

PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING
March 30, 2021
MINUTES

CALLED TO ORDER

9:05 a.m.

ADJOURNED

10:16 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Joy Brenneman

DISCUSSION:

1. LEGISLATIVE SESSION & BUDGET CUTS	Lowery-Hart
<p>Dr. Lowery-Hart has been in communication with TACC and it is apparent AC's funding from the State could be much worse than expected. The legislature has justified the cuts on the fact that colleges will be receiving millions of dollars in CARES funding. In the Senate bill, Amarillo College will lose \$2.5 to \$2.8 over the next biennium. AC was expecting cuts of approximately \$750,000. Since smaller colleges lost more enrollment and were hit harder during the pandemic this budget favors them over larger colleges. The version in the house has an extra \$50M and would cut AC \$1.5M over the biennium. If funding is based on success points, AC would do better as that formula increased from 10% to 17% and the college is in the top 10 schools in success points. The budget is still fluid and more information will be coming as the legislative session continues. Dr. Lowery-Hart expects the final budget will be better than what is currently proposed and once the State receives its CARES Act funds, more money may be directed toward community colleges.</p> <p>Cabinet discussed AC's low transfer rates and the fact that many students want online Bachelor's degree programs such as those offered by WGU and ENMU. Advisors, and others who work with students, can be instrumental in guiding these students into these programs. Cabinet also discussed the need to grow enrollment in preparation for the next biennium.</p> <p>Amarillo College's new theory of change will focus more on economic outcomes rather than completion and be market driven. New programs will need to grow into large programs with labor market outcomes tied to them. Most of these new programs will begin as Continuing Education as there is more flexibility with SACS and at the department level. This will allow time for academic faculty to get the professional development and/or certifications necessary to be able to move these into academic programs. The college does receive reimbursement for contact hours for CE courses. Building a new labor market is a large part of the next theory of change over the next five years and it is hoped these programs will attract adult students and bring them back to college. Marketing will be important and could include an enrollment event along with the announcements of new programs. Through the Earn and Learn programs students will be paid while going through their programs.</p>	

There will be different pathways into these programs: The Innovation Outpost, AEL, and Academics. Four modules have been developed to introduce coding language in the FYS courses, followed up by more specific technology training relevant to the students' community.

Action Items:

- Within the next three weeks, Lowery-Hart, Clunis, Austin, and Ball will bring a plan for an event announcing cloud computing and one other new program.

2. HARRINGTON FELLOWS PROGRAM

Lowery-Hart

These are presentations by University of Texas graduate students and Amarillo College usually has several people attend when it is in person. This year it will be held virtually and attendees will need to RSVP for login information. Several Cabinet members expressed interest in attending.

Action Items:

- Ms. Brenneman will scan and email the invitation to Cabinet.

3. DUMAS STUDENT AMBASSADORS RETREAT-CETA CANYON

Skinner

4. BADGERAMA IN MEMORIAL PARK

Moore County Campus has requested approval for 10 students and 3 chaperones to travel to Ceta Canyon for a 2 day/1 night trip on April 30, 2021. They will be riding in cars for the 1-1/4 hour trip. Since it is likely masks will become optional after April 26, Cabinet approved the trip but encouraged social distancing when possible and hygiene protocols.

Student Activities is planning Badgerama at Memorial Park in the evening from 3:00 to 7:00 pm on May 3 to allow students with children to bring them to the event. Since masks will likely be optional by that time and it will take place outdoors, Cabinet approved.

It was noted that pinning ceremonies will take place in person this Spring.

Action Items:

- Cabinet agreed that Ms. Skinner may automatically approve these types of requests after April 26 as long as mask requirements and other protocols are not re-instated.

5. NEW POSITIONS IN UPCOMING BUDGET

Skinner

Ms. Skinner asked about the possibility of requesting new positions in the upcoming budget, specifically help in the Career Center and Counseling Center. Dr. Lowery-Hart instructed that these should be considered by Cabinet for approval or denial. Department and Division leaders should also examine repurposing some employees and look for opportunities where that might work.

Cabinet discussed the contract the college has with Heal the City to provide help with needed medications for students who might otherwise have to wait for long periods of time to get those. Initially, the plan was to serve 100 students but only 40 or 50 have taken advantage of this service. May need to look at whether to keep this contract or perhaps renegotiate it at a smaller amount.

Mr. Sharp indicated that budgets submitted so far have come in at the requested 5% reduction and almost \$1M has been cut from the budget.

Action Items:

- Budget conversations will begin in April as soon as Mr. Sharp and Jeanette Nelson are ready

6. OTHER DISCUSSION	Cabinet
<p>Mr. Sharp reported that one of AC's night custodians, Adam Gonzales, passed away Friday evening on campus. Donations to help his family can be made at the Physical Plant.</p> <p>Brag Alerts: Taylor Bingham for her work on the Adult Student Survey Cassie Montgomery for organizing the COVID vaccine clinic on campus</p> <p>Mr. Sherrod announced that he, Mr. White, and Jim Laughlin have been working on June Jazz which will resume live again on June 1 with a reception honoring Oth and Dee Miller who donated \$100,000 for the purpose of establishing an endowment for this annual event. None of this money will be spent this year; rather it will just gain interest the first year, and Katie Niegos will raise funds to cover the reception and bands for this year. Ms. Niegos is working part time for the Foundation seeking grants and local funders.</p>	
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	