



The Ideas of Texas

The first university initiative of its kind, Ideas of Texas uses “crowdsourcing” to advance the University and demonstrate we value the ideas of faculty, staff, alumni and students.



The Inspiration

IDEASTORM
WHERE YOUR IDEAS REIGN

- VIEW** all posted ideas by the community
- POST** your idea for Dell products or services
- VOTE** promote or demote ideas
- SEE** your ideas in action

my STARBUCKS IDEA SHARE. VOTE. DISCUSS. SEE.

Share Your Idea | View All Ideas | Ideas In Action | About This Site

BEST BUY IDEAX
EXCHANGE YOUR IDEAS

Google product ideas | Product Ideas for Google Reader | paulwalk

Home | You've contributed: 0 votes, 0 ideas | Pick a topic: All ideas

Suggest a New Feature description

Please vote on this idea...

""Like" and "edit comment" features on the mobile version."



“...research shows when employees don’t feel involved in the workplace, they tend to withdraw. They don’t engage in all the extra activities that aren’t required for the job, such as helping a coworker, staying late or taking on extra responsibilities. It’s not the formal, required part of the job, but it’s certainly necessary for the organization to succeed.”

Prof. of Management Ethan Burriss
 The McCombs School of Business



Objectives

- Engage faculty, staff, students and alumni
- Generate good ideas for consideration & implementation

Kick off the program with EID-protected site for faculty and staff

How To Get There

WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Prospective Students | Current Students | Faculty | Staff | Alumni & Friends | Parents & Visitors

Directory | Colleges & Schools | Offices A-Z | Maps | Calendars | UT Direct | Mobile | Site Map

Popular Sites: BevoWare [GO] Search [] UT Web [GO]

About UT
Academics
Continuing & Distance Ed.
Graduate Studies
Information Technology
International Study
Libraries & Museums
Research

UT DIRECT

Around Austin
Arts & Entertainment
Athletics
Community Outreach
Corporate Connections
Employment
Giving to UT

Law in the Public Interest
Through new programs, Law School graduates pursue justice for underrepresented populations.
Spencer Wilcox [read this story](#)

News

- Cancer research funded for \$11.6 million**
New biomedical engineering research center supported by National Cancer Institute.
- Law clinic helps free man wrongly convicted**
Actual Innocence Clinic proves Dallas man, in prison for 12 years, didn't commit murder.
- Strauss Center awarded \$7.6 million grant**
New program will study effects of climate change on political stability in Africa.
- Prof gets \$1.3 million for diabetes research**
Sharon Brown aims to help people with type 2 diabetes achieve better glycemic control.
- Six profs get teaching excellence awards**
Faculty members cited for commitment to "not only instruct but also inspire" students.

On Campus

- STUDENT BLOGS REVEAL • LONGHORN • BEHIND-THE-SCENES CONFIDENTIAL LOOK AT COLLEGE LIFE**
- The Ideas of Texas**
Your ideas to advance the university
- CAMPAIGN FOR TEXAS**
WE CHANGE PEOPLE. THEY CHANGE THE WORLD.

Nov. 14: Sign up for Waller Creek cleanup project

Nov. 16: Forum addresses money and politics

Nov. 17: Texas Rep. Marc Veasey gives talk

Nov. 18: Talk examines home as a toxic factory

Tuition Dollars & Sense
Reduced Summer Rates

DIVERSITY

About

- » Your ideas on how to improve the University of Texas are important. The Ideas of Texas program is designed to stimulate and recognize creative problem-solving at UT. We're interested in ideas to enhance the student experience, increase productivity, enhance teaching and research, reduce cost, create safer working conditions, and improve our effectiveness. The Ideas of Texas program enables all employees to share, discuss, and vote on ideas to advance our mission.
- » The best ideas will rise to the top as a result of discussion, review, and voting by the campus community. At the end of each semester, top ideas will be evaluated by the President and the administration. The best ideas will be implemented if feasible. And if they aren't, we'll tell you why. Employees who submit implemented ideas will be recognized by the President.
- » Your ingenuity can help make UT the nation's best public university.

The Ideas of Texas

Your ideas to advance the University

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Your ideas matter

The Ideas of Texas initiative lets everyone in the campus community share and review ideas to improve our university. Submit your ideas, vote or comment on others, and help shape the future of The University of Texas at Austin. *Bill Powers, President*

Post

We want to know what you think. Share your ideas with the campus and help make the University even better.



Vote & Discuss

Horns up, or horns down?
Vote for your favorite ideas and join the conversation.



Top Ideas

Check out the top ideas submitted by faculty and staff.



