Admissions Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2015

In attendance: Jane Ann Williams (Chair), LeighAnn Denhartog, Mike Scoles, Polly Walter, Phillip Spivey, Karen Haas, Lisa Christman, Becky Rasnick

Members absent: Lauren Maxwell, Don Perry

Guest: Amber Hall

Scoles made a motion to follow Roberts Rules of Order. Spivey seconded the motion. Motion passed, seven in favor.

Christman made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 16, 2015. Rasnick seconded the motion. Motion passed, seven in favor.

Williams distributed data reports and a review of admissions standards recommended to date. Discussion followed.

Christman noted that based on the data, raising the GPA doesn’t have much of an effect on graduating students. Discussion followed.

Members expressed concern of seemingly conflicting interests of increasing enrollment while at the same time raising admission standards that eliminate potential students. Discussion followed.

DenHartog studies show it usually takes three or more years for student populations to catch up after raising admission standards. The committee understands this is a long term plan.

Hall added that retention is more of a concern than increasing enrollment because we want students to will persist and graduate. Hall and Denhartog shared retention initiatives being implemented this year and other ideas being developed by the Student Success and Retention Council. Members were invited to attend future SSRC meetings since there seems to be some overlap in concerns.

Admissionswould like the term “conditional admission” to be used for those students who are required to take a remedial course or who did not complete the required Arkansas Common Core per the state definition. The committee agreed the term “conditional admit” implies the student is “substandard” and/or does not belong. Admission will not use “conditional admission” in acceptance letters.

Scoles requested additional data indicating graduates by ACT sub-scores and GPA for minorities. He would also like to see a sensitivity analysis showing the percentage of minorities that will be lost by imposing the new admission standards. Scoles reminded members of the AVID mission statement. Discussion followed.

The committee discussed that students with ACT scores below 21 will be required to pass UNIV 1100 in the freshman year. UNIV 100 teaches student study skills and exposes the students to resources available on campus. Participation in the course is expected to improve academic success and persistence toward graduation. Discussion followed.

Rasnick left the meeting at 2:05 pm

After reviewing data and discussing the impact of GPA on diverse students and non-minority students, Walters made a motion to increase the minimum GPA requirement from 2.30 to 2.45. Spivey seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Three members were in favor, three were opposed. No abstaining votes. The chair voted in favor to break the tie. Motion passed, four in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 30th at 1:00 pm in Wingo Hall 214. The first order of business will be to look at nontraditional admissions standards and Compass test scores.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm

/sm