

# PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING

April 21, 2020

## MINUTES

### **CALLED TO ORDER**

9:10 am

### **ADJOURNED**

10:40 am

### **MEMBERS PRESENT – VIA GOOGLE MEETS**

Bob Austin; Kevin Ball; Tamara Clunis; Cara Crowley; Cheryl Jones; Russell Lowery-Hart; Chris Sharp; Joe Bill Sherrod; Denese Skinner; Mark White

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Joy Brenneman, Collin Witherspoon

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **1. CARES ACT**

**Lowery-Hart**

Mr. Witherspoon presented a proposal for disbursing the funds Amarillo College will receive through the Cares Act. Half of the funds must be reserved for students. This initial proposal sets aside \$100,000 from the remaining half for immediate emergency aid and then disburses the remainder in the following manner during the Fall semester:

- Non-Pell students would receive an \$80 credit at the bookstore
- All Pell students would get approximately \$500

This proposal was based on the current environment at the time the committee met, but many changes are happening which could affect the proposed distribution. Based on current projections, about 4,000 students would receive direct payments, half for Fall 1 and half for Fall 2. The college has enough emergency aid for the summer so these funds will be leveraged for the Fall. There are no restrictions for using these funds. They can be used for anything the student needs.

Cabinet discussed the equity of this plan and using Mr. Witherspoon's spreadsheet explored different options including providing every student \$100 at the bookstore and putting the rest into an emergency aid fund. No final decision was made, and Cabinet subsequently learned that funds can't be limited to the bookstore and are only available to students with a social security number. Rules for the Cares Act seem to change daily. Cabinet also discussed a plan similar to Alamo College where students would need to apply for emergency funds through the ARC. To alleviate overwork for ARC staff, employees, such as those who have received Donna Beegle's poverty training, could help with case management. Funds would be distributed based on the need and would be capped at a maximum amount. Working with students in this manner allows the staff to also connect them to community resources and comprehensive help. Other employees might also be trained. There was a sense that considering students' individual need is a true equity model. The funds would be divided in half and disbursed in Fall 1 and Fall 2. Ms. Crowley is working with Alamo College to learn more about their model.

These payments will be coded and recorded in Colleague so that Financial Aid has these records, but they do not affect a student's Financial Aid. This will provide updates and transparency with the distribution of these funds. Payments will be made directly to a student and not have to go to a third party.

**Action Items:**

- Ms. Crowley will develop a process and rubric to bring back to Cabinet in a month. Create the message and inform students after this.

**2. OTHER DISCUSSION****Cabinet**

Mr. Austin reported that summer enrollment is down about 10% but 1,300 students are already registered compared to 1,400 at this time last summer. This is not as bad as was expected. However, Fall enrollments are lagging way behind. It does take longer to advise a student by phone. Historically Fall enrollment happened in late July and early August so the college has the capacity to do this if necessary. Marketing will start its summer campaign this week for summer enrollment and can alter the message for Fall messaging.

There is a possibility that some students may not return to universities in the Fall and could be captured for Summer and Fall enrollment at AC. This might also include THRIVE eligible students who went away for their first year.

Mr. Ball reported that other schools are contacting his department requesting help with their virtual graduations.

Dr. Lowery-Hart stated that price for oil is now negative and that much of the Texas budget is based on oil. He expects that college will be asked to give money back. AC has the reserves that will allow the college to prepare for an increase in enrollments and decreases in funding so does not need to overreact. Next week's Cabinet meeting will focus on the Strategic Plan. Cabinet members need to come prepared to discuss future needs and a roadmap to recovery that is intentional and does not rely on reserves. They will work to map out the next five years and discuss ways to leverage the bond and Amarillo College's presence to move the community forward. It may be necessary to reframe and rethink the strategic plan in an economic crisis. The Board Room will be open for those who want to join on campus and a Google meeting will be set up for those off campus.

**Action Items:**

- Mr. Austin and Mr. Ball will present the enrollment update and information during the Status Update at the Board meeting.