



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

Miller Administration Boardroom and Zoom

PRESENT:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost (via Zoom)

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement (via Zoom)

Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Asst. Vice President for Diversity & Chief Diversity Officer (via Zoom)

Ms. Sherri Cox, Secretary to the Board

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Laine Berghout, Faculty Senate Chair/Professor/Chemistry

Dr. Gail Niklason, Staff Advisory Council Chair

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Mr. Hark Halverson, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Campus Planning

Dr. Tim Renick, Executive Director at the National Institute for Student Success at GSU (Zoom)

Tyler Walsh, Senior Program Advisor | National Institute for Student Success at GSU (Zoom)

Cary Claiborne, Director of Diagnostic Services - National Institute for Student Success at GSU (Zoom)

Dr. Eric Amsel, Associate Provost and Professor of Psychology

Dr. Jessica Oyler, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources

EXCUSED:

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Brad Mortensen, who welcomed all in attendance.

Agenda Items**Meeting Minutes Approval (December 1, 2021):**

Meeting minutes from December 1, 2021, were reviewed by the President's Council. The minutes were approved.

COVID-19 Updates:

President Mortensen discussed COVID-19 updates including three evolving topics: Masks, testing, and courses. The U and SLCC are abiding by the SLC County mask mandates for their campuses. Our local health departments have not made a county mask mandate and we abide by their guidelines. Testing on campus has opened up space in Shepherd Union, Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm for as long as we have tests available. Symptomatic testing can be done by appointment at the Student Health Center. Public Safety is offering re-entry testing through the end of this week. A mobile testing drive-through site at Dee Events Center parking lot is being considered by the health department. Questions on how to handle classes still exist with all of the unknown variables. This will be monitored closely, based on classrooms, temporary situations, and cases. It is difficult to make determinations as the situation is fluid. Faculty have concerns as well. It is important that they feel empowered to make the decision to change classes temporarily to online if adjustments are needed. Communication with the deans and departments is encouraged. Tracking of case counts on campus will help with monitoring this situation. Other USHE institutions are all planning on holding courses as scheduled. We are working to be in compliance with USHE's mandates on courses. Vaccination mandates have been issued by the federal government. There are three that have all been met with resistance. We are waiting to see how things will evolve and how it could affect our campus.

USHE /Legislative Updates:

President Mortensen discussed the following USHE updates:

- a. Performance funding allocations for the legislative session. Through the allocation model, we are set to receive 100% of \$3.6 million award per FTE if the funding passes.
- b. Funding of buildings will be allocated differently in FY23. It is driven by various factors, such as utilization. We typically receive 10% of what USHE allocates.

Preliminary National Institute for Student Success Findings:

Guests from Georgia State University, National Institute of Student Success (NISS) joined President's Council via Zoom to discuss preliminary NISS findings. Dr. Tim Renick, Tyler Walsh, and Cary Claiborne gave an overview of the findings from their visit to Weber State University and campus survey results:

a. Diagnostic Analysis Purpose:

We are at the midpoint with engagement with WSU. IPEDs Data has been examined. A campus survey has been conducted with 40+ “in-the-know” stakeholders at WSU on student success. Data questionnaires have been completed. Diagnostic objectives to identify challenges, prioritize where to focus, provide clear, concise, data-led insights, create opportunity for alignment, and lay out clear new paths moving forward are in process. Retention and graduation rates are below national norms. We have considerable equity gaps that affect this. WSU has a great strategic plan for improvement, outcomes, and equity for students.

b. Executive Summary:

1. **Key Strengths:** WSU has a healthy steady increase in enrollment over the past decade. The outcome-driven strategic plan laid out in AMPLIFIED sets forth detailed student success goals that can be realized through substantive, coordinated changes supported by campus leadership.
2. **Four Key Challenges:**
 - i. Lack of disaggregation between associate degrees and bachelors degrees.
 - ii. Persistent equity gaps for Pell-eligible and non-white students.
 - iii. Under-coordinated financial aid and academic advising offices.
 - iv. Inadequate data resources. Changes begin with stakeholders, faculty, and staff concerning what is happening in real time with students. The current data resources are not compatible with the timely delivery of this information that is needed.
3. **Supporting Insights:**
 - i. Great strategic goals to increase the number of students earning both associate and bachelors degrees. Because all students are grouped together, it can result in a gross undercount of bachelors graduation rates. Degree programs are locked in during their first semester of school and that is where they are tracked is in that program. Associate degree students pursuing associate’s degrees are tracked the same as bachelor’s students, which causes them to be counted as a failure if they don’t graduate with a bachelors degree.
4. **Recommendations:**
 - i. Create two cohorts: Associate degree and bachelors degree students tracked separately in different cohorts rather than together. Report them separately. This will improve our data results. It is not just an issue for tracking student data. It means staff, advisors, registrars, etc. are at a disadvantage because they are not aware of the student’s needs. Students need a map to chart their path to their goal. This change will effectively track students’ progress.
 - ii. How to effectively communicate a message to students that may fall into the “undecided” category. Develop specific

programs to help students make specific choices in a degree direction.

