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

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

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