

**Council Chairs Meeting
November 21, 2007**

Present: Colleen Cook, Tito Guerrero, Charles Johnson, Doug Palmer, Joe Newton, Nancy Sawtelle, and Jerry Strawser

Today's meeting is in place of the meeting which was postponed from November 7.

The Council Chairs reported on the activities of their respective Councils.

- **Council on the Built Environment**
 - Palmer reported that the CBE had finalized its RFP (Request for Project) process, which will clarify expectations for requestors and streamline the review process for CBE.
 - At its next meeting (November 28) the CBE will consider the scope of work for the facilities condition assessment request for proposals. The Council of Deans provided comment on the proposed scope of work during October. After CBE approval, the university will move forward in issuing a request for proposals. The assessment will most likely will begin in the summer or fall of 2008.
- **Climate and Diversity Council**
 - Guerrero reported that the Climate and Diversity Council received its charge on October 10 and began its regular meeting schedule last week. The Council will meet monthly.
 - At its most recent meeting the Council heard reports on the employee climate study conducted by Employee Services and on the student climate study conducted by the Division of Student Affairs. Reports on climate studies for management and for faculty will be presented at a later meeting.
- **Development Strategy Council**
 - Johnson reported that the Development Council met earlier in the week. In the coming year, the Council will develop guidelines for development initiatives related to capital projects as well as other opportunities with the goal of ensuring that there is a development plan in place when a project is proposed.
 - The proposed guidelines will be submitted to the Council Chairs, the Council of Deans, and the Academic Program Council for review.
- **Educational Environment Council**
 - Cook said that the Educational Environment Council is becoming familiar with the history and the issues related to distance education at Texas A&M.
 - The Council will be considering how distance education and technology mediated instruction fit into the educational offerings of Texas A&M and will make recommendations about how distance education could best be structured.
 - Strawser asked that the Council to look at the role of the central administration regarding policies, support, recordkeeping, assessment, etc., related to distance education.
- **Finance Council**
 - Strawser reported that the Finance Council met on November 14. At that meeting, the Council received reports on the implementation of new procedures for small scope repairs and renovations and the implementation of new procedures for strategic sourcing. In addition, Dan Parker gave an update from the Tuition Policy Advisory Council. The Finance Council currently is considering differential tuition and its effect on future funding as directed by interim President Davis.

- **Research Environment Council**

- Newton reported that the Research Environment Council had met and was continuing to strategize on research administration.

ACTION ITEMS

- Strawser asked Council chairs to continue the process of identifying issues related to the development of an academic master plan with the goal of having ideas in place for consideration when a new president and provost take office.