

President's Advisory Council January 30, 2013

Present: Dr. Jeremy McMillen, Brent Archer, Giles Brown, Shelle Cassell, Paula Cavender, Steve Davis, Brandy Fair, Jeanie Hardin, Gary Hensler, Donna King, Barbara Malone, Jake McBee, Gary Paikowski, Roy Renfro, Debbie Smarr, Tony Stanzo, Kim Teel, Casey Ticknor

Late Fee Discussion

Gary Hensler described the circumstances that caused students to be charged the late fee stating that the original purge was delayed and those who had not paid by the original purge date had a late fee added. He said that he often waived a late fee for reasonable cause and if the college caused the delay. Members felt a late fee was appropriate after the student was purged and then re-enrolled. It would be helpful to establish a permanent (or consistent) date for adding a late fee. Discussion turned to the value of purging vs. the amount of employee work and student frustration involved in re-enrolling the student. To reduce the number of students purged, staff should contact the students involved, which could require additional staff. Gary said a discussion on the desired purge pattern would be part of the Registration De-Briefing meeting scheduled for this afternoon. Members also identified the need to automate the late fee and purge/do not purge functions.

Retention and Persistence Data

Debbie Smarr shared trend data on Fall to Fall and Spring to Spring retention and persistence. This data will be posted online. Steve Davis asked about persistence data separated by programs, and Debbie agreed to help him find that. She mentioned that data was also being looked at for improvement toward Student Learning Outcomes.

Enrollment Projection Model

Debbie Smarr and Brent Archer explained the model used to project enrollment targets. Summer projections are available now and Fall projections will be ready soon. The concept behind this model (from McLennan Community College) is to control the things that you can control by targeting course demand and scheduling patterns. The data provided will help the college set future enrollment goals. Enrollment goals can be met by adjusting courses and sections that have capacity and/or demand.

Related discussion was to encourage additional afternoon classes. Dr. McMillen asked if students have the option to complete a degree plan by attending only afternoon or evening classes (ensuring that classes are offered at times that meets their personal availability).

Information Technology Update

Gary Paikowski shared information on the projects that have been requested, indicating that the demands for services are increasing and that he will propose additional personnel during the upcoming budget process. He reported that current IT Department staffing is much less than

other institutions'. He is evaluating the best solutions for staffing and/or outsourcing needed to maintain and improve services.

Certificate for Core Completers

Tony Stanzo initiated a discussion on the implementation of an academic certificate for students completing their core requirements. The Coordinating Board allows for this type of academic certificate. Members felt that it was exploring to see if it was in the best interest of the students. Donna King pointed out that it might complicate financial aid eligibility for students and that she would see what other colleges are doing. If the Core Completer Certificate is viable for GC, SACS will need to be notified prior to implementation.

Support for Weekend Classes

Weekend classes, which were offered for the first time this semester, had a few challenges in getting started. In addition to ensuring the facilities were open and ready for class, students need access to vending machines, the bookstore, and other services. Members discussed the need to have an "administrator" on duty to help solve problems and provide faculty support. Jeanie Hardin said she would have a team meet to develop a plan that will meet the weekend student and faculty needs.

Legislative Update

Dr. McMillen shared a brief overview of the funding scenario being discussed at the beginning of this legislative session. He explained the funding proposal preferred by the Texas Association of Community Colleges and compared it against the model that is being discussed, which would result in an approx. 9% cut to Grayson College equaling \$675,000 per year. Dr. McMillen noted that several scenarios would occur over the course of the session, and that he and other presidents were optimistic that the final version would be less drastic than this early proposal. Dr. McMillen reminded members that GC's current budget is doing well. Revenues from CWL are looking positive, even if general tuition income is down a little. He said that GC would be looking at ideas to generate additional revenue as well as ways to reduce expense in next year's budget preparations.

Feedback on New Organizational Structure

Dr. McMillen asked for feedback on how the new organizational structure was functioning. Members indicated that it was going well; however, it was still early in the semester for student service issues to arise. Jeanie Hardin shared that the time cost for working with the added departments was high, but she saw that the directors of those departments were stepping up and performing well. Tony Stanzo and Kim Teel expressed their appreciation for the interaction and collaboration between academic and student services departments. It was felt that Jeanie had a very clear vision of what the front door experience and student services should be, but there were concerns about how long she could sustain her energy and demands on her time. There was interest in her office being more centrally located.

Announcement and Reminders

- 20 Seconds of Courage – Dr. McMillen said he had 26 responses to his State of the College challenge to submit ideas, and encouraged employees to send him their thoughts.
- Communications Council will meet at 1:30 p.m. February 1 in the Black Box Theatre.
- Enrollment numbers after the first of class indicates that we made great progress in reaching the goal, but we are down 4.3% in headcount and 3.5% in credit and contact hours. Members said they wanted to celebrate the collaboration and teamwork that went into the enrollment rescue effort.
- University Day will be 9:30-1:00 pm January 31 in the Student Life Center
- The Foundation's Annual Scholarship Campaign will be 5:30-7:30 pm January 31 at Rafter D Hangar at the North Texas Regional Airport. Roy Renfro reports that 90 guests are expected.

NEXT MEETING – 8:30 a.m. February 13, 2013