

Executive Cabinet Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Present: Dr. Carlos Hernandez, President; Ben Telesca, VP for Student Affairs; Dr. Suzanne Harris, Dean of Students; Dr. Bonnie Warnock, Dean; Amanda Workman, Athletic Director; Betse Esparza, Director of University Communications; Dr. Eric Funasaki, Dean; Dr. Louis Harveson, Associate Provost of Research and Development; Natalie Sandoval, Executive Director of Enrollment Management; Michelle Lancaster, Director of Academic Affairs; Bonnie Albright, VP for Finance and Operations; Janice Espinoza-Valenzuela, recorder

Remote: Dr. Jorge Garza, VP for Administrative Services and COO; Dr. Sarah (Sally) Roche, Dean; Dr. Bernardo Canteñs, Executive Vice President and Provost; Paul Herring, Vice President of Advancement

Absent: April Aultman Becker, AVP Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Laura Payne, Dean; Dr. Barbara Tucker, Dean

Start Time: 9:01a.m.

MOU with Ector County ISD

- Rico Enriquez, Director for College Career Readiness for Ector County ISD.
- Conversation regarding direct admissions with Ector County ISD students. Natalie is unsure if we have already begun moving forward with direct admissions or if we are ready for direct admissions. Maybe we could use Ector ISD as a pilot program. Missy Schenkman is drafting an MOU and if they get the okay, then they can move forward with it.
- The President's understanding is that Ector County ISD has already entered into a similar MOU with UTPB. Mr. Enriquez mentioned the MOU is regarding direct admissions at Tarleton State.
- President thinks it is a good idea, but we need to see the requirements in the MOU.
- We are an open enrollment institution, and he doesn't feel that there would be any requirements in the MOU that we would object to.
- He asked if we would be willing to waive the app fee. Yes, since we are doing away with the application fee.
- Requirement: 2.0 GPA. and final transcripts.
- Mr. Enriquez asked if we could create a small scholarship. Natalie suggested we do a scholarship workshop and have them apply using the scholarship portal. We would match them with those that they qualify for. Mr. Enriquez was okay with this idea.
- They currently have a dual credit partnership with Odessa College, but this would be a good pathway in.
- Per President Hernandez, we need to pursue this.

Presidential Plus Scholarship Update

- Awarded 13 full scholarships and 12 partials at \$2500 each.
- Betse did a phenomenal job on creating the certificates that were given to each school district for student presentation at graduation.
- They heard back from the following ISDs: Alpine, Ft. Stockton, Marathon, Marfa and Terlingua. The only ISD they have not heard back from is Monahans ISD.
- Ivonne Durant, Marathon Superintendent, said that this will be a game-changer for the student in Marathon.

