

PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING
April 20, 2021
MINUTES

CALLED TO ORDER

9:06 a.m.

ADJOURNED

10:10 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. NEW PROGRAMS ANNOUNCEMENT & EVENT	Lowery-Hart
<p>Announcements and/or press conferences for several new programs including Amazon and AWS are in the planning stages.</p> <p>The Aspen Award announcement is at noon on May 18th. This will be a celebratory event, especially since it is the first time everyone has been able to be together since the beginning of COVID. The event will begin at 11:30 to 11:45 with lunch on the Oeschger Mall. Details are being finalized and invitations mailed to community members. All employees at all campuses are encouraged to attend.</p>	
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public announcements will be made when contracts are finalized for new programs• The Academic and Continuing Education sides of programs both need to talk with Todd McLees and then with Cabinet	
2. HANOVER GRANT CONTRACT	Crowley Clunis
<p>Ms. Crowley and Dr. Clunis reported back on their conversation with Hanover Research. Hanover has a comprehensive program that will partner with the college on grant development and building capacity. They have a proven track record and will provide training to faculty and directors on grant writing and research, in addition to writing grants for the college. Only one grant can be in a stage at a time (research, development, writing, or implementation), but the college could contract for more than one queue. The contract is a flat fee, not based on a percentage of the grant award. The cost of one queue is \$45,000/year and two is \$95,000/year.</p> <p>Ms. Crowley expects to see more STEM and DOL grants in the future in addition to NSF grants where AC has not historically been successful. Hanover would help with these grants. Crowley will still package the grants until such time as additional part-time help is needed. Some under-utilized positions could be trained for this.</p> <p>Crowley recommends not replacing Teresa Clemons salary and using the savings for this contract. Cabinet approved seeking Board approval for two queue's at \$95,000 but starting</p>	

with only one queue. This will be a change of philosophy for the college and will require thoughtful consideration on which grants to target. Those mentioned were DOE, DOL, NSF, and possibly Co-Board grants (CARES money).

Amarillo College will continue its relationship with RMA for Title V and HSI STEM grants. Those are consistently successful.

It was noted that there may be alternative funding for the Green Light program from DOE.

Action Items:

- Determine which key faculty should receive this training
- Seek Board approval at the May meeting.

3. HOPE CENTER BASIC NEEDS SURVEY

Crowley

Ms. Crowley reported that this survey revealed a greater need for communication but not a need for more social workers.

- 70% of students don't think they are eligible, but in fact, any student may take advantage of these services
- 55% know about the pantry and have food insecurities but don't use it
- Students have a perception that AC's resources are limited and someone else needs help more than they do
- Most students learn about services from faculty

Although social media has been used a great deal, there is still a need to better communicate resources available to students. With CARES Act and Foundation funds, there is plenty of money to help students. Mr. Ball noted that he will be hiring another person (budget neutral) who can help with communication. Ms. Crowley stated that students in Earn & Learn programs will be used for help in the ARC and food pantry and might also be used to help with social media and communication.

Action Items:

- Ms. Crowley and Mr. Ball will meet with their teams again to determine a plan
- Include the Hope Center data in No Excuses at the April 27 Status Date
- Consider message about resources in Blackboard when a student logs in
- Continual messaging as students come and go
- ARC will return to face-to-face interactions in the summer

4. OTHER DISCUSSION

Cabinet

Dr. Lowery-Hart will be presenting with Todd McLees this week and will talk about the return on investment of AC's Culture of Caring and the Innovation Outpost. McLees has a large audience that includes technology innovators and an employer market.

Dr. Clunis discussed Amarillo College's association with the REP4 Education Alliance. AC is the only community college in this organization with four large universities and is the southern anchor for the organization. This alliance is focused on creating new pipelines of enrollment. There will be a national announcement for this in May. Dr. Lowery-Hart believes that larger funding opportunities may come about as a result of this affiliation including money for equity measures.

Mr. White recommended that Cabinet determine a protocol for responding to Faculty Senate questions. There have been instances where questions were submitted to department heads or other staff and the Cabinet member was unaware of the response provided. It was determined that all questions must go through the President's assistant who will forward that to

the appropriate Cabinet member. Dr. Clunis is meeting with Senate and will convey this information to them.

Dr. Clunis requested approval to hire a Director of Child Care Centers. Dennis Sarine is not able to handle day-to-day supervision of these centers and the situation is becoming critical. This person will oversee the centers' supervisors and all other positions and be the point of contact for national accreditations and the Texas Rising Star grant. Mr. Sarine will continue in his role and have broad oversight. This position is budget neutral. Dr. Clunis will bring additional information to a future Cabinet meeting.

Action Items:

- None.