

Working Group-The University as a Public Institution

Committee Meeting Minutes: September 28th, 2015

3:00pm-4:00pm RPL 325

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: Brandon Wright and Amanda Johnson (Norman Career Services)

Not Present: Emily Bradley and Dr. Sandy M. Smith

Proceedings:

- I. Charge Open Discussion/Review Initial Objectives: Discussion about Objective 2 from Initial Objectives.
 - Tech needs to think bigger in terms of Athletics, as we have a top notch Division II athletics program. ATU should follow more of a collegiate model in operation and recruitment and steer away from the high school mentality.
 - Should consider models of other schools and how they manage their logos.
 - Discussion about Jerry to clarify possible confusion in regards to our mascot.
 - Reviewed Tech Traditions book.
 - Green cords are given to graduates who complete the Tech Traditions Challenge.
 - There are 35 traditions that should be completed to earn a cord.
 - There is not many students who complete this.
 - Could this challenge be revised to get better participation?
 - Could Tech add more activities to the Tech Traditions book?
 - Should Tech create a committee that tries to promote ATU traditions?
 - Parade used to be a big Tech tradition, but is no longer organized.
 - There is poor participation at Pep Rally.
 - How can we better inform faculty and staff about Tech spirit events?

Recommended action: Tech better communicate and expand participation in programs like the Tech Traditions book. Tech explore creating a committee of students, faculty, staff, and alumni that promote the ATU traditions and brand.

- Tech Connect is still active.
 - There is new leadership being chosen for the committee.
 - There has been discussion about having 2 chairs for the committee, one from Tech and one from the Chamber of Commerce.
 - This committee facilitates connecting Tech with the business community.

I. Discuss Information Submitted by Brian Lasey (Facilities Management)

Topic 1: New Student Recreation Center vs. New Student Dorm

- What is more critical housing or rec facility? Which is more accessible through the community?
- What do students want more? This depends on the student.

Arguments for and against a new dorm

- Tech does not have plans to build a new dorm on campus despite the fact that some students continue to be housed in local hotels.
- Could housing students in local hotels be a security/safety issue?
- Enrollment is expected to level off and discontinue housing problems.
- Some student dorms are in bad shape and need to be updated.
- Is student housing and student conditions a factor in retention? Anecdotal stories suggest yes.
- How do parents and the community view Tech housing situation?

Arguments for and against a Recreation Center

- Some feel that the Recreation Center would also serve the community and this may regain community relationship.
- Tech has removed some community services (Pool, Track, and Community Courses) over the years and this has caused some tension with the surrounding community.
- Do students complete a survey when they withdraw from Tech stating the reason? Most common reason not very informative, as they typically mark “personal reasons”. Most national studies show finance is the number 1 reason.

Recommended action: Consensus is that both are NEEDED.

II. Next Meeting: October 5th, 2015 from 3:00pm-5:00pm in RPL 325.

Discuss Community Collaborations (Perceptions and Values): Questions 5-6

GUESTS: Bruce Sikes, Chancellor of the Ozark Campus; Kurt Jones (City Engineer)

1. Presentation by Kurt Jones on Russellville Development Plans
2. What are the benefits to the University that flow from high-functioning and mutually beneficial programs or shared services with surrounding towns? Can we develop an inventory of the existing collaborations that are successful examples?
3. How often and in what numbers do people who aren't members of the university community come on campus and for what reasons? Should more of that kind of campus involvement be encouraged?