- iii. Retention and graduation rates below national benchmarks need to be improved. We are losing students not only after year 1, but years 2, 3, and 4 which is below the national norm. We are treading water with no improvement.
- iv. Pell vs. non-Pell students is significant. Non-Pell students have a higher grad. Rate by 21% points.
- v. White vs. non-white students is significant by 20% points higher rate for white students. 83% increase of Hispanic students since 2010.
- vi. Under-coordinated financial aid – Pell students have decreased 39% since 2013. This is not necessarily a positive statistic. Financial aid and academic advising could definitely be better collaborators. Many students get stuck in the financial aid labyrinth because they don't know what they don't know. We need to be proactive in contacting students about financial aid instead of waiting for them to come to us.
- vii. Under-coordinated advising-Academic advisors across campus have different methods for tracking appointments, documentation, and expectations for utilizing our early alert system, and different professional dev. And training opps. A standardized process for tracking students receiving advising should be implemented. 5 out of 8 colleges/depts. are using Starfish to track student appointments. Low-income and underserved students suffer the most from this. Minimum standards need to be implemented for reporting across campus.
Lack of Associate and Bachelor-student specific support programs. We need the first-year program as that is where most of the loss of students occurs. They need to be scaled across all populations.
- viii. Inadequate data resources. Incredibly understaffed in our data information teams. Data is not provided in a timely manner.

5. Next Steps:

- i. Share diagnostic analysis with the WSU leadership.
- ii. The Playbook is the second of two deliverables in the diagnostic process.
- iii. Purpose, Executive Summary, prioritized actions.
- iv. Share diagnostic analysis with stakeholders.
- v. 10% is data changes – 90% is cultural changes.
- vi. Improve equity gaps.

Early Retirement Requests:

Mr. Mark Halverson discussed the early retirement request for Juan Garcia from facility management.

Approval: The early retirement request from Juan Garcia was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

FY22 Course Fee Proposals:

Provost Krovi discussed a course fee change request from the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities. The request was rejected. One-time funding was used to cover fees instead. Vice President Mennell may need to connect with Dean Uman to help with Dept. of Visual Arts and Design (DOVAD) funding.

Approval: The FY22 course fee changes were approved to move forward to the Board of Trustees.

Wasatch Writers Center:

Provost Krovi discussed the new creative Wasatch Writers Center. The center has replicated what the New York Writers Society does and will have outreach with high school programs as well.

Approval: The new Wasatch Writers Center was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Certificate in Sustainable Land Use Planning:

Provost Krovi discussed the certificate in sustainable land use planning from the Department of Geography, Environment and Sustainability. This is an opportunity for students who may not be in the geography department but seek credit in this area by earning this certificate.

Approval: The certificate in sustainable land use planning was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Department Chair Recommendation:

Provost Krovi discussed the department chair recommendation for Political Science. The current chair is stepping down to take sabbatical. Mary Beth Willard is being recommended to fill this position.

Approval: The department chair recommendation for Mary Beth Willard was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

2022-2023 Sabbatical Requests:

Provost Krovi discussed the 2022-2023 sabbatical requests. There were 38 applications received, and 30 were selected to move forward for approval. Deans need to consider how to schedule multiple requests, take into account prioritization of first-time applicants, who has received tenure, and the scope of work. Part of the sabbaticals will be granted for spring, and part for fall. Some have been asked to reapply next year based on the impact to the colleges.

Approval: The 2022-2023 sabbatical requests were approved to move to the Board of Trustees pending corrections made to the information Listed under Aubrey Jone's section.

Board of Trustees Draft Agenda – January 25, 2022:

President Mortensen discussed the Board of Trustees draft agenda for the January 25, 2022, meeting. The Executive Committee meeting minutes draft needs to be added for approval. The location needs to be changed to Jack D. Lampros Hall for Teaching and Learning. Tamara Goldbogen's presentation title needs to be updated.

Other:

Other items discussed during President's Council included the faculty and staff town hall being held today. Questions have been updated and implemented into the slides.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming events were provided for reference in the packet. It was noted that the January 15, 2022, men's basketball game has been postponed to Monday, January 31. Enrique Romo's retirement reception is being held Friday, January 14 in SU 404 in the afternoon.

Adjournment:

Without any further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.