

**Strategic Planning Committee
Major Initiatives Open Campus Forum
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022
Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Location: Heritage Room
Facilitators: Dr. Rice, Exec. Dean Barr, Assoc. Dean Cox, Director Murphy, Division Chair Boots
Dr. Weiss, Exec. Dean Hite, Division Chair Cummins

In Attendance: Ricky Sauls, Kelli Mahoney, Angie Wilson, Adriana Armstrong, Marzel Scates, Angela Carter, Lori Olson, Erica Griffin, Cara Lehman, Reagan Lees, Jerri Harbison, Arla Murphy, Michelle Metten, Brian Rick, Tyler Billman, Jenny Billman, Alison Edmund, Jennifer Roehm-Scheffer, Audrey Talbott, Becky Robinson, Ralph Boots, Jennifer Hosman, Bre Richardson, Amanda Payne, Kimberly Rapp, Sky Fowler, Kim Martin, Kimberly Hambleton

General Purpose for Meeting:

Open Campus Forum for Developing Strategic Initiatives on the following topics:

TRENDS

Demographic

Economic/Workforce

Higher Education Forecasts

ACCOUNTABILITY

Community

HLC/ICCB Recommendations

Audit/Finance

Meeting Notes/Tasks Accomplished:

Barr - Welcome. The purpose of the meeting is to present the proposed broad strategic initiatives and get feedback as well as spark discussion. These initiatives were developed from a sub-committee based on feedback, data, research and information from the white papers. Those initiatives are:

1. Advance Student Success –includes academics, student services, program development, social services, IE/R, KPIs.
2. Strengthen Operational Efficiency – includes finance, IE/R, human resources
3. Foster a supportive, inclusive, and modern learning environment – includes DEI, facilities, IT, clubs, student government
4. Promote community and economic development – includes CTE, workforce development, president’s office, legislative affairs, events

Question – How do these align with the new mission, vision, values? Do they cover these?

Topic – TRENDS

Demographic/Economic

Cox - There are 2 key items in demographics and economic trends to point out – the declining population in the district and the increase in those receiving public aid. This affects our tax dollars which means less money the college receives from the state. However, there is an upside to the situation. SIC offers all programs to cover the top needed jobs by post-secondary degrees. SIC is hitting the mark in this area. Since we cannot increase the population in this area, a solution is to attract out-of-district students in.

High Education Forecasts/Trends

Murphy - The research presented came from valuable sources. There were 2 key words mentioned throughout – transformation and adaptation. These are both necessary in reaching Generation Z. In order to do so, colleges need to focus on the journey rather than start and finish. This includes looking at ways to track student progress and increase student involvement. There may be a need to adapt programming with micro-credentialing and creative scheduling.

Dr. Rice - SIC is not alone in enrollment drops. This a problem with colleges both locally and across the country. He cited that a recent study showed the loss of 1 million college students nationwide. One out of 2 high school graduates are not going anywhere after graduation.

Question – How do we get them back into college?

- Creative Scheduling
- Offering Prior Credit
- Open enrollment
- Redesign programs of study
- Aggressive counseling – think differently
- Cohort based education
- Retool for today's culture

The college is doing a great job, but we need to continue making strides by marketing the value of higher education with creative solutions.

A 5% increase in funding for higher education proposed by the Governor would help tremendously.

Topic – ACCOUNTABILITY

Community, HLC, ICCB

- Dr. Weiss - HLC is our tie into the Department of Education. The last visit from HLC was in 2019 and they gave us recommendations that included:
- The need for program level initiatives
 - General education assessment
 - Institutional data for student retention – goal is to get students to the finish.

HLC Accreditation is very important to our funding especially since SIC has such as high number of students receiving financial aid.

- Metten - The percentage of SIC students receiving financial aid is between 68-70%.

- Dr. Weiss - ICCB is the state agency the college reports to. The last visit from ICCB was April 2015 and they left SIC with recommendations that included:
- Developing dual credit for juniors and seniors – We are doing this, but there are a lot of factors that play into this which allows for exceptions.
 - Making sure students are involved in the assessment process. – Dr. Weiss asked Student Trustee Reagan Lees who was present if she felt students were involved and she agreed.
 - Full- & Part-time faculty guidelines – We are following this and making sure all credentials are correct.

SIC is due for a visit soon from ICCB. A date has not been set. Overall, SIC is doing a great job, but there is always room for improvement.

- Cummins - The key is transparency by working data into everything we are doing. We need to make sure the information is accessible to whoever wants to see it.

Audit/Finance

- Barr - Looking at the audit findings and we are in ok shape. The hope is that the state will increase funding at least 2%, if not the full 5% as proposed. We want to keep tuition and fees steady as long as the enrollment numbers hold.

- Hite - CFIE Scores measure the health of the institution. Anything above 3 is considered good.

- Barr - We are on the verge of seeing the fallout from COVID. This could lead to budget crunches and a need for long term planning.

- Hite - The current CFI score. 2.77

- Dr. Rice - Stimulus funds do not calculate in. New flooring in the VPAC and ionizers are some of the results of this. These items could not have been afforded without this type of federal funding.

General Discussion

- Dr. Rice - The sub-committee did a great job in reviewing and developing the major initiatives. The goal was to create initiatives that tied to the SIC mission, vision and values using environmental scanning and evidence versus intuition.
- Cummins - The subcommittee developed the initiatives like an umbrella. The goal was to be very broad.
- Dr. Rice - The initiatives stay with us as part of the Strategic Plan for 5-years and serves as a roadmap to where the college is headed. The need is to develop an operational plan for the stops we make along the way to achieving them. An example could be to develop a program to reach kids as young as junior high. This would fall into community, initiative #4.
- Dr. Billman - Ideas may be included in one, but are not limited to just that one initiative.
- Rick - Recently visited a community college in Arizona. CTE enrollment and funding was low. That college used micro-credentialing to get both credit and non-credit funding to pull not only those right out of high school, but the workforce as well. The result was a 50% improvement.
- Barr - That falls under initiative #4.
- Dr. Weiss - There are opportunities with Clearwave to develop programs for jobs related to that industry.
- Barr - Does the 4 proposed initiative work or is 5 needed?
- Dr. Rice - Addressed the need to look at the student prospective.
- Barr - Previously spoke with a Leia Bryant, a student, who expressed the need for inclusion – clubs, groups, etc. He said this is something that COVID dampened and needed to be brought back.
- Dr. Weiss - SIC has been looking for innovative ways to do that. E-Sports is an example.
- Dr. Rice - There is a need to look for custom training, different scheduling, etc. The real creative will be in creating the sub-initiatives in small group discussions. The white papers will be used and it may be helpful to look at the SWOT analysis that have been done. There was a lot of great ideas within that.
- Martin - How can we can help encourage the 5% funding from the state?

Dr. Rice - Contact those representing us and running for election and stress the importance of setting partisanship aside and focusing on what really matters and that is education. Patrick Windhorst, Dale Fowler, Darren Bailey, Terri Bryant, etc. The state has been at flat level funding for higher education since 2006.

Hite - Currently the state pays \$.21 on the dollar for every credit hour.

Barr - \$.21 is the amount paid since 2006.

Barr - Thank you to all that attended and for the input. Next open campus forum is scheduled for Wednesday, 2/16, at 11:30am in the Heritage Room. Topic for discussion is Student Success – KPIs and Benchmarking, Enrollment/Retention/Recruitment.

Meeting was adjourned at 1pm.

Meeting notes submitted by Kimberly Hambleton.