

PRESIDENT’S CABINET MEETING
November 30, 2021
MINUTES

CALLED TO ORDER
 9:07 a.m.

ADJOURNED
 11:13 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Joy Brenneman; Shane Hepler

DISCUSSION:

| 1. BUTLER COUNTY/LEWIS & CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGES HACKED | Hepler Jones |
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| <p>In response to the news that these community colleges had been compromised and operations hampered by the cyberattack, Dr. Lowery-Hart asked CIO Shane Hepler to provide an update on AC’s cybersecurity. Mr. Hepler reported that these institutions likely had a ransomware attack, probably because someone on the inside opened an email and downloaded something they should not have. Amarillo College is also vulnerable to ransomware attacks but has security measures in place to mitigate those attacks. Last time it happened, AC was able to recover very quickly due to a good backup strategy. Once the determination was made about what was compromised most of the information was reinstated.</p> <p>Sensitive college data is protected and employee PC’s don’t have access to that part of the system. Additionally, dual factor authorization is required by the state for sensitive data.</p> <p>Mr. Hepler discussed some ways to protect the college even more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into dual factor authorization for all logins – more secure, but requires users to have a second device available and is very expensive • Remove admin privileges from most users • Use google drives rather than mapped drives • Ensure that employees have competencies and provide training • Additional security upgrades • Test employees with spoof emails to track repeat offenders <p>Hackers target community colleges because many can’t afford expensive security measures. AC is better protected due to segmenting of our college information. Mr. Hepler’s strategy provides that the college won’t be shut down or have to pay for ransomware, although some might be inconvenienced for a short amount of time. AC does have cyber security insurance. The new backup system will provide even better protection.</p> | |
| <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lowery-Hart and Mr. Hepler will present this information at General Assembly • Mr. Hepler to come to Cabinet the week prior to General Assembly with a proposal • Add student technology device capability to student survey • Determine a plan for consequences for repeat offenders | |

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| 2. FIRST RESPONDERS GROUNDBREAKING | Ball |
| This will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 1:30 pm. Communications and Marketing is working on plans for the event. | |
| Action Items: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ball will ask Mayor Nelson, Kyle Ingham of PRPC, and others to speak. | |

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| 3. ASPEN PRIZE | Lowery-Hart |
| Dr. Lowery-Hart presented the ways that the Aspen Prize funds would be used based on the employee survey. He noted that employee scholarships for post associate degrees was not highest on the list. These items will be funded with Aspen money. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soda machines on the campuses – Mr. Sharp will unveil this at General Assembly Personal Enrichment classes – Ms. Jones will work with Will Ratliff to determine topics to be covered Cross department conversations without an agenda – breakfasts, lunches, etc. Supervisors will manage these events. Campus chaplain | |
| Action Items: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above. | |

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| 4. NURSING SHORTAGE REDUCTION GRANT RENEWAL | Clunis |
| The NSRP grant is a four-year grant the college receives year after year. This request is for a renewal, not a new solicitation. The form will be redone to account for the use of the funds. This grant helps with faculty retention and pays stipends. | |
| Dr. Clunis noted that she is also looking into a grant to provide similar support for other Health Sciences programs. | |
| Amarillo College's night nursing program will be launched in the Fall. Dr. Clunis is waiting to hear if funds will be received from the Harrington Foundation. This is a five-semester program offered in the evenings. The Maverick Club may have options for childcare until 1:00 am for nursing students in night programs or evening clinicals. | |
| Action Items: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet approved the NSRP grant unanimously | |

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| 5. EARN & LEARN | Lowery-Hart |
| Mr. Sherrod is meeting with various CEO's to elicit support for all programs, but there are certain businesses that are very interested in the Earn & Learn programs. Dr. Lowery-Hart then meets with them. He is excited about the prospects and in February, the AC teams will sit down with these employers to begin internships. | |
| The college does not yet have the capacity to do this for a great number of companies, but it could possibly be added to the Business Leadership Council and managed by Edie Carter. It might be possible to use the career accelerator model to launch this with specific classes and then move students into academic programs. | |
| Action Items: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Lowery-Hart, Dr. Clunis, and Mr. Sherrod will meet when ready to move forward. | |

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| 6. REVIEW BOARD AGENDA | Lowery-Hart |
| <p>Dr. Lowery-Hart reviewed the Board agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The audit had zero findings. Approximately \$13M will go into reserves, most of which is CARES funds. Excluding CARES funds, \$3.2M will go into reserves. • Collin Witherspoon will discuss gender data, Dr. Clunis and Todd McLees will provide an update on the AWS and coding classes. Dr. Clunis and Tina Babb will present the SACSCOC timeline. Regents Carlisle and Barrett will discuss CCATT and TACC. • Prior to approval of the VFX contract, the Board will view a 35-minute video on the program. Chairman Mize, Mr. White, and Dr. Lowery-Hart were involved in negotiating the contract which is aggressive but takes failure off the table. Revenue sharing will not begin until Amarillo College recoups \$600,000 of its initial investment. The curriculum has been approved by THECB and SACS. Students in the service area will pay the typical tuition. Students outside the service area will pay a differential tuition of \$20,000 that is financial aid eligible. Communications and Marketing will determine how to sell this program both internally and externally. The core team who will work on this project will include Mr. Ball, Mr. Austin, Shane Hepler, Sadie Newsome, Becky Burton, Becky Easton, and Jill Gibson. | |
| <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. | |

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| 7. OTHER | Cabinet |
| <p>Amarillo College is featured in the Harvard Business Review.</p> <p>Ms. Skinner will be interviewed by the Chronicle for Higher Education.</p> | |
| <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. | |