

**Research Advisory Council
Senate Report
October 2010**

The Research Advisory Council, chaired by Michael San Francisco (Biology and Office of the VPR), meets monthly to discuss and promulgate TTU's research initiatives and opportunities. At the meetings on 9/10/10 and 10/8/10 respectively the RAC toured the very impressive research facilities at the College of Mass Communications and at The Institute for the Environment and Human Health (at Reese Center).

At the two meetings there were discussions of the possibility of a system-wide cancer institute, announcements of anticipated submission deadlines for both internal and external grand proposals, progress on the Commercial Development Grant Program, monthly workshops on developing grant proposals, and suggestions to improve assistance with the editing of grant manuscripts.

November research conferences that were announced included the Cancer Prevention and Research Conference, and the Romanticism Conference scheduled to occur here at TTU.

The Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award has this year been expanded to allow four awards and an increase in funding to a total of 20K (5K apiece). Two of the awards will be given in STEM areas and two in the Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences.

Finally, the reduction of available Faculty Development Leaves from 35 to 20 was also commented upon. The reduction is a consequence of a newly announced research initiative setting aside 15 leaves for recent recipients of certain major external grants (from a list including Guggenheim, Mellon, Fulbright, American Law Institute, etc.).

Respectfully submitted,
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Faculty Senate Representative to the Research Advisory Council