- President asked what the overall reaction of the partial scholarship was. Natalie said that there was good feedback on those. No certificate was sent for partial awardees. Three of the ISDs were very happy with the \$2,500.
- Financial Aid will be sending out official letters to the students this week. They will also send them a listing of everything they need so that they can package them with the scholarships.
- To give an update for everyone, especially those on the Enrollment Steering Committee: Deadline for award ceremonies was fast approaching, so Dr. Canteñis and President were unable to review the applicants. The initial goal was to award 2 to 3 from each school district, which we did. In the case of Terlingua, there was only one applicant, so that student was awarded.
- Monahans submitted 9 applicants. We awarded 3 full scholarships and 6 partial scholarships.
- We could have awarded all 25 as full scholarships, but this would create an unrealistic expectation on the part of the school districts that we would award 9 scholarships in the future.
- Still ranked the highest academic ranked students first for the presidential scholarship.
- These are not the highest academic ranked students for the \$2,500 scholarship-is renewable based on the criteria.
- The Presidential Scholarship is for a full ride: tuition, fees, room and board.
- Last dollar-must be able to receive federal and state financial aid and then the university through the grant programs will cover the rest of the amount. Part of the criteria is that they must be financial aid eligible.
- According to estimates, if they are 100% Pell eligible, then our cost comes to about \$6,000.
- 12 to 15 students from the Alpine High School graduating class will be coming to Sul Ross and majoring in Criminal Justice, Kinesiology and Nursing. If the student chooses to live at home, then they will have less costs.
- RGC requires a different strategy in awarding dollars to RGC students. There is an endowed scholarship for RGC that requires full time enrollment to be awarded. We should modify it to allow part-time students.
- Transfer students- partnership with Odessa College that their Wrangler Promise will transfer to a Lobo Promise. Is this something that we want to explore? Per President Hernandez, so long as they meet criteria.
- The Lobo Promise is criteria based. The difference with Wrangler Promise is the threshold of guarantee. The Wrangler Promise family income threshold is \$115,000. Our guarantee is \$85,000.
- Natalie mentioned that this would be like targeting. Let's look at junior colleges throughout the state of Texas that have Promise scholarships and see if we have partnerships with them.
- President mentioned since we don't know full impact of changes to Pell are going to manifest in the population, it is risky to buy in to Wrangler Promise which has a higher threshold. If the threshold matches ours.
- Dr. Cantens asked if anyone knew the total cost of the Presidential Plus scholarship. Is it a total of 5 years for \$250,000? We won't know that yet because this is the initial notification of eligibility for the award. We won't know the full cost until we receive their financial aid and package them.
- Dr. Cantens feels that it is a cool marketing data to announce that Sul Ross gave out XXX amount of money in scholarships. President said we should have all the information by end of July.
- At the last ESC meeting, they spoke about how to market the Lobo Promise scholarship and the success of the \$2,500 scholarships.
- He saw websites in the Permian Basin that speak about free tuition if their income is such and such.
- We may need to speak with World Design regarding our billboards.

Quarantine Emails

- Amanda discovered that there were people trying to get a hold of her via email. She reached out to Jacob, and he released 6 emails that were in quarantine.
- She is concerned that this may be happening with emails that are going to Admissions.
- The senders are not receiving any type of email that their messages were not received, so it seems like we are not responding to them.
- Are we able to get a list of quarantine emails?
- We probably should be receiving this listing daily.
- Amanda will be happy to discuss with Jacob.
- High school students sometimes have weird email addresses, so they may be sending us a message and we are not receiving them.
- Bonnie will talk to Jacob and see what our different options are.
- Dr. Harveson has had several quarantine emails also and they are coming from foundations saying they have received the grant and are asking him to sign documents... This is money we are talking about.
- Bonnie will update us at the next meeting.

Partial FTE for Director of West TX Water Research

- Dr. Harveson said that they did receive a challenge grant from the Horizon Foundation for \$375,000.
- We will now need to raise another \$375,000.
- What skin does SRSU have in the game? They want the position to be a tenured or tenured track position and have some sort of investment from the university.
- Dr. Harveson's formal request from the Executive Committee is a 25% FTE of this position. President asked of what cost. The cost of \$110,000 or \$120,000 a year. About \$30,000 a year for three years.
- This director will oversee faculty and research. The director will have a lot of faculty responsibilities.
- President said that they are working on budget and will get back to them.

Bookstore Transition and Implementation of New Programs

- Michelle Lancaster said that Follette will be here the week of June 17 to transition the campus store. They will be reopening it with their branding on the 25th of June.
- Michelle is sending them weekly reports on summer II and fall schedules.
- Everything should be up and running by July 8th for the beginning of Summer II.
- Michelle will need to get a copy of the contract for Mickey and Accounting.
- Dr. Warnock asked if faculty would need to adopt again if they adopted on Akademos? No, Michelle said that everything would transfer to Follette if they were already adopted in Akademos.
- Betse said that Follette is sending everything to her for branding approval.
- President asked about the opt out piece of it. Michelle said that this is why Mickey needs the contract.
- President asked what the contract price was. \$5 million for 5 years. What is the contractual cost per student? \$250 per semester.
- The full cost for every student enrolled, irrespective of number of hours enrolled, is \$250 per semester, which includes all instructional materials. For future adoptions, we are pushing for faculty to adopt digital models because their model is digital first.
- Easier mechanism for delivery and we won't need to manage inventory. They will be placed on Blackboard.

