

PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING
January 18, 2022
MINUTES

CALLED TO ORDER

9:05 a.m.

ADJOURNED

10:47 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark White

OTHERS PRESENT

Toni Van Dyke

DISCUSSION:

1. Telehealth Contract for Mental Health Counseling	Skinner
<p>Ms. Skinner emailed an online counseling proposal to Cabinet last week. The proposal is to outsource online counseling for telehealth counseling. By providing an online counseling option, the counseling center would reach more students quickly keeping them from potentially dropping out. Retention should sustain the ongoing costs of the telehealth contract. Ms. Skinner requested the use of CARES funds to cover at least one year but would prefer two years if available. Per national estimate, 15% of students (1,400 AC students) suffer from mental illness and 12% will seek counseling. Based on AC data by adding a telehealth option, 876 students would utilize the service. Currently, the counseling center sees an estimated 350 students per semester. In addition, this contract would allow online students living outside the state of Texas to use the service. The need for additional counseling is due to students waiting several weeks to see a counselor in person.</p> <p>Ms. Crowley expressed concerns about the cost of the contract and pointed out the data provided did not include the additional position recently added using Mackenzie Scott funds. Another concern is the student becoming dependent on the service and then the college taking it away due to lack of funds.</p> <p>Cabinet would like to see additional data and suggested having Mr. Witherspoon measure who has used the service vs. who doesn't use the service. Cabinet unanimously agreed there is a need for additional counseling but would like to see an option to terminate the contract after a year if the college is not seeing benefits for the students.</p> <p>Dr. Lowery-Hart's concern is knowing there are mental health challenges for our students and are we harming them by not offering the service now, knowing we have CARES funds to cover even if we can't fund the online portion in two years. Therefore, it's better to enter into the contract instead of hiring another person that could face termination in 18 months due to lack of funds and utilization. Additionally, if this has a considerable impact, the college will need to start budgeting for the service.</p> <p>Ms. Skinner stated there is still a need to have someone in the counseling center for emergencies. The counseling center is called out once every two weeks because someone needs immediate assistance. There is a ten-minute window to address the crisis when an</p>	

emergency comes in. It's challenging to keep the center fully staffed due to the workload. AC counselors average two more appointments daily than most counselors in the industry.

Action Items:

- Review contract and discuss at later time.

2. Merit	Cabinet
<p>Cabinet discussed names of full-time employees in their areas who will receive the one-time merit stipend and the amounts. The one-time merit stipend is based on overall high performance and not strictly based on the evaluation rating. There are two different merit stipend amounts that will be given to a total of around 120 full-time employees.</p> <p>Dr. Clunis will meet with Deans Council to request feedback on who they recommend to receive the one-time merit payment in Academic Affairs and will provide the names to Cabinet on Friday, January 21, 2022.</p>	
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Clunis and Mr. Sharp will bring their list next week and Cabinet will review/finalize the one-time merit payment	

3. OTHER	Cabinet
<p>Ms. Skinner reported that Camille Nies and Becky Easton visited her about starting a Mariachi band but are having difficulty finding information and funding.</p> <p>Dr. Clunis stated she would find the funds needed to start a Mariachi band and that having the band would add value to our students since our student body is primarily Hispanic. Additionally, most students will have their own instruments, therefore making uniforms, and paying instructors will be the only cost. Mr. Sherrod stated he would bring this up during his meeting with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce tomorrow.</p> <p>Places that have Mariachi Bands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Odessa College• Indiana University• Texas Tech University• UIL sanctioned event <p>Cabinet suggested Ms. Nies check with the Dumas and Hereford off-campus instructional sites to see if they have interested students.</p>	
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Sherrod will email the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce reaction to the start of a Mariachi band.• Amber Hamilton or Jenna Welch to send a survey to students	