

Deans Council  
August 17, 2022

1. Dr. Westbrook advised the deans he would announce at the Welcome Back Meeting on August 18, SFA are in discussions with four systems. The four systems are Texas Tech, Texas A&M, UT and Texas State, we will work on questions for them over the next few weeks. We have a very condensed timeline and would like to have our input to the board for their October meeting. A decision will be made in November, allowing us to go to the legislative session Spring, 2023, with a final decision being made in time for fall 2023.

Dr. Smith presented a timeline for input, the deans were encouraged to be included at this point and believe this is a positive move. Deans agreed the timeline is doable

We need to ensure our questions are answerable. How many questions are reasonable. Need to be specific. Discussion followed on specific questions, with the following suggestions:

- student scholarships
- graduate assistantships
- how much autonomy do we have to make decisions
- what is structural support.
- do they have a funding formula in place already for award to scholarships, assistantships etc?
- Financial questions should have subsets faculty and staff will want to know effects on pay and benefits.

We still need to look at mission critical and control our own destiny. We could look at median salaries by rank for each system. We will follow the 4SP and start with the deans who will meet and prepare a set of questions, they will go to Chairs Forum and then to Faculty Senate, they will come back to the Provost.

The following meetings will be held with the Provost:

Deans, Chairs, Chairs Forum & Faculty senate	October 3 at 1:30 p.m.
Academic Directors	October 3 at 3:30 p.m.
Town Hall	October 5 12:30 p.m.

2. **Presidents Innovation Fund**

Sheryll Jerez

Dr. Jerez provided information on the Presidents Innovation Fund, establishing guidelines for faculty and staff, this is a change from last year. The deadline is September 30, 2022.

Dr. Smith had heard some concern from a faculty member that there was not enough emphasis on research in URC. It was felt there needs to be more space to focus on faculty research. URC focus is on faculty activity and research and is discipline specific. It is felt there is a slant toward the STEM centric research, and not enough out of Fine Arts, Education and Liberal & Applied Arts.

Dr. Long has chaired this committee for seven years, one of the main reasons is that no-one has stepped up to become chair. It was suggested we have a three-year rotation with a chair elect.

3. **Graduate Admissions**

Sheryll Jerez

There was a discussion about moving graduate admissions to Enrollment Management and Slate, Dr. Jerez is exploring this and talked to staff involved. Undergraduate admissions are already using Slate. Further discussion to follow.

4. **Salary Inequities**

There was a discussion on salary equity issues, Dr. Abbott stated we have never been allowed the opportunity to look at salary inequity and compression issues, she is happy to be able to do that this year. Dr. Knepp is also looking at this possibility, using funding already available. Further discussion to follow.

Attendees:

*Lorenzo Smith*

*Marc Guidry*

*Sharon Brewer*

*Tim Bisping*

*Debbie Pace*

*Judy Abbott*

*Gary Wurtz*

*Dustin Knepp*

*Sheryll Jerez*

*Hans Williams*

*Steve Westbrook (part)*