do roll forward. However, the amount of funding available to do this is limited.

Dr. Psarris stated that rolling over the funds derived from grant buyouts would provide an incentive to departments to collect the grant buyouts and help with more effective planning. The funds would help with increasing the number of Ph.D. students, advancing research, provide start-up funds for new faculty in subsequent academic years, bridge grant funding and pay for renovations. This would provide more incentive for departments to be fiscally responsible.

Terry stated that if a recommendation is made for a change in the policy the college/department would need to have a very good plan with metrics (for measuring attainment of goals associated with the plan), indicate how it would be implemented and explain the return on the investment. She indicated that she would present business plans to the Provost.

Terry reminded the forum that the Provost's Office has given more money to the College of Sciences than any other college.

Changes, UTeach Program

Dr. Lazor introduced Libby Chaskin and Judy Fowles from the UTeach Program. Dr. Lazor briefed on forthcoming changes in the UTeach program. First, the name will be changed (name change will be announced later). Second, he has been negotiating with Dean Merchant of the College of Education and Human Development regarding the number and distribution of semester credit hours in the certification programs in sciences. It appears to be feasible to reduce the number of semester credit hours in the professional education component of the UTeach program from 33 to 21 and still get students "on the ground" teaching experience early in their careers at UTSA. This will permit students to take a few more science electives and to stay within the 120 hour maximum. Third, he emphasized that since most school districts need to hire science teachers with the flexibility to teach any of the basic high school science courses, the Composite Sciences certification will remain the most attractive option for UTSA UTeach students. However, preparing these students to pass the certification examination will require a more careful alignment of the content of the test with the content of our certification-related courses. Offering special sections of certain courses may be advantageous.

Graduate Student Fair

Dr. Negrete had left for class when this agenda topic was discussed. He will follow up with departments on the Lone Star Graduate Diversity Colloquium being held on March 27 and 28 on the UTSA campus. Regarding graduate student recruitment, Dr. Perry stated that the Dean's office will work with departments if they want to bring in students.

Doctoral Faculty

Dr. Perry reminded those department chairs who have not finalized a policy on doctoral faculty to do so.

Other Business

A recommendation was made to change the reporting line for the University's Health Professions Office to the College of Sciences. Dr. Perry will discuss this with Provost Frederick.