

Working Group-The University as a Public Institution

Committee Meeting Minutes: November 9th, 2015

3:00pm-5:00pm 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:

Proceedings:

I. SPC Update

- Honor code and soccer team were discussed at student forum
- Track and Field was also discussed at forum
- Survey results of Deans and Dept. Heads were distributed
- Our WG currently has 20 proposed initiatives

II. Opening Comments

- Relationship is getting stronger between ATU and the city of Russellville
- Already collaborating to improve buildings in Russellville, Dardanelle, Pottsville and Atkins with Paint the River Valley through the Uncommon Communities program
- Beneficial relationship between ATU administration and the citizens of Russellville

III. Question 1: What are the political connections with local government that are formal, if any?

- Currently, Russellville city officials are working with ATU on a joint statement, a compact, on economic development projects for El Paso and O Street.
 - Beneficial for students who live east of campus
- Housing shortage not only on campus but in Russellville for students
 - Board of Realtors providing a program for students who can rent
 - Housing at a discount combined with ATU housing system
- Need a representative who works with ATU and provides contact with the mayor's office.
 - Establish a political connection that can address housing
- ATU was reactionary to the growth on campus, planning was addressed very quickly
- It was suggested ATU and Russellville School District need a representative or liaison on City Council
- Need some economic collaboration spearheaded by ATU with business leaders
 - Due to the power plant closing in next 20 years, although decommissioning will be a long process
 - Could ATU help realize the multimodal facility proposed by City of Russellville (which owns 220 acres near the dam)

- Port near river would bring economic stability to Russellville. Idea is tied up in the courts due to environmental impact on area
- Need to facilitate ATU students staying in Russellville and obtaining high tech jobs
 - What can we learn from Conway? UCA has played a big role in convincing HP to establish a branch in Conway
 - Good model in Russellville would be relationship between ATU nursing program and St. Mary's Hospital
- Another future possible project is a Veterans Administration Building. Last was built in Little Rock but there will be another one in the future...

IV. Question 2: What are the benefits to the University that flow from high-functioning and mutually beneficial programs or shared services with local government? Can we develop an inventory of the existing collaborations that are successful examples?

- ATU has intern programs for EMT and Parks and Recreation with City of Russellville
- ROTC program seeking better facilities
- Tech needs a lobbyist
- Mainstreet Mission has talked about wanting an app that narrates the historical evolution of downtown Russellville
 - Tech students could do this through collaboration among IT students and Public History students
 - Would need to determine the ownership of the app and who receives the royalties
- City Council has talked of a fiber network throughout the city
- It is difficult to host large groups on campus
- Could open auditorium on campus for concerts
- Public backlash when tech got rid of pool, the track, and community classes
- Students need to know more about local businesses
- Communication outlets for students need to be established
 - Hiring a third party to study Tech communication outlets

V. Review White Paper

- Discussed adding track and field program
- Adding woman's soccer program would be easier than adding a men's program
- Quality of life initiatives discussed
- Building of student rec center
- Combining Tech identity and brand into one initiative
- Revising the mission statement
- Hiring fulltime lobbyist vs. part time lobbyist
- Tradition Keeper program, should we hire staff to recruit for this program?

VI. Next Meeting Scheduled Nov. 16th Discuss ATU's relationship and voice in State Government

GUESTS: Arkansas State Representative Trevor Drown, Arkansas State Senator Greg Standridge, and State Auditor Andrea Lea

1. What are ATU's relationships with state government? Who is responsible for them? How are they coordinated?
2. How effective is ATU and higher education in lobbying the state government? Suggestions for more effectively getting our interests represented?
3. Should ATU have a full-time lobbyist? What should his/her role be?