

PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING
January 12, 2021
MINUTES

CALLED TO ORDER

9:06 a.m.

ADJOURNED

10:50 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Joy Brenneman

DISCUSSION:

1. CARES ACT II	Lowery-Hart
<p>Dr. Lowery-Hart, Mr. Sharp, and Ms. Crowley will attend a webinar with AACC this afternoon to learn more about the new CARES Act which will have a different name. Currently, Amarillo College is projected to receive approximately \$11M, half of which should be for student aid with the other half for the institution. This stimulus package is expected to have more flexibility than the first. There are still many unknowns regarding the amount, distribution, and rules for these funds. Dr. Lowery-Hart asked Cabinet to begin thinking through how to best leverage the funds.</p> <p>Some discussion took place about using the student aid portion to encourage and/or incentivize full-time enrollment and completion. Cabinet also discussed how the institution might assist those students who have a negative expected family contribution (EFC) to help them continue going to college.</p> <p>On the institution side, the funds might be used to invest in technologies and supports that will help enrollment recover and launch some of the projects in the 2025 Strategic Plan. If permissible, the funds might allow AC to do some projects without using reserves and strengthen the college's financial position long term. At this time, the stimulus does allow the money to count toward revenue losses.</p> <p>No decisions were made by Cabinet regarding this information as it is still evolving.</p>	
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add to the Status Update for the January Board meeting	

2. REORGANIZATION	Lowery-Hart
<p>Dr. Lowery-Hart announced some reorganization of the administration. Since intercollegiate athletics was approved by the Board, he has asked Mr. White to be the Athletic Director while also continuing his duties as General Counsel. Mr. Sherrod will continue to lead the work on the comprehensive campaign. Grants Management and Grant Writing will now report to Ms. Crowley. Review of all contracts will be returned to the Vice President of Business Affairs Office. Mr. White may be contacted as necessary on contracts.</p>	

It was noted that there are opportunities that athletics will bring to AC and Mr. White and Mr. Sherrod will leverage those to build community relationships and involvement.

Action Items:

- Mr. White, Mr. Sharp, and Mr. Ball will communicate that contracts now go to the VPBA office for review and execution.
- Communication will also need to be sent for the change in leadership on Grant Management and Grant Development.

3. TRANSFORMED

Lowery-Hart

Dr. Lowery-Hart discussed this new network which is similar to the Strategic Horizons Network but will be innovative and action oriented. Amarillo College would partner with universities including Grand Valley State University, Boise State University, the University of California, and others and would get to be a testing place/lab to try new innovations. This will connect the college with universities who have more money available for these initiatives. Amarillo College will be the south anchor to this national network and the only community college included. Dr. Lowery-Hart is asking Cabinet to consider joining as it will allow AC to utilize university funds for internships and innovation that usually are not available to community colleges. The only cost to AC would be one national convening and paying students to be part of a design team.

Action Items:

- None

4. GREENLIGHT

**Lowery-Hart
Austin**

Greenlight is a company that is leveraging block chain technology to create an identity-based technology designed to definitively identify an individual. This would allow individuals to take their credentials, such as transcripts, with them virtually. Records can be shared without the use of paper. The company is working with Dallas College (formerly Dallas Community College District) and dozens of school districts in the Dallas area. Dr. Lowery-Hart and Mr. Austin have a follow up call with them next week and will include Shane Hepler and Kristin McDonald-Wiley. It is not yet known how much time and energy would be involved for Amarillo College to participate but has the potential to be transformative for students by removing another barrier. One outcome could be that students would not have to apply but just transfer information across systems. The platform could also house scholarship and career information, resumes, and portfolios. It will move who owns the credential to the student rather than an institution. Amarillo ISD has agreed to participate.

Action Items:

- None

5. ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Austin

Mr. Austin reported that with 7 days remaining, enrollment is down about 11% across the board as compared to last spring. However, compared to Spring 2019, it is only down 1%. He stated that enrollment is not off much from what is to be expected compared to Fall. At this point in the Fall, enrollment was down 16% but ended up at 7% down. Historically, Spring follows Fall. Advising is very busy and students are still registering. Caps have been raised in some sections and additional sections have been added in other areas. All communications to students have been sent out and there is plenty of demand.

Action Items:

- None.

6. BOND PROJECTS	Sharp
<p>Mr. Sharp updated Cabinet on progress of bond projects. He showed the proposed drawing for the First Responders building. The sale of the JC Penney building to Amarillo College, where this will be located, has not yet closed but the contract is on the January Board agenda for approval. There will be a fenced area around the training tower. The design for the inside of the building is complete with only a few minor changes required. The 2nd floor will not be renovated at this time but will be cleared and abated.</p> <p>He also provided a rendition of the parking lot behind Byrd expansion. The entrance off of 24th will be widened to a two-way entrance/exit. The parking lot will be expanded into the park on both ends and provide an additional 40 parking spots. This proposal has been approved by the Parks and Recreation department and is on the agenda for City of Amarillo approval. A fence will be constructed between the lot and the sports field to prevent balls from coming into the parking lot.</p> <p>The street project on the West Campus is about 75% complete. Purchase of the Bible Chair of the Southwest property at 22nd and Monroe, which includes a house and classroom center, is on the January Board agenda for approval. Plans for this space might include use for temporarily housing student life during the remodel and possibly ARC pantry overstock and storage.</p> <p>A committee is interviewing architects for the Art Department space which will be located in the College Union Building basement. The architects will be tasked with filtration and air ventilation in addition to the remodel. An alternative location on the 4th floor of Parcels was considered and rejected as less than ideal.</p> <p>Russell Hall will be renovated to house all of Student Services. Renovations on Carter Fitness Center should begin soon.</p>	
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	

7. OTHER DISCUSSION	Cabinet
<p>Dr. Clunis noted that she is working with an organization on Career Impact Bond loans. These will provide supplemental funding to students, particularly those in specific cohorts. The loans do have to be paid back over time but are much cheaper. She will keep Cabinet informed.</p> <p>Dr. Clunis also reported that second-chance PELL grants are now available and she will begin working with the Clements and Neal Units and their students. This will not be limited to just technical courses but will include the general core. Data reflects that inmates who enroll in general education courses have a lower recidivism rate. She also noted that failure to register for selective service within the allotted time permanently bars a student from receiving financial aid.</p>	
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	