1. Welcome/Dean's News

A. Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL).
   - After a competitive application process, UT Arlington is one of 19 universities invited to join the elite CIRTL Network.
   - CIRTL is a national organization whose purpose is to produce better university teachers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. CIRTL was originally funded through a multi-million dollar grant by the National Science Foundation to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2007.
   - Howard University, Michigan State University, University of Colorado-Boulder, Texas A&M University and Vanderbilt University joined the effort in a second phase.
   - The center aims to provide doctoral students with better tools to teach students in STEM fields.
   - Each participating university builds programming on its campus, and the network of schools will share teaching methods, success stories and key techniques to better prepare those graduate students with the skills needed to be successful teachers in the classroom.
   - Kevin Schug, associate professor in chemistry and biochemistry, will spearhead UT Arlington’s Organizational Network for Teaching as Research Advancement and Collaboration (ON-TRAC), which will be housed in the Office of Graduate Studies.
   - ON-TRAC will help build better instructors for higher education, but the overriding goal extends beyond the college classroom. Ultimately, the center intends to improve STEM education for students nationwide, increase diversity in those fields and the STEM literacy of the nation.

B. AGEP Planning Grant (TX BRIDGE)
   - UT Arlington won a $150K AGEP planning grant designed to increase the number of underrepresented STEM students who enter the professoriate.
   - Alliance partners include UT Brownsville, UT Dallas, UT Pan American, UT Permian Basin, UT San Antonio, UT Tyler, and Texas Southern University.
   - The proposed one-year planning process will create the infrastructure for an innovative AGEP program that 1) encourages underrepresented minority (URM) interest in graduate STEM education; 2) integrates mentoring, academic and professional support across baccalaureate, master’s, doctoral and postdoctoral training; 3) makes research and mentoring opportunities at doctoral institutions available to master’s students studying at comprehensive universities; 4) creates a cost and time efficient bridge for those master’s students to enter doctoral studies at research-high activity universities and 5) provides postdoctoral and visiting assistant professor positions that prepare students for faculty positions.
   - Typically, AGEPs are awarded to Tier 1 universities.
2. Preliminary Fall 2011 Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Fall 2010</th>
<th>Fall 2011</th>
<th>Change Between Totals</th>
<th>% Change Between Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollment</td>
<td>7,869</td>
<td>8,002</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral New</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Master’s</td>
<td>1,672</td>
<td>1,556</td>
<td>-116</td>
<td>-6.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Graduate Students</td>
<td>1,786</td>
<td>1,670</td>
<td>-116</td>
<td>-6.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Master’s</td>
<td>6,833</td>
<td>6,959</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>1.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Doctoral</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>1,043</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Upcoming Recruiting Activities

A. Grad Fest – Wednesday, October 12th
   - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – Graduate and Professional School fair in the UC Palo Duro Lounge and Concho.
   - 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. – Round-table discussions
   - Noon - 1:30 p.m. – Alumni/Graduate Student Panel
   - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Value of Undergraduate Research Panel Discussion
   - 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. – FREE GRE computer practice test and a GRE Strategy workshop
   - 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. – FREE GMAT CBT (Computer Based Test) Workshop
   - 5:00 - 7:00 pm. – Faculty/Graduate Student Mixer sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
   - For more information, visit [http://grad.uta.edu/gradfest](http://grad.uta.edu/gradfest).

B. Royal Thai Scholars’ Placement Day and 2011 OCSC Expo – Bangkok, Thailand
   October 28 – 30

C. SACNAS National Conference – San Jose, California
   October 27 – 30

D. SHPE National Conference – Anaheim, California
   October 26 – 30
4. PhD Assessment Plan and Program Improvement Grant

A. Designed to significantly improve doctoral education quality.
   - Increased funding to attract high quality students via the EGTA program
   - Must identify ways to attract, retain and graduate doctoral students in a timely manner

B. Review National Response Center (NRC) data and compare UT Arlington data.

C. Improvement Process
   - Identify Ph.D. programs that fall below the median NRC data.
   - Discuss and establish an improvement plan.
     i. Plan may focus on advising, mentoring, curriculum, recruitment, or other related areas, but must not focus solely on recruiting.

   - Mini-grants to assist in improvement process – $7,500 over two years ($3,750 per year)
     i. Programs that receive funds must both provide a plan that is sustainable beyond the two year grant period and must provide a brief report after year 1.

   - Dates
     i. September 30 – Ph.D. programs will receive a status update.
     ii. November 28 – Improvement proposals to be submitted.
     iii. January 2012 – Grant will be awarded.

5. EDGE

A. Discussed framework of relevance for current graduate students and events provided.

B. PDF version of EDGE brochure to be sent to the graduate advising community (attached).

C. For more information, visit http://grad.uta.edu/edge.

6. Dissertation Fellowship

A. In addition to summer fellowship awards, awards will also be made in spring semesters beginning Spring 2012.

B. Announcements about the selection process and deadlines will be sent in November.

C. It was suggested that OGS inform students that this opportunity is very competitive. OGS will do so in future solicitations.

D. Dissertation Laboratory (D-Lab): A 3-day “boot camp” that consisted of writing intensive workshops. Participants were provided with resources and time with writing tutors. This workshop, first conducted in Summer 2011 and very successful, will be offered again in Summer 2012.
7. Brief Announcements and FYIs

A. New Student Orientation
- Event was attended by 100+ newly admitted graduate students.
- Will be offered each fall term for newly admitted graduate students.
- OGS will work with Associate Deans in each college/school to improve next year’s event such that it complements orientations that may be held by colleges/schools/departments. Please share any suggestions for improvement with the Associate Dean of your college/school.

B. Ph.D. bound (BS to PhD) students (BS to PhD) should not complete Change of Program forms when they reach 30 semester hours of graduate coursework or earn master’s degrees.
- A number of Ph.D. bound students submitted Change of Programs forms requesting to be changed from Ph.D. bound (BS to PhD) to PhD.
- The Office of Graduate Studies will handle all backend processing required for Ph.D. bound (BS to PhD) who reach 30 semester hours of graduate coursework or earn master’s degrees.
- **No action is required by graduate advisors and/or students.**

C. Catalog Updates (Mid-October) (Jackson)
- Office of Graduate Studies will establish firm deadlines to submitting Catalog changes
- Tammy Taylor will send memo about procedures for online Catalog changes and making submissions.

D. DS-PRO
- Required for all Ph.D. and Ph.D. bound students.
- Ph.D. students who have not completed their DS-PRO will not be permitted to enroll for Spring 2012.
- DS-PRO is currently open for Graduate Advisors and students.

8. Q& A

A. Discuss issues of importance to the graduate advising community.
- The new GRE scale will be provided by ETS in November 2011.
- Contact information for Office of Graduate Studies senior staff members is available on the Office of Graduate Studies website at [http://grad.pci.uta.edu/faculty/ogs/](http://grad.pci.uta.edu/faculty/ogs/).
- The Graduate Advisor’s Handbook is available at [http://grad.pci.uta.edu/faculty/resources/advisors/](http://grad.pci.uta.edu/faculty/resources/advisors/).