

PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING
February 9, 2021
MINUTES

CALLED TO ORDER

9:32 a.m.

ADJOURNED

11:40 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; Shane Hepler; Danny Smith; Sally Jennings; Kyle Arrant; Jackson Ruiz; Shannon Gonzales; Amanda Lester-Chisum; Jim Baca; Becky Easton; Danielle Luce

DISCUSSION:

1. BOND PROJECTS UPDATE with Bond Project Team	Smith
<p>Chris Sharp and Danny Smith provided an update on the current bond projects. Project Committee members not on Cabinet attended virtually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connector Roads at West Campus – This is the first and smallest project. The entrance from Quail Creek has been widened and parking lots have been connected to make navigating the campus easier without having to go out into the streets. Sidewalks remain ADA compliant, some light poles were moved, and three new trees will be planted for each tree that was removed in this process. The project is 90% complete.• ADA Projects at all 3 Amarillo Campus – AC has received some citations for violations and work to correct those will begin soon. Some restroom renovations will be required.• Innovation Outpost – Construction is set to begin in April 2021. The exterior will be updated with ceramic tile and a space for a restaurant. The size of the sound stage was reduced from the original plan as it was determined a smaller stage would be sufficient. The renovations will include a high-tech commons area, lab space, classrooms, rental space, and equipment such as 3D printers. Additionally, it will include VFX space with a stage/studio, editing rooms, etc. Sharpened Iron Studios plans to build a 30,000 square foot sound studio as well which will include classrooms for instruction of AC students.• Carter Fitness Center – With the approval and addition of athletics by the Board, this project is still in the pre-schematic design phase. Components of the renovation will include upgraded and ADA compliant restrooms and locker rooms, card operated gates, a concession stand, registration desk, offices with a conference room, free weight and machine weight rooms, and areas for aerobics, cardio, spinning, and functional training. The volleyball court will meet all NCJAA requirements. Other areas such as visiting team locker rooms are still under consideration.• WSC HVAC Infrastructure – After considering many plans, locations, and concepts, it was determined that the best solution is to build a new chiller plant. To most efficiently supply the chiller loop, this will be located in Parking Lot 8 behind the Science Building and take up about 20 of the parking spots located there. The Carriage House will still contain the equipment that provides HVAC for the Museum of Art, Concert Hall/Theatre, Music Building, and Experimental Theatre. Water cooled chillers are a much better option than air cooled and this should alleviate problems for the next 25 years.	

- **Student Service Center – Russell Hall** – A round about will be added on 24th Street and the entrance to Parking Lot 10 behind the Byrd Business Building will be widened to two lanes for in and out traffic. Additional parking will be added to this lot as well. The concept for the student service center in Russell Hall will be a one-stop shop for students and will include Advising, AskAC, Financial Aid, Testing (which will also have an outside entrance), Smart Start, Adult Education, Outreach, and the space for VA students. There will also be computers and work stations and one small classroom for learning session. Since the building is designated as an historical building, the front facing 24th street will be cleaned up and updated but not changed; the east side will have a store front entrance and patio if the budget allows. The architects are working on signage to identify the building. The plan has been approved and documents and construction plans are being prepared. Construction could start in August or September and will be a 16-month project. The 2nd floor of the current Student Services Building will be updated and will house administrative offices related to Student Services.
- **First Responders** – Amarillo College intend to purchase the old J.C. Penney building at Sunset Center for a First Responders Academy. The property will have a fire tower and a bay for fire trucks, police cars, and ambulances and will be surrounded by a 6 to 8-foot solid fence. Current designs only provide for renovation of the first floor, however the entire building will have asbestos abatement. The building will house the EMT, Fire Academy, and Law Enforcement programs and will include classrooms, training rooms, testing areas, locker rooms, common areas, a kitchen, a laundry, and storage. Future plans for the 2nd floor have been discussed with no decisions made. The mechanical equipment for the building will be located on the 2nd floor.
- **Art Department** – The Art Department will be moving from Russell Hall to the basement of the College Union Building. A little square footage will be lost but the plans will make the area more open and maximize studio space. A place for the kilns and an outdoor patio will be created at basement level facing 24th street. The Art faculty have worked very closely with the architects to design this space. The current location of the post office will become an art gallery tied to the restaurant/café.

Action Items:

- None.

2. CRRSA DISTRIBUTION PLAN

Cabinet

The Cabinet discussed the best use of CRRSA funds that will be received by the College. Projects which will have an immediate impact and which will be started include:

- Website update
- Greenlight – a platform that allows institutions to share student credentials and students to carry those credentials with them
- Earn & Learn
- Innovators in Residence
- Data Center/Phone system upgrades
- Purchase of property

Some funds will be set aside in reserves for contingency or unexpected needs. Other projects discussed that had less immediate timelines included Ellucian training, classroom upgrades, a nurse diversity program, a STEM academy, and a CRM application module. These might be considered in a 3rd round of CARES Act funding.

Action Items:

- None.

3. OTHER DISCUSSION	Cabinet
Shane Hepler explained that the large purchase of laptops discussed at the last Board meeting are for Mac Book computers to be part of the tool kit for students in the VFX and Cinematic Arts programs. The kits will be sold through the bookstore and may be purchase with financial aid funds.	
Action Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	