

Strategic Planning Committee
Student Support: Curricular and Co-curricular Working Group
Professor, Chair
DRAFT 1

Charge:

This Working Group of the SPC is responsible for addressing the challenges and opportunities related to Arkansas Tech University's current and future patterns, priorities, and infrastructure for supporting students. Moreover this WG is charged with tackling the questions that emanate from the changing demographics of students, the increased deployment of technology in the delivery of courses for some distance education students, and the need to address support of adults returning to campus to start and/or complete a degree.

Specific questions to be addressed:

1. What are the demographic profiles of the different cohorts of Tech students?
How many different cohorts are there?
2. How have these patterns changed over the past ten years?
3. Projecting future patterns from demographic studies done by the state and the U.S. Census how will these profiles change?
4. What is the current pattern of services that support student success and other needs? Is it adequate? What adjustments in the pattern of services will be required to be ever more successful and to meet changing profiles?
5. What programs are in place to support student success?
6. What programs are identified in the literature as important to student success?
7. What new programs should Tech develop?
8. What are the current graduation rates by cohort? How do they compare with other state universities and nationally?
9. What programs/efforts are in place to maximize completion in a timely fashion?
10. How is the "grit" and resilience needed to be successful encouraged and supported?
11. What is the possible financial impact on the campus budget of making program adjustments? More money needed? Less money needed?
12. How will new programs and patterns affect the necessary professional preparation and continued training of the student service providers?
13. Given the growing body of literature on the Millennial Generation, how has the campus responded to the changing demands of students and parents?
14. How have these changes impacted the financial and administrative growth in the infrastructure of student support services over the past ten years?
15. Are there special changes in the food service offerings and contracts with students that reflect the current demands of students? How has this affected costs?
16. Campus security: To be competitive in recruiting students, have there been increases in the campus safety programs?
17. How have other campuses around the country dealt with these changes? What can we learn that would help Tech?
18. What is the relationship between the faculty and the campus professionals in Student Services? Has it changed with the changing profiles?

19. Co-curricular programs including athletics: how have these changed, if at all, given the changing profile of students?
20. How have Social Media impacted how student services personnel interact/communicate with students?
21. How have relationships with parents changed? Have more investment in parent relations occurred in the past few years? Concerns?
22. What role will athletics continue to play in a robust set of student services/activities? Intramural? Intercollegiate?
23. On campus housing: are the physical structures appropriate for current students seeking on-campus housing? Plans for modifications/renovations? Level of deferred maintenance on recreational and residential facilities? Impact on recruitment and retention?
24. Are there special characteristics of Tech students that might differentiate the University student body from other public universities in the region or state? How can those be leveraged to benefit the students and the University?
25. How satisfied are students with their experience with the formal student services? How can we find out? To what extent is their level of satisfaction a variable in retention?
26. How active and important are formal efforts to prevent attrition and to recognize attainment? Are issues related to retention discussed on campus by students? By faculty?
27. How effective are student services for commuters? How do they differ?

As clearly noted above this is an initial draft of questions needing attention by the Student Services WG and I suspect there will be additional questions the chair, the SPC and the members of the WG will want considered. Plus when these questions are pursued during the planning process in the fall, new questions will surface. To the extent possible, the chair of the WG and the chair of SPC will want to examine the national patterns regarding how other campuses are tackling the challenges of providing a strong network of student services in a very competitive environment.

It is also important to note that the scope of this WG will overlap with other WG charges and that is expected. Where there may be real conflict—as opposed to common interests within the WG pattern—the SPC chair’s informal team of WG chairs is best positioned to reconcile any differences.