



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

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DATE: May 1, 2013
TO: Deans' Council
Vice Presidents Council
FROM: Steven W. Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost
Kevin P. Hegarty, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
RE: Data Access Governance

Handwritten signatures of Steven W. Leslie and Kevin P. Hegarty, written in black ink over the typed names in the 'FROM' field.

The Provost's Office and the Office of Financial Affairs recognize the need for access to institutional data. Broad and comprehensive institutional data is a strategic university asset and is vital to facilitate operations and inform strategic decision-making. However, wholesale release of detailed unit-level data, and specifically student data, in the absence of thoughtful data governance policies, poses numerous risks to both individuals and the institution. Risks may be legal, political, or reputational and standard practices to avoid risks may not be uniformly coordinated or ensured. Therefore, in order to align data access and use with institutional interests, strong governance principles must be implemented.

To that end, we are proposing that the university establish a formal Data Access Governance structure, which includes the formation of a broadly-representative "Data Management Committee," to develop data access and use policies as outlined in the attached **Data Management Standards** document.

We look forward to your support and involvement in this endeavor. More information about our progress toward this implementation will be made available to you in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please direct questions or concerns to Kristi Fisher in the Office of Information Management and Analysis (kfisher@austin.utexas.edu or 471-3833).

SWL/kdf
Enclosure

xc: Brad Englert
Kristi Fisher
Mary Knight
Dan Slesnick
Shelby Stanfield
Vijay Thiruvengadam