Task Force on University Excellence and Productivity
Summary of Participants and Topics Covered

Task Force On: The University of Texas System Task Force on University Excellence and Productivity

Appointed On: February 18, 2011


Appointed By: Mr. Wm. Eugene “Gene” Powell, Chairman, The University of Texas System Board of Regents

Task Force Members:
Ms. Brenda Pejovich, Task Force Chairman, Regent, The University of Texas System Board of Regents
Mr. Alex M. Cranberg, Regent, The University of Texas System Board of Regents
Mr. Robert L. Stillwell, Regent, The University of Texas System Board of Regents
Dr. David E. Daniel, President, The University of Texas at Dallas
Dr. Robert S. Nelsen, President, The University of Texas – Pan American
Dr. Steven W. Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost, The University of Texas at Austin
Mr. Wm. Eugene “Gene” Powell, Chairman, The University of Texas System Board of Regents, ex-officio member
Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa, Chancellor, The University of Texas System, ex-officio member
Dr. David B. Prior, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, ex-officio member
Dr. Scott C. Kelley, Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, ex-officio member
Mr. Kyle J. Kalkwarf, Student Regent, The University of Texas System Board of Regents, ex-officio member
Mr. John Davis Rutkauskas, Student Regent, The University of Texas System Board of Regents, ex-officio member

Task Force Meetings, Topics, and Presenters:
Below is a summary of the topics covered at each meeting of the Task Force on University Excellence and Productivity. The participants listed below are those individuals who were invited to participate in that task force meeting.

March 17

Participants:
Mr. Fred Heldenfels, Chairman, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Dr. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Meeting Topic:
What recommendations from the THECB Cost Efficiency Study could have a significant impact on institutions of the UT System
March 23

Participants:
Dr. Daniel Slesnick, Vice Provost for Resource Management, UT Austin
Ms. Kristy Foster, Academic Budget Officer, UT Austin

Meeting Topics:
Faculty Management System being developed by UT Austin
UT Austin's process for aligning budgets with strategic priorities

March 31

Participants:
Dr. J. Tinsley Oden, P. E., Associate Vice President for Research and Director, Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, UT Austin
Dr. Alfred G. Gilman, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Dr. Henry W. Brands, Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor of History, Professor of Government, UT Austin
Dr. Robert M. Metcalfe, Professor of Innovation and Murchison Fellow of Free Enterprise, Cockrell School of Engineering, UT Austin
Dr. Paul Woodruff, Dean, School of Undergraduate Studies, UT Austin

Meeting Topics:
Research opportunities and challenges and the following questions addressed by the participants:
What is the role of research and the research university in innovation, discovery, knowledge creation, and economic growth?
What is the role of research in teaching, undergraduate engagement, and preparing students to be vehicles of innovation?
How do we attract more research funding?
How do we define scholarly creativity and research productivity?
How do we attract more world-class teachers?

April 6

Participants:
Dr. Michael M. Crow, President, Arizona State University
Dr. Philip Regier, Executive Vice Provost and Dean, ASU Online
Dr. Elizabeth D. Capaldi, Executive Vice President and Provost, ASU

Meeting Topics:
Development of ASU Online
Successful program consolidation efforts
Approach to interdisciplinary research
Dramatically increasing student enrollment
Driving blended learning into the undergraduate curriculum
Vision for the New American University
April 14

Participants:
Dr. Kim Clark, President, Brigham Young University-Idaho and former Dean, Harvard Business School

Meeting Topics:
BYU-Idaho's effort at improving quality, serving more students, and lowering costs, simultaneously
Impressions from visit of Arizona State University

May 3

Participants:
FACULTY PANEL:
Dr. Blake Bextine, Biology, UT Tyler
Dr. Dumitru Caruntu, Mechanical Engineering, UTPA
Dr. Pei Lung, Finance and Real Estate, UTA
Mr. Robert Prentice, Business Law, UT Austin
Dr. Kimberley Selber, Communication, UTPA
Dr. Paul Stanford, Mathematics, UTD
Mr. Steven Varela, English, UTEP
Dr. Jeffrey Vaaler, Mathematics, UT Austin

STUDENT PANEL:
Ms. Chelsea Adler, Student Leader, UT Austin
Ms. Diana Gloria, Student Leader, UTEP
Mr. Xavier Johnson, Student Leader, UTSA
Ms. Sara Khalifa, Student Leader UTT
Mr. Dorsey Long, Student Leader, UTA
Mr. Jorge Munoz, Student Leader, UTB
Ms. Dina Shahrokhi, Student Leader, UTD
Ms. Sarah Wilson, Student Leader, UTPB

Meeting Topics:
Faculty members of the panel were recipients of teaching excellence awards, and they discussed how teaching excellence can be improved and shared throughout the UT System
The decision making process involved in setting faculty compensation
How student learning outcomes are measured
Student leaders on the panel discussed issues related to student input into faculty evaluations and budgeting decisions

May 18

Participants:
No outside participants

Meeting Topics:
Discussion of time to Ph.D. degree completion
Discussion of Regents’ Rules on faculty workload and post tenure review
Introduction to the Chancellor’s Productivity Dashboard Initiative

June 15

Participants:
No outside participants

Meeting Topics:
Review and discussion related to the Chancellor’s proposed Productivity Dashboard
Sharing of best practices employed at UT Dallas for ensuring timely degree completion for Ph.D. candidates
June 29

Participants:
Dr. Paul Woodruff, Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, UT Austin

Meeting Topics:
Peer review of teaching
Post-tenure review
Annual faculty evaluations
Exit interviews for faculty

July 13

Participants:
Mr. Michael Crosno, CEO and Chairman, myEdu
Mr. Chris Chilek, Senior Vice President, myEdu

Meeting Topics:
Student advising and data collection by myEdu
Policy for faculty service
Policy for consulting and outside employment by faculty
Role of department chairs

August 9

Participants:
Mr. Dan Fontaine, Senior Vice President for Business Affairs, UTMD Anderson Cancer Center
Mr. Gerald Colman, Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical Operations, UTMD Anderson Cancer Center
Dr. Patricia Hurn, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research for Health Affairs
Dr. Dale Klein, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research for Academic Affairs
Mr. Bryan Allinson, Executive Director of Technology Commercialization and Advisory Services
Dr. Randa Safady, Vice Chancellor for External Relations

Meeting Topics:
Presentation for Physician Productivity Data System developed by UTMDACC
Demonstration of research search engines being developed by the UT System
The use of presidential workload credits