

PRESIDENT’S CABINET MEETING
October 16, 2018
MINUTES

CALLED TO ORDER

9:09 am on 10/16/18

ADJOURNED

11:26 am on 10/16/18

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Austin; Kevin Ball; Tamara Clunis; Cara Crowley; Russell Lowery-Hart; Denese Skinner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lyndy Forrester; Steve Smith; Mark White

OTHERS PRESENT

Joy Brenneman; Collin Witherspoon

DISCUSSION:

1. GAMING	Austin AJ Burlingame
<p>Bob Austin introduced A.J. Burlingame, an Amarillo College student who is planning to transfer to TTU where he has been offered an appointment to the ROTC program. He is from a military family who moved here from New York. He currently works at Fish Pros but has been offered a professional contract for \$75k/year to play for the eGame team of 100 Thieves – League of Legends. He is considering whether he wants to do that as he would be required to move. He presented information to Mr. Austin and Mr. White about eGaming and Esports, and they asked him to present this information to Cabinet.</p> <p>eSports is growing and colleges are getting on board. Approximately 140 schools have teams and the National Association of College Esports (NACE) sponsors some tournaments. Membership in NACE is free and their website lists the many colleges who participate. There are teams for several different games the college teams will compete in the game in which they play and train. League of Legends has more than 500 teams. Esports allows smaller colleges to compete against larger institutions because costs are low and most games are free. On this day, the World Championships were taking place in South Korea. Coming out of regional play, 24 teams make it to the championship. There are professional teams all over the world and players are paid to play. When UT-Austin made it to the final five, the university celebrated the event.</p> <p>Most teams practice at least twice a week, usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and competitions take place in arenas or stadiums which potentially draw larger crowds than other sporting events. Music is a big part of the competition and songs are written for the opening ceremonies and events. Many colleges are building Esports facilities. Mr. Burlingame had done a proposal for AC and determined the cost of the high-end computers would be \$50-\$60k. E-gaming is already a magnet for many students at AC who meet and play on the 4th floor of the Byrd Building.</p> <p>Cabinet discussed how to make this a reality at Amarillo College. Dr. Lowery-Hart suggested that funds for the computers might come from the TREC budget. Two spaces were discussed specifically – upgrade to Byrd Building 4th floor for organic play and a space in Russell for intramural tournaments. AJ and others have mapped out the space in Byrd that includes social</p>	

areas, computers stations, couches, chairs, and a TV for streaming other games making it a “cool hang out” spot. First step is to find a space, hold intramural competitions, and finally consider having a college team. A tournament space would require seating with a screen for spectators to watch.

Mr. Burlingame explained that tryouts are held to determine the teams. Professional teams usually have two teams with one backup, and there could be many teams determined by how many different games are played. The teams and players have an internal communication system and externally use social media.

Play could start with League of Legends and Overwatch and could even support a city championship event. High school students might be recruited. Rules, oversight, protocols, and procedures will need to be in place. Intramurals and Student Activities should be included. This could be a club sport with an advisor. This is a low cost activity with high impact.

Action Items:

- Mr. Austin, Ms. Skinner, Mr. Ball, and Mr. Smith will:
 - talk with Keith Gamblin to find a couple of rooms or spaces that are the least used, maybe in the Byrd Building or Russell Hall
 - work with Shane Hepler to determine a cost
 - create a timeline which includes marketing
 - bring a proposal to Cabinet at a future meeting

2. DATA

Witherspoon

Mr. Witherspoon reported that Amarillo College will apply for the designation of a Leader College of Distinction with Achieving the Dream. He has selected the specific cohort of “All Students New to the Institution.” This cohort includes all students who have never attended AC including dual credit students and those who may have attended another institution previously. One of the measures to be tracked is whether a student transferred on and received a Bachelor’s degree within 6 years. The cohort goes back to 2008 and includes on average about 500 students. These are then broken down by gender, ethnicity, PELL status, veteran status, and first generation. He looked at the pool of students and then at those who completed a Bachelor’s degree. Through time, this number continues to increase. Since 2008, 685 students have gone on to receive their degree. Females are transferring and obtaining their degree at a higher rate than males. The data is beginning to reflect a closing of the gap with regard to ethnicity. Mr. Witherspoon noted that success rates were beginning to increase even prior to all the interventions that are now in place. There are many different measures in his table that will be accessible to Cabinet. Dr. Lowery-Hart will begin writing the narrative which will include course redesign, tutoring, and the poverty initiative. Using English data submitted for the Leader College application, the college can show the gaps closing and increased success for first generation and PELL students, and increased persistence for African American students. The application only requires two areas where closing a gap is demonstrated.

A time will be scheduled for Dr. Lowery-Hart and Ms. Crowley to walk Cabinet through this presentation so that Cabinet members can also “tell the story.” Each Cabinet member should identify two or three people in their division to bring to the meeting which will be scheduled during finals weeks of the 2nd 8 weeks. Sara Goldrick-Rab’s impact study will come out in the summer of 2020, and Ms. Crowley has talked with the Trellis Foundation about the college hosting a large conference at that time.

Mr. Witherspoon went on to discuss the impact full-time enrollment has on a student’s persistence and completion. Approximately 75% of students who complete 30 or more hours their first year go on to graduate or transfer within three years. This drops to 55% for students

not enrolled full-time. Most AC students fall between 10-30 hours in an academic year with the largest group enrolled in 18-24.

He then reviewed FTIC cohorts from 2011-2015. Through this time period, this cohort is getting smaller. It is hoped that THRIVE will drive this back up. The 3-year completion rate for this group increased and then leveled out. Last year 31% completed.

He is also in the process of pulling gainful employment information from the state to include in the dashboard.

Cabinet discussed the need for infographics and marketing to let students, faculty, and staff know that full-time enrollment leads to a greater likelihood of completion.

Cabinet had a robust conversation about Developmental Education. While it is improving, it still remains a barrier to student completion. Cabinet discussed moving to the co-req model by Fall of 2019. This will put learning specialists into the classrooms. AC has the capacity to do this and it has been demonstrated to work at the East Campus. This change would not eliminate jobs but repurpose some. Tutoring will need to increase in all of the tutoring centers and additional learning specialists will be required at the other campuses. National data reflects that co-req courses and iBEST are the models now.

Action Items:

- Schedule 1-1/2 hour meeting for Dr. Lowery-Hart to give his presentation and then discuss how to integrate each area of the college into the conversation
- Formulate a task force to begin the process to move to co-req only courses, except where those classes do not require a co-req
- Mr. Witherspoon will discuss developmental education at the next Board meeting
- Dr. Clunis will bring to Cabinet a timeline and additional needs to get the co-req model done by Fall 2019

3. ADULT STUDENTS	Austin
This was moved to the October 19 Special Cabinet meeting.	
Action Items:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• n/a	
4. DIVERSITY PROPOSAL	Lowery-Hart
This item was move to the October 30 Cabinet meeting.	
Action Items:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• n/a	
5. STUDENT SERVICES BY ENROLLMENT	Skinner
This item was moved to the October 19 Special Cabinet meeting	
Action Items:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• n/a	
6. ENROLLMENT UPDATE	Austin
Not covered	
Action Items:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• n/a	

7. BRAGGING ON EMPLOYEES	Cabinet
Not covered	
Action Items:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a 	
8. COMMUNICATION POINTS	Forrester
Not covered	
9. POSITION JUSTIFICATIONS	Cabinet
None	
Action Items:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
10. OTHER DISCUSSION	Cabinet
None	