- Dr. Warnock said that Chemistry has been printing the lab manual in-house and selling it. How much money are they generating? Each manual cost \$30. Loss may be \$2,500. What direction do they need to go? Do they need to provide it digitally to Follette?
- President said they cannot proceed in that modality. They can add their manual in Blackboard or provide a digital copy to Follette.
- We will cover that loss going forward.
- \$250 per semester for students-regardless of major or discipline, which includes nurses. This will be a huge savings for nursing students because they usually pay \$700 to \$800 for their books.
- We haven't decided what it will look like in the summer, but will work on it in the fall once we have this figured out.
- Natalie asked if this is a mandatory fee. President said it is an optional fee because they may opt out. This fee will be added to their bill, so financial aid could cover it.
- Will this be covered by the Lobo Promise? No, because the Lobo Promise is only for tuition and fees. This is an optional fee. It does not cover parking.
- Natalie asked about the Presidential Plus. Will this cover? No, because Presidential Plus is tuition, fees, room and board. But maybe we can cover it, since the last dollar fees will be at the end.
- Same price for RGC-Most of their students don't enroll for 12 hours. They may opt out. \$250 for 9 hours is not a bad cost since some of their materials will be more expensive.

Enrollment

- Summer enrollment is healthy; 12% increase in headcount. SCH are almost a 10% increase.
- Deadline for registration is Friday. Classes begin tomorrow.
- Summer II enrollment period is still open and ends the day before summer II-July 6th.
- Add drops for one day after. We should still see potential changes.
- Today regular registration for Summer I continues.
- Not sure how non-payment and drops work for summer.
- One caution-we don't know what Summer II will produce because we are bringing in a small recruitment class.
- We may see some retraction for Summer II from last year.
- If we can keep at this pace, it will be beneficial because it will be close to matching the summer before last.
- The summer before last we had close to 1,100 students for the entire summer session; currently we have around 900 students.
- If we can match what was the prior base period, it will contribute to stability and funding. And with the increase in enrollment we had this spring, it will give us a platform for growth funding.
- One factor has been increased persistence from faculty mentoring program.
- President received email from Kathy Stein with a roster of persistence for mentees. We are currently at 36% for mentees into the fall semester based on the original 175 students that started. 112 student persistence into the spring. Of the original 175, we have 63 that have registered for the fall.
- President asked Deans to work with faculty and their mentees to get them registered. Some students may be waiting for financial aid before they register.
- Bonnie said they only dropped those that did not pay anything.
- Fall semester enrollment looks healthy as well. We aren't as strong in terms of growth, but we have a long way to go. We are at 2.7% increase in headcount. Pretty flat on SCH. Good news still a lot of time for fall semester.

- Fall numbers don't include dual credit yet.
- President predicts that we will have around 1,000 dual credit students.
- We had 375 total dual credit students in the spring. 50 of them were from local ISDs. We have picked up Marathon and Presidio. We are working on Marfa, as they are close to signing a contract.
- EPISD numbers should increase to 800 students. From 50 to 900 will be very healthy numbers for dual credit students.
- La Pryor signed. Carrizo Springs stepped back because of the new superintendent. She wants all the information first. Dr. Garza will be going back to speak with them in about 2 weeks.
- As of today, Athletes: We have 161; Breakdown 20 applicants, 138 have been accepted and 3 inquiries. 20 that have applied, but not been accepted because of missing documentation.
- Rodeo-40 total; 7 applicants, 15 accepted and 18 inquiries.
- Of the 18 rodeo inquiries, Dr. Warnock said that they are students that CJ is working with by contacting via Facebook or texts. Coach Aragon is trying to get them to submit applications.
- If the student tells him they have submitted the application and he sees that the status has not changed to applicant, then he contacts Admissions.
- Ben asked if we have had any issues with vaccination requirements. One student is waiting on meningitis vaccine.
 - Dani Bell worked with a student that had classes online but would be practicing with rodeo.
 - EMP has a template that Dani can use showing those students that are missing their meningitis only. Dr. Warnock uses the template to send to those students asking if they have received their shot, to upload a picture of it.
- Also tracking undergraduate transfers-178 potential transfer students that are in application status; 121 perspective Alpine applications. 57 from RGC that are stuck.
- For Financial Aid there are 2,490 ISIRS have come in. 2,130 are ready for packaging and 360 require action. Financial Aid is working with the consultant to add algorithms for promise scholarships.
- The offer letter that is going out to students is glossy and classy.
- President asked if Natalie had an update on dual credit students. She does not have one yet.
- Natalie mentioned that there has been a lot of manual inputting of dual credit student information. David mentioned that they can process in different ways that will be streamlined instead of manual input.

