

Pie Council Minutes
November 20, 2009
1:30pm
Welty Board Room

Members Present: Marty Hatton, Shaochen Yang, James Ward, Sheila Adams, Rusty King, Bobby Fugitt, Mark Bean, Larry Jones, Dave Haffly, Kevin Patrick (attending for Sirena Parker), John Davis, Barbara Garrett, Carla Lowery, Carmen Osburn, Jo Beth Hamlett, Nora Miller, Eric Daffron, Chair

Members Absent: Brianna Brown, Brandon Newsom, Vicki Leach, Randy Stewart, Twila Alpe, Cassie Derden, Perry Sansing, Gary Bouse

The minutes from the September meeting were approved by the committee.

Eric Daffron began the meeting by informing the group that the due date for review of ACTION Plans will be delayed until the last working day in January. Handouts were given listing the review groups and the areas they would be responsible for. The next PIE meeting, which will be in January, will be used to organize details and discuss the process.

Carla Lowery and Eric Daffron gave a presentation on Student Engagement and Retention. This presentation stemmed from the results of the NSSE, which replaced the ACT Student Satisfaction Survey, the Commencement Survey, and the UN101 Survey, which is a required course for all first time incoming freshmen. This survey was designed in house when the NSSE was not being administered. Overall, freshmen are behind their peers, while seniors are slightly or significantly ahead of their peers. Eric Daffron then reviewed fall-to-fall student retention of the fall 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 freshman and transfer cohorts. A discussion followed on how to use this data for institutional improvement. Finding weak areas and addressing them in faculty workshops was suggested. There were five areas which the committee felt should be addressed. They are: different recruitment strategies, improving writing skills, how to engage students in more extra curricular activities, wider dissemination of survey results, and advising workshops that address student engagement. .

Nora Miller shared with the committee information which had been presented to the Administrative Council. The governor has proposed a 12% budget reduction. This would actually be closer to an 18% reduction, factoring in other items. 8% has already been accounted for, with another 10% to begin in July. An increase of 1% in enrollment would produce \$85,000.00. Applications to the university have increased 26% over this time last year. Acceptances are up 29%. After Nora had finished, a discussion followed concerning the possible merger, the search for a new president, and other ideas for improving the budgetary situation. .