

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

September 14, 2022

The Administrative Council met on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Athens State Ballroom. Present were Ms. Pam Clark, Recorder; Mr. Richard Collie; Mr. Jonathan Craft; Dr. Andrew Dollar; Dr. Keith Ferguson; Dr. Jameha Gardner; Ms. Jackie Gooch; Mr. Jeff Guenther; Ms. Beth Jenkins; Ms. Belinda Krigel; Dr. Kim LaFevor; Mr. Chris Latham; Mr. Mike McCoy; Dr. Dave Ragsdale; Mr. Derrek Smith; Dr. Lee Vartanian; Dr. Philip Way; Dr. Catherine Wehlburg; Ms. Jennifer Wolfe (Carter proxy); and Dr. Lionel Wright. Dr. Rick Barth; Ms. Toni Carter; Ms. Sarah McAbee; Mr. Gary Valcana; and Ms. Amirah Wasi, SGA President, were absent.

Dr. Way convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone. There were no corrections to the August minutes and they were unanimously approved on a voice vote. He stated the focus of the meeting is on being student centered. He turned the meeting over to Dr. Wehlburg. She stated we will discuss three things:

1. What being student centered would look like?
2. How we can be better at it?
3. What happens next?

The members were divided into five groups for discussions.

Academic Affairs – Gardner, Guenther, Wolfe and Wright

What does being “student centered” look like to you? What elements would you expect to see at an institution that was student centered? What key words come up?

- Availability
- Accessibility
- Feasibility
- Flexibility
- Focus groups
- “One stop” (seamless support for student enrollment and support—online and in-person)
- Customer/Student-centric
- Diversity

In what areas are we doing well?

- Flexibility – diversity of modalities,
- Availability - Hebrew
- Career-centered

In what areas do we need change or improvement?

- Accessibility
- Focus groups – determine what students want ,e.g., class schedules and modalities
- “One-stop” – is there an area where we can do this?
- Resources – website, LMS, SIS and support on campus
- Need more information to find out what our students want

Radical idea: 24/7 library and computer access and a late night gathering space for food, beverages, and studying.

Alumni & Advancement – Ferguson, Gooch, Latham and Vartanian

What does being “student centered” look like to you? What elements would you expect to see at an institution that was student centered? What key words come up?

- Interactive
- Supportive
- Focused
- Responsive
- Welcoming
- Flexible
- Resourceful
- Open

In what areas are we doing well?

- Supportive
- Resourceful – Writing Center and other labs, Counseling, Internships, Financial Aid, Student Support Services and Career Development
- Flexible – active flex, course modalities, Adult Degree Program
- Welcoming

In what areas do we need change or improvement?

- Interactive
- Welcoming – doing well in some areas, but could improve
- Responsive
- Alumni and student engagement – affinity groups

Radical idea: Wrap a student’s car (i.e. COE intern traveling to schools) with Athens State graphics.

Community Engagement – Dollar, Krigel and LaFevor

What does being “student centered” look like to you? What elements would you expect to see at an institution that was student centered? What key words come up?

- Inclusive
- Student narrative
- Success
- Evident outcomes
- Student lens
- Ongoing engagement
- Career focused
- Belonging
- Voice developmental
- Continuum
- Engagement
- “What students want”

- Relevant
- Cultural sensitivity
- Relatable
- Community

In what areas are we doing well?

- Evident outcomes
- Career focused
- Relevant

In what areas do we need change or improvement?

- Inclusive
- Do not tell the student narrative of success
- Continuum (the journey)
- Community engagement - volunteering in the community
- Showcasing the work products that we deliver to the community and employers
- Promote DEI identity
- Focus groups to help identify what the needs are

Radical idea: Create a space for everyone to meet after class or work. This space would be for students to get assistance or meet socially.

Financial Affairs – Craft, McCoy and Ragsdale

What does being “student centered” look like to you? What elements would you expect to see at an institution that was student centered? What key words come up?

- Know
- Challenge
- Inspire
- Listen
- Care
- Flexible
- Invest
- Engage
- Invest
- Engage
- Connect
- Support

In what areas are we doing well?

- Care
- Flexible – modality of instruction and directed studies
- Support – care of ease that we provide our students, emergency loans, payment options, payment plans, Student Success Center and Writing Center

In what areas do we need change or improvement?

- Know the students
- Listen
- Engage
- Customer Service – “one stop shop” and listening to students,

Radical idea: Removing financial issues (free tuition).

Student Affairs & Enrollment – Collie, Jenkins, Smith and Way

What does being “student centered” look like to you? What elements would you expect to see at an institution that was student centered? What key words come up?

- Access
- Success
- Completion
- Concierge
- Engagement
- Student Activities
- Purpose
- Flexible
- University initiatives – Ambassadors, Men of Kennis, Title III/Success Center, SGA and Bonner

In what areas are we doing well?

- Things we do well but does not end – access, success, completion, engagement, purpose and flexible
- Concierge – have services like the Writing Center and Success Coaches that are available on demand
- Student Activities
- University initiatives

In what areas do we need change or improvement?

