

# PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING

February 7, 2012

## MINUTES

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Austin, Terry Berg, Lee M. Colaw, Ellen Robertson Green, Russell Lowery-Hart, Danita McAnally, and Paul Matney

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Teresa Clemons, Bruce Cotgreave, LuLu Cowan, Kyle Ingham, Jeanette Nelson, Representative Four Price, Theresa Rider, Brenda Sadler, Liza Shelton, Hal Talton, and Lynn Wilson

**Core Values: Integrity + Innovation + Teamwork = SUCCESS**

### **Cabinet Roundtable:**

Representative Walter Thomas "Four" Price was the Cabinet's guest. He introduced Hal Talton, Chief of Staff and General Counsel, from his Austin office and Liza Shelton, District Director, from his Amarillo office. Representative Price was born in Amarillo; graduated from Tascosa High School in 1986; attended summer classes at Amarillo College and graduated from the University of Texas in Austin. He went to St. Mary's Law School in San Antonio; and worked for The Honorable Mary Lou Robinson in Amarillo. Representative Price currently serves as Co-Managing Shareholder of the law firm Irwin, Merritt, Hogue, Price & Carthel, P.C. He previously practiced law with Mullin, Hoard & Brown LLP in Amarillo and with Fulbright & Jaworski LLP in San Antonio, Texas. Representative Price was elected in 2010 and has served his first legislative session in Austin. Mr. Talton has had experience with community colleges. He attended Texarkana College and then studied at East Texas State. Mr. Talton said he liked the smaller class sizes and the mission of community colleges regarding student success. He went to law school at the University of Arkansas; he moved to Austin and worked for TxDOT and the state medical board. Ms. Shelton is an Amarillo native; graduated from Tascosa High School and earned a Communication Studies degree from the University of Texas. She worked for an advertising agency after graduation and has worked for Representative Price for a year. Matney praised Price for the work he accomplished in his freshman session. Representative Price gave a post-mortem of the past session. He said the state does not have much money; Texas had a shortfall of \$22 – 27 billion in January 2011; education makes up 60% of the state's general budget. He regretted seeing four Texas community colleges on the chopping block in early 2011; those colleges remain open today. Representative Price said there is a lot of room for improvement for example in health insurance. He said it is important to balance the budget; opportunities did transpire at the end of the session in June. It is difficult to get bills passed through the committee; everyone has their own agenda. There are several bills he would have liked to pass and will work on again. Representative Price was assigned to two committees: Culture, Recreation, & Tourism which oversees the creation, operation and control of state parks, and Natural Resources which includes water conservation and land development. The Panhandle will continue to see devastation as long as we are in a drought. He hopes to serve on the State Appropriations Committee in the future. All committees have met during the interim; they will continue to meet several times a month until the end of the year. The redistricting dilemma is still an issue. Mr. Talton is in charge of the Republican Convention in Fort Worth later this year. The State budget will see some improvement in revenue by way of sales tax which drives the Texas

economy. The next session will be challenging. The state gained 30 new legislators (20%) this last session; and might see 30 more new ones in the next session. The Senate side could see four or five new faces out of 31. Representative Price was asked whether a structural tax reform was being worked on. He said one passed in 2006; many said it would not produce revenue partially due to the national economy even though the state's economy is better. The current tax exemptions will continue; his preference is to revamp the entire system. Representative Price was asked about a state tax; he said the Governor would veto a tax bill. The state is growing at a rapid pace; the 2010 census indicated 25 million. He said he understands if Amarillo College has to broaden its tax base or raise taxes. Representative Price was told of the new initiatives Amarillo College is pursuing, such as becoming a No Excuses College; Achieving the Dream College status; and our partnerships in Partners for Postsecondary Success (PPS). He was given an overview of the demographics of AC. Sixty-six percent are part time; 58% of students are transfer students; four out of 10 are sitting in classes to learn a skill and get a job. More than 300 Bell employees out of 1,000 attended AC. Sixty percent of AC students are considered to be poverty-stricken; 57% are Pell grant eligible; many single parents; some homeless; opened a food bank on campus; and AC has agreed to serve as a pilot site for a statewide initiative (Benefit Bank) to help people in poverty build long-term, financial stability. There was discussion concerning the state law regarding the meningitis vaccine and how it affects our enrollment.