Updates from Dr. Canteñis

- If we see April, congratulate her because of the 5-year report; We only received one recommendation: 8.28-Outcomes of the different programs.
 - One recommendation is an excellent result and only for a select few programs.
 - Bernie read an excerpt of the letter provided to Dr. Hernandez. It mentioned that the Fifth Year Interim Committee was unable to locate evidence based on analysis of the outcomes for 16 programs. It is possible that this information does exist, but we failed to provide it to them. April is preparing a response for that one recommendation.
 - Sally said that it was amazing! They worked very hard. That result is a wonderful accomplishment on SRSU's part. Any recommendation is information that we can use to improve.
 - President doesn't believe that we lack evidence, we just failed to provide in a clear and accessible manner for the reviewer. We may be able to say, sorry that we didn't give you access to the information, but here is the evidence.

- There are two Registrar candidates-both open and committed to being on campus. Interviews will take place on Tuesday, June 18; one at 10:15 and one at 11:30. Hope to have them on campus the week after.
- Dr. Sengupta will be here on June 25th. He is in the process of putting in offers for homes in Eagle Pass.
 - He called Dr. Canteñs while he was in China and is talking to recruiters there. He would like to bring international students to Alpine.

Updates from Dr. Jorge Garza

- Very excited that the numbers are finally positive.
- Focusing on transfer students.
- Social media going crazy here.

Updates from Dr. Sally Roche

- Echoes Jorge-Eagle Pass developing nicely. Looking forward to the summer.
- Working one-by-one with students.
- One RGC student that wants to take Alpine classes. Encouraging transfer students to finish their core at the junior college.

Updates from Paul Herring

- Visited with Permian Basin Area Foundation, Mr. Guy McCrary
 - There is a stipulation on the matching that they put forward on us that states that the donors needed to be new donors. Mr. McCrary is open to changing the stipulation and having it not be new donors. This will close the gap much quicker.
- Mr. Cray also mentioned to go beyond the initial \$100,000 and they would find additional money to match.

Updates from Dr. Louis Harveson

- Anjna O'Conner is the new Big Bend National Park Superintendent. She would like to make an on-site meeting with President, Bonnie, Eric, and Louis.
- Waiting for the press release quote for the water center from Dr. Hernandez.

Updates from Michelle Lancaster

- The board approved the associate degrees, so the 60-day filing is up so she will file them today.
- Promotion, tenure and 3rd year review began for 24-25.
 - 23 eligible candidates for tenure and promotion; First time for 3rd year review with Interfolio.
 - 3rd year review is a mid-process review. Consists of a college level committee with the department chair and three tenured professors from their college.
 - They will provide a tenure report for strengths and weaknesses.
 - Deans will need to make sure that they tell a weak candidate that they need to seek other opportunities.
 - Yellow, red light. If you don't tell them now, this is a failure of the university, and we wait to tell them in the 6th year that they will not make it. 3rd year review is critical.
- Curriculog finished. We are setting a date for training the Deans so they can train department chairs who will then train faculty. A lot more streamlined by September.

- Nominations are open for the Outstanding Scholar Award, Service Award and Presidential award-deadline September 3.

Updates from Bonnie Albright

- Focus is the budget-salary increases for those at the lower end of the salary. Working very hard for the next two weeks.
- Working to clean out Mountainside. She will reach out to those that have items there to clean out and to store their items elsewhere.
 - No longer a safe place to store anything.
 - There are several carcasses in the building that will make it biologically unsafe to enter the building.
 - There has been a lot of vandalism.

