Working Group-The University as a Public Institution

Committee Meeting Minutes: October 5th, 2015
3:00pm-4:45pm 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: Bruce Sykes (Chancellor of the Ozark Campus), Justin Smith (Ozark), and Kurt Jones (City Engineer).

Not Present:

Proceedings:
  I.   Update on SPC meeting:
- We are co-hosting the Oct 19th forum.
- We will be meeting in RPL 316 on October 12th.

  II.   Presentation Kurt Jones (City Engineer)
Presentation 1: Russellville Development Plan
- Main project is the O Street improvement project (2015)
    o 3 lanes, sidewalks and bike trails on both sides, lined with trees and lights, Storm drains will be underground
    o Estimated to be a 10 month project
- Reasoner (2016), Glenwood (2017), L and H (2018) street expansions
- Will create a loop around campus and provide more access to emergency vehicles.
    o Provides alternate route for drivers and alleviates congestion at busier intersections leading to campus.
- The biggest challenge is completing the Prairie Creek crossing

Open Discussion/Questions:
- Can a left hand turn be put in at the O Street and Arkansas intersection?
    o City plans to improve this intersection for pedestrians
- Could a roundabout work at this intersection?
    o Possible but does not solve the problem of pedestrian crossing.
    o There is also a drainage issue due to an undersized drainage system.

  III.   Presentation Justin Smith (Chief Business and Community Outreach Officer- Ozark)
Presentation 2: Ozark Campus Business and Community Outreach
- Provides industry training
    o Ex.-Partnership with Green Bay Packing Center in Morrilton.
        o Green Bay Packing employees provide the training.
        o Train almost 30 companies in classes made up of 12 trainees in electrical and technical training
- Customized contract training
    o If Ozark does not offer the training, then find someone who does and set up the course for the company.
    o This gives companies access to grant funding when they use a college/university for training needs.

- Provides Leadership Program-10 months
  - Ex.- Invites children K-12 to campus for various activities and outreach programs.
- Involved with a lot of Chambers from surrounding communities.
- Campus advertising at various events and chambers.
- Career and professional development activities and events on campus.
  - Provide space for organizations and in return they get to experience the campus.
  - Events are often held on campus to engage the community.
- Ozark assists industry with accessing grant funds/grant writing.
- VESTA Program (Viticulture and Enology Science)
  - Wine and grape education
- 18 school districts are tied to Ozark Campus.
- Ozark does not have an official Career Services Department.

Open Discussion/Question: 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?

- Education and economic growth go hand in hand.
- Silo approach doesn't work. Departments need to work together.
- Tech needs to communicate its resources.
- Need to have more on campus events that include the community.
  - Outside conferences
- Should Tech have a central clearing house for internship collaborations?
- Should Tech increase its standards?
- Is it better that Ozark and the Main Campus become one University?
  - We do not share the same handbook.
  - What is our obligation to the state?
  - Does Ozark and the Main campus provide different services and meet different needs of students?

IV.   Next Meeting: October 12th, 2015 from 3:00pm-5:00pm in RPL 316 (NOTE ROOM CHANGE).
Discuss Community Collaborations (Practical Activities): Academic- Questions 1-2
Discuss Collaborations with Other Educational Institutions: Questions 1-2
GUEST: Julie Mikles-Schluterman (Sociology Professor); Brandon Wright (Norman Career Services)

- 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.)?
- What are the internship possibilities for students that align with their majors and/or career objectives?
- How does Tech connect and communicate with the other universities in the region?
- What is the relationship with high schools and community colleges in the region?