



Date: May 4, 2020
To: Jay Golden, President
From: New Academic and Institutional Partnership Task Force
Re: Recommendations

Overview:

The task force met twice in person and twice via Zoom to discuss the university's potential for new academic and institutional partnerships and it focused on three areas: a Mexico location, a dental school, and a collaboration with KU School of Medicine in Wichita on a Health Sciences facility. Given the wide array of professional experience represented on the task force, a decision was quickly made that the group's charge was to determine the feasibility of future discussions on these topics and not whether or not any or all of these topics were/are viable. Moreover, members of the task force voiced reservations about being able to make any recommendations in isolation of the many initiatives being discussed on campus at present.

I. **Mexico Location**

Luis Lara, President and CEO of American Industries, a Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico based company contacted Wichita State University in the fall of 2019 to assess our interest in establishing a Chihuahua City location to offer specific aviation and engineering programs.

Activities to date:

- Provost led visit to Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico to assess opportunities
- Hosted officials from Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico for a workshop with WSU stakeholders to further assess opportunities

Discussions to date have indicated a need to determine feasibility in three areas:

- AAS in aviation maintenance (WSU Tech)
- AAS in aircraft manufacturing (WSU Tech)
- BS in product design and manufacturing engineering (WSU)

Recommendation:

Given the feedback to date in support of such a location, it seems reasonable to explore this partnership with the understanding that a potential partnership must

generate revenue for WSU and WSU Tech with minimal up-front investment on the part of WSU and WSU Tech.

II. **Dental School**

Establishing a dental school is an expensive and time-consuming proposition that is seen by the task force as a state-led initiative and not one led solely by Wichita State. There are serious concerns about this initiative that range from program cost to actual need for a dental school in Kansas (*from 2012 KBOR Oral health task force report*). Alternative options discussed were expanding the WSU AEGD program to include a second year of residency in areas of Kansas not well served by dentists coupled with supporting the establishment of mid-level providers (expanded dental hygiene capacity), both of which have been on the table for years and may better meet the Oral Health needs of rural Kansas than a dental school at considerably less cost.

Recommendation:

Given the age of the 2012 KBOR Oral health task force report, the WSU task force recommends not pursuing conversations about a dental school until a new needs-assessment is conducted by state-wide stakeholders.

III. **Health Science Facility**

Wichita State health science facilities are not state-of-the art and the core health science programs, as a part of the College of Health Professions and College of Applied Studies, are scattered across town in five different facilities (Ahlberg Hall, Heskett Center, Metroplex, AEGD, and WSU Old Town) inhibiting inter-professional collaborative education, expected in practice. Conversations between WSU and KU leadership are in the very early stages and because of this, limited information was shared with the Task Force.

Recommendation:

Continuing conversations to create a new facility in partnership WSU, WSU Tech, and with KU School of Medicine in Wichita, preferably on the campus of Wichita State, seems worthy of further discussion especially if the state will financially support this venture.