Updates from Ben Telesca

- Supreme Court Visit-Mongolian delegation-revamping their country's judicial system. They are looking at Texas' system.
 - They will be coming at the end of September. We will include them in the educational sessions.
 - A foreign delegation being here on our campus brings significant opportunity.
 - We had a good meeting on Thursday of last week.
- Pool-the 10th they will be here to do work. Plumbers may not be here, so we will have to bring in some from elsewhere. They will tie into our gas lines. We will host them on campus until they finish the job.
 - Difficulty is filling the pool given the city's recent water issues. June 10th on campus for about 10 days wrapping up the work.
 - Pressure testing, whatever leaks are addressed.

Updates from Dr. Bonnie Warnock

- Swipe card project-waiting on schedule on when they will be on campus.
- Associate Dean of Health Sciences-Search firm said they have two candidates.
 - Budget they are saying a \$150,000 salary for that person to close the deal.
- Juliana Dean has agreed to serve as the Interim Chair for the Department of Health Studies.
 - She will move forward with that curriculum this summer. She will remain a faculty for Kinesiology.
- Field classes Health summer camp-getting all counselors in place.
- Partnering with Nature conservancy-several faculty working with them.
- West TX Women's Conservationist in Fort Davis-bringing in young high school students.
- Rodeo-this past weekend, Chisum Allen and Kaden McGee competed in National Collegiate Steer Roping. Chisum won Reserve National Champion.
 - Chisum is heading to the college national finals in tie calf roping. He will compete in title roping and team roping.
 - President asked if both will be going to the CNFR. Dr. Warnock said that only one will go to the NFR.
- Drought-how little it has rained at ranch in Sierra Blanca-Over the past 18 months, they have initiated their drought plan.

- They moved all cattle over a year ago to Elephant Mountain. This week they moved the rest of the bucking horses into town.
- It is difficult to find pastures for horses to graze, so they will be feeding on hay.
- Cattle that we had calves, sending them back to the owners.
- If it doesn't rain by mid-July, those will need to be brought to Alpine.
- Cattle like to stay within 1 mile of water. We are finding them 2 miles away from the water.
- We won't have anything grazing if it doesn't rain.
- Academic Affairs group had a demo of Modern Campus' project software called Scheduled.
 - Dr. Warnock spoke with Kendall and Jacob to move forward with this.
 - The big thing is moving to Banner SAAS. They have not developed their SAAS implementation yet for that product.
 - The academic group really wants to have a program that integrates with Banner to create the schedule.
 - This year, they had a lot of big errors in the scheduling process that impacted students, both from what faculty and input in the Registrar's Office.
 - Example-Dr. Warnock's Soils class was built in summer session I instead of in summer session II. They have been trying to move 13 students from SSI to SSII.
- President-RN to BSN courses: have they been created in both Alpine and RGC? Dr. Warnock said they have been created in Alpine, not at RGC.
 - She is trying to meet with Pam to talk about how they should be in Banner. The THECB has them listed in both inventories. In Banner, they can only be listed in one inventory. We need to move them back to the RGC inventory and get the waivers. We have two that have registered.
 - Currently, this is for Pam's review. Bernie will need to get with Pam to move on this.
- Congratulations to Nursing-finally awarded Nursing Shortage Reduction Program (NSRP).
 - \$367,000 awarded. President said that we will try and offload some of the salaries to allow for flexibility.
 - Since the graduating class went from 6 to 12, we should see that award double to almost \$700,000. It is for faculty salaries. We aren't going to take it all, but maybe ½ and the other ½ can be leveraged to hire new faculty.
 - 17 students starting in this summer cohort. Minerva and Natalie's team have been working hard to get these students. Some are transfer students. There were 2 that have been pushed through.
 - These are new FTs, not just rising FTs. This number is higher than what they were expecting.
- On the scholarship side-We have 5 brand new students; all recent high school graduates that are funded by the Big Bend Regional Medical Center scholarship. We have 2 continuing students that just got admitted into the program and one that is in her sophomore year. We have a total of 7 nursing students that are on the full ride, last dollar scholarship.
- Add those to the 13, so we have a total of 20 full ride scholarships. 13 on presidential scholarship and 5 from nursing and 2 continuing students total 20 students on a full scholarship.
 - Most of those dollars are external to the university, so it is new money.

