

PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING

June 16, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Austin, Terry Berg, Lee M. Colaw, Cara Crowley, Ellen Robertson Green, and Russell Lowery-Hart

MEMBER ABSENT:

Deborah Vess

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Acker, Chief Steve Chance, Lyndy Forrester, and Brenda Sadler

Discussion:

CONCEALED WEAPONS TRAINING – The campus carry bill will take effect on September 1 for four-year colleges and universities, and in the fall of 2017 for community colleges. The campus carry bill gives public college and university presidents the flexibility to create gun-free zones on campuses, but prohibits public colleges from establishing widespread bans. Licensed gun owners would be allowed to carry concealed handguns in classrooms, libraries and other campus buildings. Forrester said she, Chief Chance and Acker wanted to share the presentation they will show to employees specifically concerning the new law. Green suggested there be signs and posters on all campuses alerting students, employees, and guests about the current gun law and that the bill allowing guns on campus will not go into effect until August 2017. Guns will be banned in certain areas of the college. Lowery-Hart will ask for the approval from the Board of Regents. Amarillo College will take the opportunity in FY 2016 to define the gun laws for AC and educate people in preparation for fall 2017. Training will be rolled out in July. An email will be sent making employees aware of what is going to occur and a timeline for training will be decided.

Berg spoke of the State Allocation Funding which came from the State recently; there is a \$424,000 shortfall for community colleges which is tied to enrollment. TRS and ORP retirement will become a 50/50 split between what the State covers and what the college has to cover. Lowery-Hart said hard decisions will be made in the next 2-3 years.

SALARY QUESTIONS – Lowery-Hart spoke of certain departments giving their staff step increases; the ones who were promised a step increase in the FY 2015 budget will receive it, but there will not be any step increases in FY 2016 unless the salary is tied to the position and that information is given upfront when the employee is hired. Currently no raises or step increases have been budgeted for FY 2016. Lowery-Hart mentioned he may have to have a conversation with the Board to communicate that step increases will be given based on availability.

STRATEGIC PLAN – Lowery-Hart indicated that Cabinet needs to focus on key elements that will move the needle forward. Austin suggested including what each area submitted and have Cabinet do an exercise eliminating what is not needed to be included.

“STOP DOING” LIST – The culture of the institution should be defined and acknowledged. A cost study needs to be conducted which might be a 3-4 month process. Cabinet members need to make decisions this year and spend the year discussing and implementing them. A timeline needs to be generated and then communicated. Programs which should be closed due to low enrollment will need to be identified.

AC SHIRT ORDERS – Green asked that each Cabinet area needs to ensure that their staff has ordered their two shirts. The cost of the shirts was \$24,500. Green will order more shirts to have on September 11 for General Assembly.

BUDGET MONIES FOR FOOD – Food is typically bought for meetings which include outside individuals, such as the Panhandle PBS Advisory Board. Green said she will look at current policies for food and clothing purchases.

POSITION JUSTIFICATIONS – Requested was a grants foreman position for East Campus and a grants project coordinator for the Washington Street Campus. Colaw moved; seconded by Crowley; the motion carried.

BRAGGING ON EMPLOYEES – Crowley said Jarrod Madden begins today as the new Research Analyst. Dr. Stan Adelman, AC retiree, will be working part time cleaning up the database.

Next meeting: June 30, 2015
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