The Ideas of Texas

Your ideas to advance the University

Welcome Paul | [Sign Out](#)

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Home

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Top Ideas

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Post Idea

Category*:

Your Idea*:

Description*:

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Tags:

*Tags are keywords that describe your idea, e.g. **feedback**, **technology**, **process**, **efficiency***



16 Horns Up
2 Horns Down
94.23

install light motion detectors in offices across campus posted by [Ann](#) on 11/02/2009 06:27 PM CST in [Campus Operations](#)

Any night you can observe many, many lights left on in offices and classrooms across the University campus. This must result in a huge energy waste and expense. If each physical plant employee would carry motion sensitive light switches and install them in each room that s/he services, we could recognize a significant reduction in wasted energy use across campus in a short time at a minimal cost. These motion sensitive switches take only minutes to install. The additional labor cost would be negligible as the employee would already be on location for another purpose.

5 Comments | 1 Post | 53 views | Review Rating : 4.97 | Stage : Brainstorm



20 Horns Up
11 Horns Down
45.51

Create a Digital Humanities, Arts, Social Science, & Media Institute posted by [Geraldine Heng](#) on 11/02/2009 03:08 AM CST in [Research](#)

Faculty & students at UT have been quietly undertaking state-of-the-art digital humanities & digital arts projects of various kinds.

I head the Global Middle Ages Projects & Mappamundi (<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/gma/portal/>), & collaborated with TACC on a recent NEH competition involving terascale data-mining in the humanities (<http://www.hastac.org/forums/hastac-scholars-discussions/digital-textuality-and-tools>). Prof. John Clarke heads the Opiontis Project (<http://www.opiontisproject.org/>). English has a TILTS institute in 2010 on Digital Literacies.

We need a multi-modal digital home on campus, an umbrella institute like iCHASS at the U. of Illinois (<http://www.chass.uiuc.edu/Index/Index.html>), MATRIX at MSU (<http://www2.matrix.msu.edu/>), or MITH at the U. of Maryland (<http://mith.umd.edu/about/>).

Such an institute would be a bridge between the arts, humanities, social sciences, & media on the one hand, & the ...[Read more »](#)

1 Comment | 1 Post | 224 views | Review Rating : 4.57 | Stage : Community Review



19 Horns Up
0 Horns Down
100.0

Native Plant Gardens on Campus posted by [Lee](#) on 11/03/2009 09:38 AM CST in [Campus Operations](#)

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is part of the university, and I think it would be really nice to have some native Texas plant demonstration gardens designed by the Wildflower Center somewhere on campus. The gardens could have interpretive signage and be used as a learning tool for students, staff and faculty and for visitors. It could also draw people down the Wildflower Center.

The native plants would also draw butterflies, birds and other native fauna to campus. Back when Peter Walker's "meadow" garden at the Blanton was actually working (just after construction), it was the only place on campus where one could hear crickets and grasshoppers singing and find native wildflowers blowing in the breeze. Now, the only place on campus like this is the small garden around the biology greenhouse...

...[Read more »](#)

2 Comments | 0 Posts | 42 views | Review Rating : 4.57 | Stage : Brainstorm



14 Horns Up
2 Horns Down

Conserve energy posted by [Virginia](#) on 11/02/2009 03:41 PM CST in [Campus Operations](#)


Many, if not most, buildings on campus are kept way too cold. I shudder to think how much it costs to keep the university this cold. Most recently, my students and I have been shivering in Parlin even during the last few cold & rainy weeks. Even when it's cold outside, the a/c is going! My recommendation is to drastically cut back on a/c, except for those areas that contain material or equipment that would be damaged by heat (archives, libraries) or where people would actually suffer. I'm not saying get rid of a/c altogether, but we

Post New Review

Ratings

	Abstain	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Advances UT's Mission:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increases Revenue:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decreases Costs / Inefficiencies:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Makes UT a Better Place to Work:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urgently Needed:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Will Affect Many People at UT:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Will have a Large Impact on Each Person it Affects:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Will Affect Me Personally:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Will be Feasible:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment*:

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Post comment

In 29 Days...