### **Discussion:**

**PRPC GRANT OPPORTUNITY** – McAnally introduced Teresa Clemons, Senior Grants Director, who in turn introduced two from the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission: Kyle Ingham, Economic Development Director; and Lynn Wilson Economic Development Program Specialist. Clemons gave a brief overview of the Economic Development Administration grant opportunity in which Mr. Ingham approached Amarillo College offering to assist with the grant submission for the new Hereford Campus. Mr. Ingham briefed the Cabinet about PPRC; it opened in 1969 to serve the 26 counties of the Panhandle. Amarillo College is eligible to apply to receive resources to help supplement funds we have or have been guaranteed. If received, this grant would support the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities for the new Hereford Campus. Critical components for the proposal are the construction plans and cost estimates for the new campus. Amarillo College would have to furnish these figures before grant submission at the end of February. Mr. Cotgreave, Director of Physical Plant, said the March submission would not be feasible and the June deadline might not work. It was discussed that AC move forward with campus planning and consider applying for the grant in a second phase if grant funds are available at that time. There was further discussion regarding pursuing an equipment grant if renewable energy and truck driving programs are housed at the Hereford Campus. Mr. Ingham will continue conversations with Lowery-Hart, McAnally, and Clemons.

**BUDGET TIMELINE** – Jeanette Nelson, Budget Manager, distributed the Budget Development Timeline. Matney will email budget preparation directions to budget officers on February 14; budget packets will be emailed February 15; budgets are due to appropriate Cabinet member by March 13; budget requests due to Business Office by March 22. Cabinet budget meetings will be scheduled soon. The preliminary budget report will be presented to the Board of Regents in May. A board budget workshop will be conducted in June.

**BOND CONSTRUCTION** – Cotgreave updated the Cabinet on the construction projects. 1) Moore County Campus is well underway – just waiting on DEDC to get roads paved; 2) work with Lavin Architects is almost to the contract stage; 3) an RFQ will go out soon requesting bids for the Construction-Manager-at Risk for Moore County Campus; 4) Allied Health Building is completed; 5)

the Polk Street parking lot will take 3-4 months to complete; 6) the Byrd Business Building should be complete in April or May; we could offer summer classes in there. The library project on Washington Street Campus is vital and we must stay within budget. McAnally indicated there are some Perkins funds (\$200,000+) available for IT infrastructure in Building B on West Campus. Cotgreave hopes to get out plans for the Music Building by mid-February. Faculty and staff should be moved from Dutton Hall into the Byrd Business Building by end of May; then, Music Building personnel moved into Dutton Hall. A draft for the library project should be ready next week. Determination still needs to be made as to which floor of the library will house the Faculty Center; since funds are coming from a five-year grant, that construction will need to be done first; location of every office on each floor of the library will need to be decided after the Program Book is returned to Cabinet. The first floor of the library will be updated first, then the first floor of the College Union Building. A temporary Career Center will need to be established in the old CUB cafeteria because we cannot wait three years for implementation and for completion of the College Union Building renovation.

**TRAVEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (EMPLOYEE MEAL EXPENSE)** – Berg distributed a revised employee meal expense portion of the Travel Procedures. The modification will include: “No per diem option is available for travel less than 12 hours.”

**BUDGET PREPARATION DIRECTIVE** – Matney will email budget directives to budget managers on February 14. His email will remind budget managers of the challenges we face in the next biennium; he will also reinforce our commitment to serving our students with quality educational experiences at Amarillo College. Prior approval of appropriate Cabinet member for new and replacement positions will be required.

Next meeting: February 23, 2012  
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