

# Working Group-The University as a Public Institution

Committee Meeting Minutes: August 31, 2015

3:00pm-4:15pm 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

Not Present: Zachary Swartz

Proceedings:

I. Review of Charge:

- No revisions were suggested when reviewing the charge.

II. Charge Open Discussion/Questions & Ideas

Topic 1: Group should think about where Tech will be in 5 years.

- Some concern Russellville does not attract high tech jobs and industry.
- How do we retain Tech graduates in Russellville?  
**Recommended Action: Use one committee meeting for bringing in 3 main employers in Russellville, find out what they are looking for in employees, and what they need specifically from ATU.**
- Need to know what Russellville is doing over next 5 years to help us plan for what Tech can and should do.  
**Recommended Action: Invite the Russellville City engineer to discuss where Russellville is going as a town for one committee meeting.**
- Some students feel encouraged to live off of campus due to enrollment numbers.
- Does living off campus cause disconnect with students? Studies show that students who live on campus have higher retention rates.
- Off-campus housing problem  
**Recommended Action: Conduct a poll of students about housing on and off campus.**
- Suggested looking into tuition changes over the past 20 years.
- Idea: Community Dog Park.
- Marketing quality of life at Tech may help with retaining students.

Topic 2: How to proceed to answer charge?

- Discovered that the committee will have to uncover a lot of information in order to address certain areas of the charge.
- Should we invite people from Ozark and get their input?  
**Recommended Action: Holding a meeting at Ozark.**
- Noted that our meetings are open to the public.

III. ATU Mission: Open discussion about whether or not ATU's mission adequately captures who we are and what we do today.

- Discussed data covering the evolution of Tech (1994-2014).
  - Agreed that mission could be changed to better represent the culture of Tech.
  - Estimated mission was last reviewed and minorly revised in Spring 2006-Fall2007
  - Discussed mission having more of a collaboration with Ozark to promote one university.
  - Decided feedback from faculty, staff, and students about ATU mission would be helpful in the rewriting of the mission statement.
- Recommended Action: Group unanimously agreed one of the WG's committee recommendations is that ATU consider revising its Mission Statement.**

IV. Review of Meeting Schedule:

- Discussed and agreed on meeting schedule.
- Committee will meet every Monday from 3:00pm-5:00pm until Fall Break.

V. Next Meeting:

- Next meeting September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 3:00pm-5:00pm in RPL 325.
- Before the next meeting the committee will work on reaching out to students and the community to ask the following questions:
  - ❖ While specifically thinking about ATU and its history and traditions, how would you define its contributions to the “Public Good”?
  - ❖ What is Tech's special niche in the overall university system and should it be any different than it currently is?
  - ❖ Who are the personnel on campus most responsible for creating, nurturing and managing the relationships with the community and creating a “brand” that acknowledges ATU’s responsibility to contribute to the public good?