Total Members:	3,781
Ideas:	261
Posts:	2024
Page Views:	71,458

Popular Tags



accessibility asphalt audio blind campus-safety compensation conservation cost-reductions cost-saving cost-savings
digital-arts digital-humanities educational-benefit
efficiency **efficiency**
employee-morale employment energy-conservation energy-savings environment extension feedback
green hr ideas improvement leadership lower-costs maintenance morale multi-modal-insititute **multi-modal-institute** paper paperless parking
pickle printer printing **process** professional-development recruitment recyclable retention software staff
sustainability **technology** telecommute water wellness

Top 10 Ideas (based on review ratings, votes and level of discussion)

Top Ranked

	Idea	User Name	Score
1.	Partner Benefits for all Employees	Samantha Perry	90.47
2.	Summer thermostat & watering	Megan Scarborough	78.9
3.	Automate Hourly Timesheet and Payroll Process	Kimberly Biar	75.43
4.	Web-based funds transfer module (VTM)	James Southerland	73.15
5.	Free gym membership for full-time UT employees!	David Fozdar	72.15
6.	Technology mentoring - by and for UT Staff	Jacqueline Dana	71.09
7.	reward staff with vacation time	Holly Green	68.7
8.	Open Source Software On All Campus Computers	Paul Zukowski	68.23
9.	Audio/Visual Staff forums and meetups	Jack Prather	67.94
10.	Same Sex Partner Benefits	Teri Adams	67.43
			More...

Guidelines

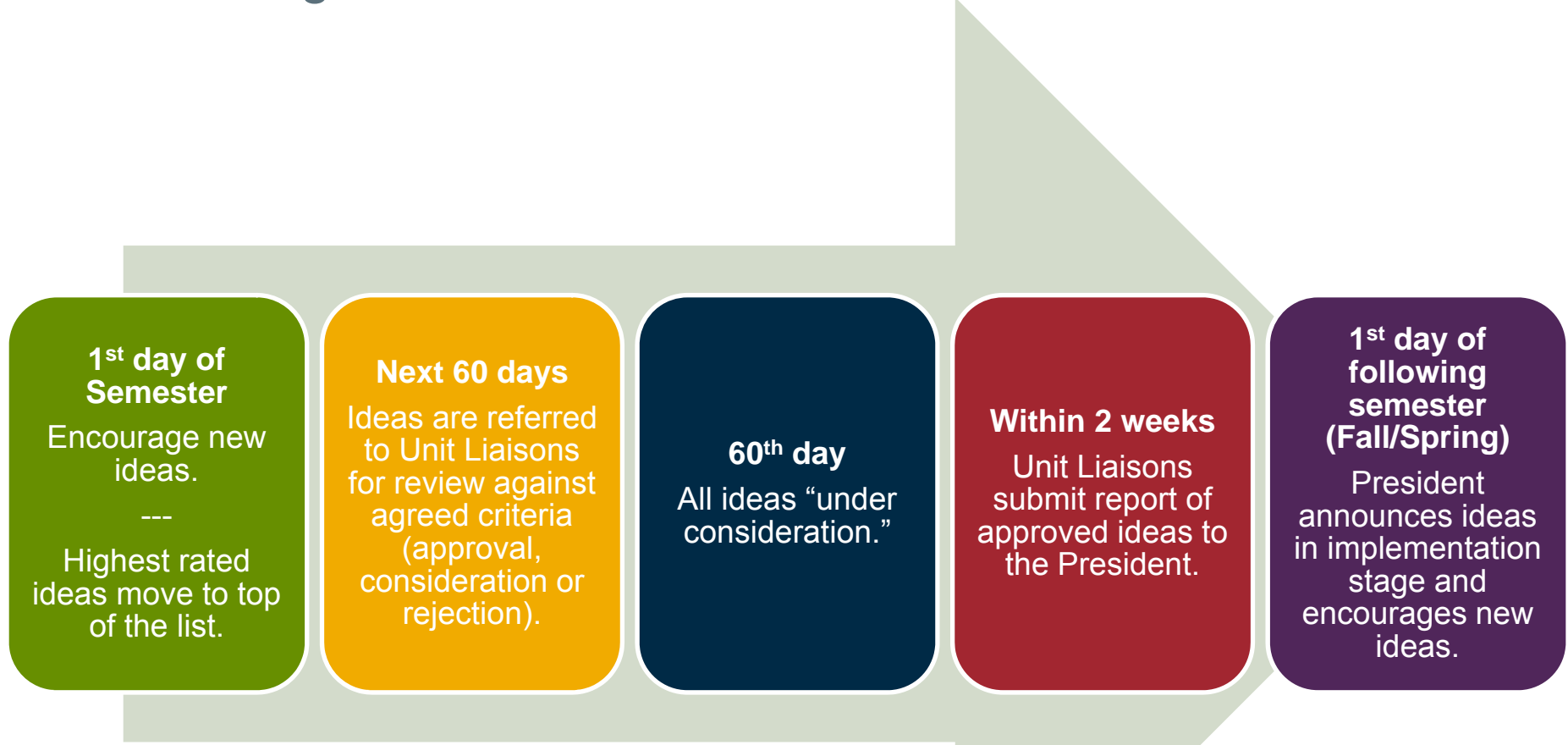
- » **Be relevant** – The Ideas of Texas is designed for the discussion of ideas and improvements that will advance The University of Texas at Austin’s mission. This includes ideas to improve: campus life; teaching and research; processes and efficiency; energy conservation; revenue; campus safety; customer service; cost control; and other objectives.
- » **Select appropriate channels** – This is not a place to discuss every topic related to the university. For instance, it is not an appropriate channel to resolve a personal grievance or to file complaints. There are more appropriate existing channels to do that, including the [Human Resources](#) and [Information Technology](#) help desks; University Compliance Service’s [Compliance and Ethics Hotline](#), and Internal Audit’s [Fraud Hotline](#). And this is not a place where we will discuss politics or who should be our starting running back on Saturday.
- » **Be thoughtful** – The best idea submissions will: include only one idea per post; be clearly stated with sufficient detail; identify the opportunity, condition, process or problem; explain the need for improvement; offer viable solutions; describe anticipated benefits. Encourage your colleagues who support the idea to review the idea, comment, and vote for it.
- » **Be civil** – Civil and constructive dialogue is expected from everyone. The Ideas of Texas is an extension of the work environment, and participants should act accordingly. Participation cannot interfere with the performance of regular work duties or become disruptive of the workplace. The Institutional Rules on [speech and expression](#) in the General Information Catalog apply as do other applicable University rules and policies. The Ideas of Texas will be largely moderated by the community – you can and should alert us of any inappropriate materials. We’ll remove anything that is inappropriate, including but not limited to, material that is inaccurate, profane, or defamatory. Needless to say, solicitation and spam will not be tolerated. When in doubt, consult the [General Information Catalog](#) or consult your supervisor.
- » **Be honest and ethical** – You should follow the University’s [Acceptable Use Policy](#) just as you would on any other UT web site.

