WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Access to Higher Education Task Force

Feb. 28, 2020

Task Force Charge:

To explore ways to enhance and expand our affiliation(s) in a manner that will significantly increase opportunities for all Kansans to have access to higher education. Focus on developing new programs, creating new alliances and investing in systems to support the student experience.

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| **Co-Chairs** |  | **Attended** |
| Sheree Utash | WSU Tech President | Yes |
| Rick Muma | WSU Provost | Yes |
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| **Members** |  |  |
| Shirley LeFever | Academic Affairs | No |
| David Wright | Academic Affairs | Yes |
| Gina Crabtree | Academic Affairs | No |
| Laura Manning | Academic Affairs | Yes |
| Lois Tatro | Finance and Administration | Yes |
| Alicia Newell | Student Affairs | Yes |
| John Tomblin | Research-Innovation | No |
| Angela Dudley | Foundation | Yes |
| Andy Schlapp | Office of the President | No |
| Tami Cutler | Athletics | Yes |
| Justin Pfeifer | WSU Tech | No |
| Shelly Coleman-Martins | StratComm | Yes |
| Misha Jacob-Warren | General Counsel | Yes |
| Misty Bruckner | Diversity | Yes |
| Gamal Weheba | Faculty Senate | No |
| Linda Moody | Faculty Senate | Yes |
| Kitrina Miller | SGA | No |
| Kathlynn Short | SGA | Yes |
| Tajahnae Stocker | SGA | No |
| Amy McClintock | USS Senate | Yes |
| Donna Hughes | USS Senate | No |
| Krysti Carlson-Goering | UP Senate | Yes |
| John Calabro | UP Senate | Yes |
| Alicia Thompson | USD 259 | Yes |
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**Welcome**

Sheree Utash welcomed the committee and reviewed the task force charge.

**Introductions**

Committee members introduced themselves.

**A national, state and local overview of higher education affiliations**

Sheree presented her power point presentation – An Expanded Multi Campus Model for Wichita State University.

What’s happening now in the Nation? – there have been consolidations, mergers and affiliations in Connecticut, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Minnesota, Arkansas, Maine, Kentucky and New Mexico.

What’s happening locally? – Washburn and Washburn Tech merged; WSU/WSU Tech merged

Who benefits from a powerful partnership? – students, business & industry and institutions because it creates collaboration.

How can we continue to evolve and what’s in the future? Three studies have been done:

TIAA Institute Study - Mergers in Higher Education, a proactive study to a better future

Inside Higher Ed - Growing Role of Mergers in Higher Ed

Boston University – Introduction: A Tale of Two Mergers

Reviewed the Arkansas System Design – they started with 1 community college and are now up to 7.

What would the future of WSU & South Central Kansas look like?

WSU is concerned with increasing access to higher education opportunities and providing an appropriate response to the need for expanded higher education opportunities for all citizens of the state. Community colleges expressing similar concern for providing more accessible quality higher education opportunities suitable to the economic and cultural development of their service areas. Could an expanded multi campus for WSU enhance educational opportunities for the citizens in the specific region by providing the benefits of a WSU system while retaining the community commitment of the community college as well as the loyalty, support, and contribution so demonstratively evidenced by alumni and supporters of the community college? Could this type of plan underscore and enhance the work contributions, and aspirations of all who with justified pride, are responsible for the community college and will achieve economy for the region and for the state of Kansas as it meets increasing enrollments and educational demands without the outlay required to start a new institution by incorporating an established institution into WSU?

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**Ideas to improve, expand and scale WSU’s role to create greater access for higher education**

Things to consider:

How do we share data with other community colleges?

How do we create a system at WSU where the surrounding community colleges become part of WSU? Not just the high schools and community colleges but as far back as middle school?

The committee broke into groups and discussed the following:

**What are the opportunities?**

Increase community support

For post-secondary education – shared value

Increase education opportunities for workforce

Economies of scale to compete nationally/regionally

Reduce duplication of services – programs (centralized hub)

Improved governing relations – data sharing for example

Increased access to higher education

Connections (transfer of credits)

Student experience

Reduce cost

Relationship building/Network – faculty to faculty/advisor to advisor

Increase summer schedule to lessen time of

One government body

**What are the challenges?**

Systems

Business practices

Power/understanding

Confusion/identity

What’s in it for them?

Competition

Lack of respect for other institutions

Financial Aid

Clearly articulate what problem is being solved; what is the win for both?

Debt

Community identity

Lack of Staff

Who report to who (structure)?

Grants – how does that work? (federal – state)

Liability – who is responsible?

**What can we do today?**

Communication

Evaluate current (what is in place)

Expand summer camp options – Scholarships

Articulation enhancements

Communicate valve of higher education/post-secondary

Understanding of services/duplication

Specialization with programs at colleges

Cowley – manufacturing/Butler – healthcare

Portal - landing place for business to connect with education

**Next Steps**

The committee will have two additional meetings and then prepare a recommendation to the president.

The next meeting is April 7.