

PIE Council Minutes

Friday, January 26, 2024

1:30 PM

Welty Board Room/Zoom

Members Present: Brian Anderson, Barry Smith, Jo Shumake, Jennifer Moore, Aaron Brooks, Marty Hatton, Christi Dillon

Members Present Via Zoom: Sam Garrie, Magan Evans, Christy Dickerson, Jess Harpole, Tracee Watkins, Leigh Anne Puckett, Clear Moore, Penny Mansell, Shana Lenoir

Discussion – Enrollment Reports (Fall 2023)

Members discussed the enrollment data presented by Jennifer Moore.

Jennifer noted that enrollment for transfer students has been on a steady decline for quite a while, and that the 1-year graduation rate for the same group had fallen to below 40%. The 6-year graduation rate for the 2016-2022 and 2017-2023 cohorts were below 40% as well, which was attributed to the large group of Nepalese students who started but did not finish their degrees here. Community college enrollment is down, so our pipeline of transfer students will be affected. Technical degrees and Workforce Development are in the forefront right now, and the group agreed this is having an effect on enrollment as well.

On the Heat Map Table (Fall 2001 – Fall 2023), the total of new degree-seeking undergraduates has declined steadily while during the same period (2020 – 2021), the number of graduate students increased. The increase was attributed, in part, to MDE's suspending the requirements for licensure. The MAT program had significant growth during that time.

Nursing's BAS degree is a technical degree, which allows 40 transfer credits. The possibility of adding other technical programs was proposed, as well as sharing that information with the Enrollment Management Council.

Discussion – FY 25 Budget

The university's budget consists of 65% from tuition and 35% from appropriations, a proposal to begin using Zero-Based Budgeting has been raised. This type of budgeting does not use previous years' figures; it ranks items based on importance. Funding would be aligned with strategic priorities, with the higher priorities receiving more funding, and budget requests would require a full justification to be approved.

The group reviewed the University's Strategic Priorities document and decided that although they were all important, Financial Sustainability and Degree Completions should be prioritized.

A motion was made by Brian to recommend that Financial Sustainability and Degree Completions be the priorities in budgeting. Aaron seconded the motion and the committee voted to accept it.

Next Meeting

Dr. Anderson mentioned that he shared the results of our meeting in October with Carla Lowery and Dr. Tollison. He has not heard from them, but hopes to hear something soon.

The group may not meet next month unless there is something to discuss. If not, we will meet again on March 29th.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christi Dillon