

# Working Group-The University as a Public Institution

Committee Meeting Minutes: October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

3:00pm-4:45pm RPL 316

Committee Members: Dr. Michael Rogers (Chair), Mayor Randy Horton, Mr. Kelly Davis, Emily Bradley, Kristy Bayer, Melissa Rose, Zachary Swartz, Bailey Taylor, Wendi Pool, Angela Bonds, and Dr. Sandy M. Smith

Guests: Micheal Tarver (History Professor) Julie Mikles-Schluterman (Sociology Professor), Ken Wester (Director of Information Systems) Brandon Wright, and Amanda Johnson (Norman Career Services)

Not Present: Angela Bonds

Proceedings:

I. Update on SPC meeting:

- Discussed Ozark and Main Campus being one university.
  - Ozark does not offer many Gen Ed courses and some courses do not count towards main campus degree programs
  - Eligibility issues with athletes
  - Ozark cost less per credit hour and Ozark student cannot use health services on main campus
- First Forum-Top 3 Priorities
  - Staff support, professional development, better benefits and pay
  - Emergency plan
  - Military Science support
  - Dorms and parking
  - Recycling

II. Feedback on RSO Survey

- Strong academic RSO's
- Community service is higher compared to others
- Professional RSO's higher

III. Presentation Micheal Tarver (History Professor): K-12 Initiative

- Free service (done through donations) for Secondary Education Teachers
- Provides teachers with academic content training on specific topics
- Videos cover academic content not pedagogies and focus is on Arts & Humanities (6 Departments)
- Also a summer institute that is free to local teachers that lasts 1-2 weeks
  - 20 sessions, 15-30 teachers in each session
  - Sessions have been held in Witherspoon, Rothwell, and Lakepoint
- Tech faculty present content. The presentations are taped, edited, and then transferred to DVD; faculty compensated and sign over rights to ATU
- Webpage allows teachers to find the specific topic they need and request a DVD copy. Videos now available through webpage through Sharestream
- Teachers may use the DVD's in their classrooms if they choose.

- 208 videos have been completed, 2,000 DVD's have been given out over the past 4 years, 40 videos are being added this year
- Local schools request certain topics when curriculum changes
- Dardanelle High School uses program a lot while RHS least participation
- Local schools have not asked for Tech to come to them
  - Could Tech Faculty presenting at High School be considered professional development for teachers?

Open Discussion/Question: Should faculty visit local high schools with Tech recruiters?

- It would help to have Tech faculty seen in local high schools
- Students could meet professors
- Can assist students with college planning and conduct information assessments
  - Students change their minds about majors and this can be problematic
- Student readiness is an issue at Tech
- 1<sup>st</sup> generation students could use pointers on scholarships and what resources are available to them
- Tech students can now apply for admission and scholarships at the same time

IV. Presentation Julie Mikles-Schluterman (Sociology Professor): Innovation Center

- Spring 2016 project based course, real problem solving
- 12 distinguished students from different disciplines on campus
- Students will work on a revitalization project with Downtown Russellville.
- Students will generate a proposal
- This course could be used in different industries and disciplines
- Encourages entrepreneurship and innovation

Open Discussion/Questions:

- Business College and Computer Science have similar courses
- Hands-on learning that allows students to make connections in the community
- May encourage the community to support Tech more
- Students should remember to consult with their clients to discuss ideas
- How can such programs be opened to a larger blocks of ATU students?

V. Question 1: Are any programs intentionally focused on the community are primarily academic in nature (e.g. lecture series open to the community, special access for local citizens, and etc.)?

- Doing a survey of deans and department heads to measure integration of such opportunities into the curriculum
- Tech does not sponsor a lecture series
  - Do we have someone who can draw up a proposal to get a distinguished speaker for a lecture series?
- Clinton School offers lectures. Can Tech students attend?
- Does Tech have funds allotted for distinguished speakers?
- Could we use our own faculty?
  - This would promote our faculty within the community, giving the community and university an opportunity to know our faculty better

VI. Question 2: What are the internship possibilities for students that align with their majors and/or career objectives?

- Students are apprehensive about leaving Tech and Russellville for internships
- Academic requirements are not organized Why are internships not more a part of curriculum?
- Career Fair gives students information
  - Career Fair is October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 72 businesses are participating
  - There has never been over 290 students in attendance
- Communication is a problem on campus
  - How can we get information better dispersed?
  - Are people seeking information?
  - Is it information overload?
  - What information source are students using most?

VII. Tech Information Systems: How can we collaborate and share our technology more with our surrounding cities and towns?

- Highest bandwidth in the area, but has not been used
  - Plans to connect to Russellville PD for emergency reporting
  - Other facilities? Adult education center? County library?
  - Unused Ar-on services that can easily facilitate large data sharing with universities within the state, in surrounding states and potentially the world. Essentially 10 gig capabilities
- Videoconferencing system was installed but Tech has not used it as planned
- How can we hire our own students more as interns at Computer Services (OIS)?
- Wireless campus? ATU is working on it...
  - Density major issue in wireless connectivity
  - Current radio units server about 25 people in 30+ radius. Means a lot of radios need to cover high density dorms

VIII. What is the relationship with high schools and community colleges in the region? How does Tech connect and communicate with the other universities in the region?

- Tech has 10 gig connection capabilities to Arkansas educational institutions
  - Have capability to connect to educational institutions beyond Arkansas but has not been a need or demand
- OIS ensures that Tech currently has the bandwidth it needs to connect to other institutions in the future. When needed it will be ready and accessible

IX. Next Meeting: Open Forum-One University: Brand and Identity, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 4:00pm-6:00pm in Doc Bryan Lecture Hall