

From: [Gail Lawrence](#)
To: [Cesar Maldonado](#)
Cc: [Elton Stuckly](#); [Randall Wooten](#); mike.reeser@tstc.edu; [Maldonado, Cesar](#); [Wooten, Randall](#); [Stuckly, Elton](#); [Hendricks, Gary](#)
Subject: Re: Gen Ed Proposal
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 11:17:33 PM

Everyone has made some very valid points, so I don't have anything compelling to add. As I mentioned in T5, WT has kicked around the idea of having Harlingen provide our Gen Ed for several years, but, we have never had serious discussion with all the parties present. As you may know, we have had less than desirable results from our community college partners in terms of student success.

However, I also mentioned we are piloting integrated gen ed this fall in several programs, and hope to incorporate more programs in the future.

I would need more detailed info, and, dang...I know I am a short timer...but three years off seems long to me! Look at how I've aged this past year. Three more years and you will find me in the corner sucking my thumb.

g

On Wed, Jul 18, 2012 at 8:03 AM, Cesar Maldonado <cesar.maldonado@tstc.edu> wrote:

The intent of the ask is to fund the project development and pilot. Current funding will not provide for band-width, equipment, training, curricula review, etc.

Further, this is an integration of academics with technical and must be well studied and designed before implementation, and it also has SACS implications.

As we work on analytics this type of low hanging fruit is likely to come up. This is a multi-year project that cannot be funded through existing channels.

Having said that, I understand the internal politics, but if we are going to farm out these services, why not to one of our own internal divisions? Since we have a good portion of the overhead covered, we should be able to do it less expensively while maintaining quality commensurate with our purpose. Beyond the expected economies of scale, sharing of best practices in student pipeline development through dual enrollment can increase TSTC enrollment that will in turn yield more throughput.

As I mentioned at T5, a plan is needed and this would be run through as a project with a sponsor and project team, similar to our other projects. If we were fortunate enough to get funded this biennium, this would still three years off.

Either way, I will support the decision.

Dr. Cesar Maldonado, P.E.
President
Texas State Technical College Harlingen
[956-364-4020](tel:956-364-4020)

On Jul 17, 2012, at 10:11 AM, Elton Stuckly wrote:

Randy,

Good point. If the project could be sold as a way to develop a better pipeline between the colleges for a variety of functions, as you mentioned, this could be of benefit. This would be defined as an "infrastructure" type project, but we still need a plan detailing what is needed.

Elton

On Jul 17, 2012, at 9:57 AM, Randall Wooten <randall.wooten@tstc.edu> wrote:

I have two thoughts:

First--should we ask at all? That's a judgment call by the chancellor and his advisers in Austin. We could discuss that one all day, but I'll leave it alone and trust the judgment of those closest to the issue.

Secondly, as I look at this "project" I view it as a first piece of a stronger connectivity backbone to tie the colleges together to support the items already on the table (consolidated academics, etc) as well as admin functions, tele-presence, dual-credit, etc. I think we can make the case also that this more robust backbone would be necessary to support the new FF (placement, remote location assessment, etc).

Randy

On Tue, Jul 17, 2012 at 9:46 AM, Elton Stuckly <eestuckly@tstc.edu> wrote:

Mike,

After reading your email and attachment, I have always been in favor of consolidating functions for efficiency purposes. We would be crazy not to. However, in this case, I believe you hit the nail on the head with your first three "Challenges." For something of this magnitude,

we really need a well laid-out plan. For every project that we have developed over the past 2 years, we have developed a charter and plan for them. Why not for this one? Instruction is the core of what we do, and without having a plan, could result in not doing what is in the best interest of the students and the colleges.

In addition, with the push for improved completion rates, the VPSLs are currently focusing on an integrated approach to teaching academics. If students were required to take most of their academic courses online, the fear is that completion rates would decrease instead of increase. Statistics still show that passing rates in online courses are fairly low.

Also, a well-defined plan would give all of the colleges an opportunity to integrate this into their curriculum and budgets, just as you mentioned.

Mike, these are my thoughts. If you need any other information, please let me know.

Regards,

Elton

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 16, 2012, at 12:00 PM, Michael L Reeser <mike.reeser@tstc.edu> wrote:

- >
- > Prezs-
- > I've had a chance to sleep on the topic of the Gen Ed hybridization &
- > consolidation proposal that Cesar put on the table at T5. I'm talking
- > about the one where Cesar asked for \$2 million in Exceptional Items
- > Funding in his LAR.
- >
- > I have an inclination on this topic but since this project involves
- > everyone, I want to get the benefit of y'all's input

before I make the
> final call on this deal. To help with the discussion,
attached to this
> eMail is a document that contains my initial thoughts
and assumptions on
> the proposal. You may have some ideas I haven't
thought of yet and they
> may sway my position. So, speak up.
>
> I must make my decision in the next couple days.
>
> Thanks gang,
> -m
>
> --
> *****
> Michael L. Reeser
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>
> "If you don't like change,
> you're going to like irrelevance even less."
> -Eric Shinseki
>
> <Gen Ed Consolidation.docx>

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