- Can improve in access, success, completion, engagement and purpose
- Flexible – outdated processes that need to be evaluated
- Access - limitation on offering general education courses to students and specific master’s degrees

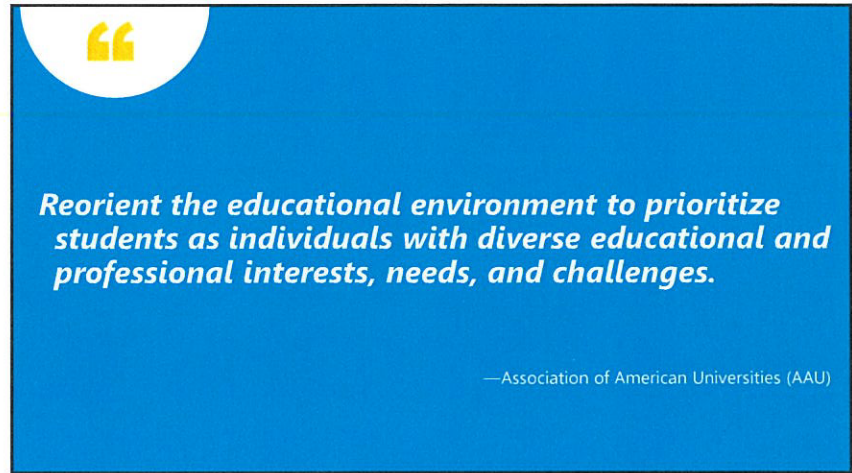
Radical idea: Build a new student center, give all incoming students swag and have mentoring/orientation sessions on campus where students have to attend in person.

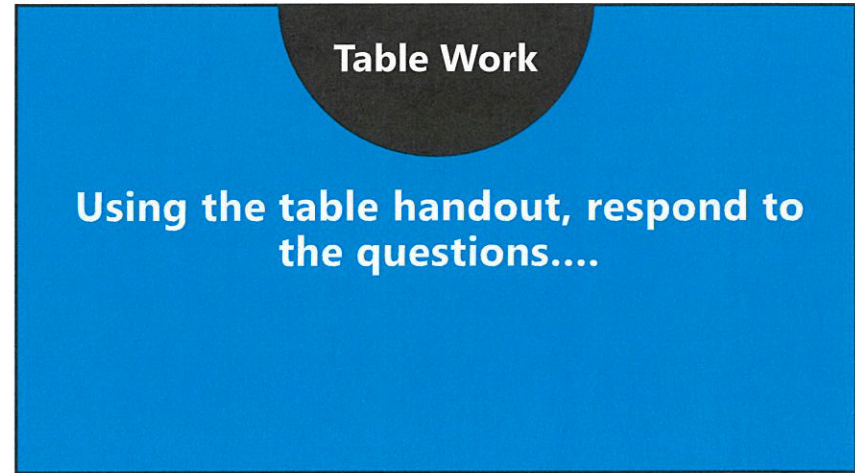
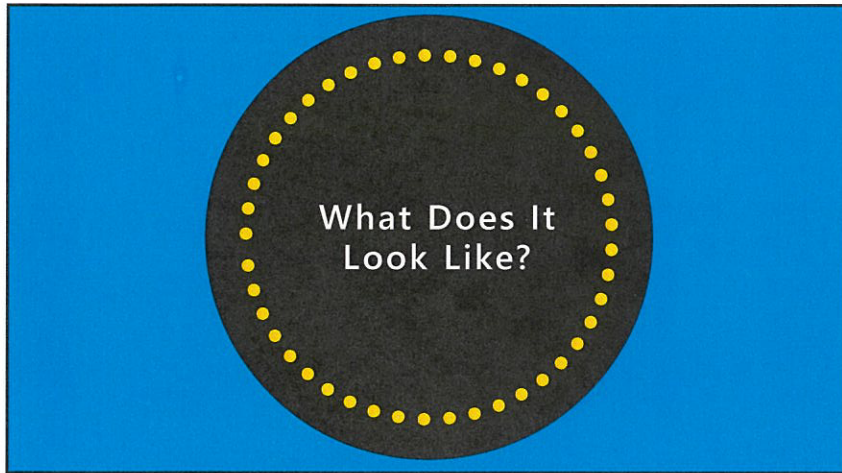
Dr. Wehlburg challenged everyone to think about the next steps to make Athens State more student centered. Dr. Way thanked everyone for their time and input. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Clark

Attachment 1: “Being Student Centered” Presentation

Attachment 2: Handout – Questions on Being Student Centered







Being Student Centered

Administrative Council – September 14, 2022

1. What does being “student centered” look like to you? What elements would you expect to see at an institution that was student centered? What key words come up? Write these key words on your post it sheet.
2. In what areas are we doing well? *Circle* the key words that relate to areas that we are student-centered.
3. In what areas do we need change or improvement? Underline the key words that relate to areas that need to change.
4. What other aspects of being student-centered do we need to think about? Address these in the reporting out time.