Our Commitment

- » **Moderation** – To foster a real-time and free-flowing discussion, ideas and comments will not be actively moderated. They will be posted immediately. We will do our best to respond to comments – where appropriate – in a reasonable timeframe.
- » **Topics** – We will not hesitate to address tough issues or challenging topics on The Ideas of Texas. However, inappropriate ideas will be removed, and the Ideas of Texas team will explain why an idea is considered inappropriate.
- » **Idea Management** – We will do our best to evaluate the top ideas. Here’s an overview of our current process:
 - All ideas submitted can be voted on, commented on, and reviewed by the community. This is the first, important stage of the process. The top ideas will rise in the rankings.
 - At the end of each semester, The Ideas of Texas Team -- working with deans, vice presidents, and their representatives -- will conduct a formal review of the top ideas. Contributors may be contacted to obtain additional information. Each idea will be categorized as “yes,” “no,” or “further consideration required” within 30 days. The President will review the top ideas considered for implementation.
 - We will report back to contributors and the Ideas of Texas community by the beginning of each semester.
- » **Updates** – We will update you on the status of the top ideas and any UT initiatives linked to your ideas. Ideas that are implemented will be recognized by the President.
- » **Contacts** – Need more information? Contact the Ideas Team in the Office of the President, ideas-team@ideas.utexas.edu.



Idea Management Process and Calendar



Nov 1:	Open ideas
Nov 25-March 15:	Look for "Quick Wins," Ideas are referred to Unit Liaisons
March 15:	All ideas under consideration
April 1:	Units report approved ideas to President
May 1:	President announces ideas in implementation stage

The Ideas Team

President

Paul Walker
(Strategy & Oversight)

VPs

Deans

Geoff Leavenworth
(Program Manager)

Idea
Champions

Response
Contact

Idea
Champions

Response
contact

Kathleen Skinner
(Community
Manager &
Moderation)

Cindy Posey
(Communications
& Moderation)

Dorian Walker
(Intern –
Moderation)

Measuring Success

- » % total employee participation (visit the site)
- » % total employee engagement (vote, post idea, comment, review)
- » >5 top ideas/semester successfully implemented (long-term: ROI)
- » Positive impact on morale

Icing On The Cake...

» Assistant Professor of Management Ethan Burris,
The McCombs School of Business

- Adviser to The Ideas of Texas
- Conduct research on the program with your ok

» Areas of study

- What is the overall impact?
- What leads an idea to be perceived as high quality by several and varied constituents, and of these high quality ideas, what pushes them through to implementation?
- What follow-up communications to contributors is most effective, especially to “let people down” while still encouraging them to participate in the future?