Updates from Amanda Workman

- Finalizing the Provisional Year 1 report; it is due this Friday.
- Coaches are out recruiting heavily. A lot of students are coming in. A lot of transfer students also.

- Amanda is in conversations with parents that have baseball student athletes. They are interested in raising money for an indoor hitting facility, locker room, lounge space at a location somewhere on campus.
 - Also trying to leverage to build the women's soccer locker room all in the same area.
 - Softball would be able to use the indoor facility, as well.
 - Paul will be joining her on the call that she has this afternoon with the group.
- Amanda will be out next week. Then the following week, a few of them will be in Las Vegas for the Regional Seminar. Dr. Hernandez will not need to attend.

Senator Gonzales' Office Update

- President asked Betse if she has heard any updates from Senator Gonzales' Office on the announcement? She said she had not heard anything.
- President said this will be assigned for the Eagle Pass Campus-We heard from Senator Gonzales' Office recommending or awarding. Dr. Garza mentioned that he spoke with someone in his office that said they are "moving forward" with an appropriation or earmark.
- The City of Eagle Pass submitted a grant application, as we did for BRI, for infrastructure and road improvements to support the university for \$5 million. There is a pool of money, and president hopes that it does not affect our application.
- They have been communicating to the local community that they are going to advance it for consideration.
- If it does go through, it will pave the way for a speedier construction.
- We are waiting to hear about the BRI application. Rep. Gonzales visited with BRI supporters and said they would advance it for \$1.5 million.
- In total, we could be getting up to \$6.5 million earmarked. Indirectly, \$5 million will benefit us because of the City of Eagle Pass.

Updates from Betse Esparza

- For the 6 programs that we are advertising for online graduate programs: Vince has created 6 different webpages for each program. It took him just a few hours.
 - It was done this way due to the way their platform was reading Acalog platform. They did not interact.
 - Created webpages for each, videos included and jobs that a student can get if they enter that specific program.
 - If we can please get faculty on board to continue to create pages that market our programs and don't lead to a catalog, this would be great. If we don't receive info, we will create our own content and she doesn't think faculty will like that.
 - Dr. Roche says that we need a concerted effort there. She also said that they aren't communicated clearly enough with a schedule.
 - Betse said that the communication has been sent out from Web Services, but it stops there.
- Swimming Pool-Betse suggested we have a fun social campaign for the filling of the pool saying we are the pool is $\frac{1}{4}$ full, it's $\frac{1}{2}$ full, etc.
 - Ben says we don't want to get everyone's hopes up because there is a lot of work still to be done. Installation of all of the equipment, pressure testing and the filling of the pool.
 - We may be able to show everyone the progress with pictures of the repair work, but also to let them know that there is still a long way to go.

- Lifeguards-we have 2 that are working for us in a different role this summer. We train the city's lifeguards. The city pool is having trouble opening because they don't have lifeguards.

Updates from Dr. Eric Funasaki

- Submitted 3 big grants-
 - \$7 million Gear Up renewal grant
 - \$7.5 million to Dept. of Education for graduate programs in the Alpine campus
 - \$3 million for graduate programs at the RGC campuses
- Now we are working on the changed deadline for the Student Support Services renewal grant. It is now due July 15, 2024. Should have been due January, February of 2025.
 - Working on a possible SSS grant for RGC-Dr. Garza asked if there was an SSS grant for RGC. Dr. Funasaki said that there could be one, but it would need to be completed by July 15.
- There are two problems-
 - The relatively short deadline
 - The concern regarding student density population for RGC may not be big enough to carry the minimum requirement of students for the program. In order to be considered, there is a requirement of 140 students for this program.

Law Enforcement Memorial

- June 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the SRSU mall.
- The memorial usually happens the week after Memorial Day, but it was delayed a week to include the lieutenant governor and to celebrate the Border Patrol anniversary.

EC Minutes

- Last meeting's minutes are ready to post; Once Betse posts, she will send a link to everyone.

Adjourned: 10:46 a.m.