

**All College Assembly Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2015
TC 103A&B, EL HEFNI LC301
MEETING MINUTES**

Terry Cargan, the Chair of the Executive Committee for the All College Assembly, called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Meeting minutes from the Oct. 6, 2014 meeting were approved.

Announcements

Donna Bertolino announced Networking Night for Graduates on Thursday, May 14th, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, to which Advisory Board members, Chambers of Commerce members, Service Clubs, and Student Senate, among others, have been invited. Six related workshops will be scheduled in April.

Thank you

Terry thanked those who were instrumental in making this meeting happen: Ramon Suero, Bobby Erskine, Ali Gagne, Maureen McGonagle, Linda Buckley, Amy Callahan, Steve Mathis, Bill Heineman, and Kim Burns.

Serving and Attracting Adult Students

As a result of a decline in enrollment, there is much concern about the need for attracting adult students. Vice President Bill Heineman presented a PowerPoint presentation listing the following enrollment details. The student headcount has increased by 12.5%. However, the number of students over 25 is declining by 23%. The demographic profile of young students is going to shrink. If we want to stay steady or to progress, we need to pay attention to the adult demographic.

What does it mean to lose 23% in adult headcount? Drop in credits isn't as high as headcount, but still substantial. Fewer students and fewer credits means half a million dollars in revenue not earned. In terms of fulltime faculty, it means 50 fewer sections. Online growth has increased by 26%. Might online possibilities be a solution to attracting more older students? Evening student enrollment has been very steady.

Furthermore, Bill Heineman stated that the bigger issue is how are we doing in terms of our mission – to serve non-traditional students? We seem to be losing students to other institutions. We need to come up with a way to compete with other institutions and stay true to our academic rigor and own values. We need multiple strategies to deal with what our students are looking for, namely, low cost, high-level faculty, and most importantly excellent programs detailing when are the courses completed and what are the major benchmarks along the way.

Dr. Kim Burns discussed two projects that are currently in progress: a program for college-ready adult students interested in accelerating their program completion to a degree. We are hoping to launch this program, offered online in liberal arts and in eight-week terms, in the fall. A second initiative is to offer competency-based courses. We have been approved as an experimental site by the US Dept. of Education, thanks to the efforts of Heather Mores. We now have to determine which program and which courses will be modified to be competency-based. We then need to notify NEASC, get their approval, and submit to the US Dept. of Education. We hope to have the plan developed by the fall of 2015.

The meeting attendees then discussed how to beat the competition and stay true to our mission in the process.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Buckley
March 27, 2015