

**PIE Council Minutes
November 21, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Welty Boardroom**

Members Present: Shaochen Yang, Marie Byrne, Rusty King, Randy Stewart, Bobby Fugitt, Larry Jones, Dave Haffly, Tina Blackwell, Nora Miller, John Davis, Barbara Garrett, Carla Lowery, Cathy Smith, Eric Daffron

Members Absent: Kristen Barnes, Brandon Newsome, Marty Hatton, James Ward, Mark Bean, Twila Alpe, Amy Swingle, Cassie Derden, Perry Sansing, Gary Bouse

Guest: Sandra Jordan

Items Distributed: Update on Academic Affairs Initiatives 2008-2009, Results of 2008 ACT Student Satisfaction Survey, National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), CAAP Results, and Alternatives to CAAP

The minutes from the October 17, 2008 meeting were approved by Council members.

Sandra Jordan gave an overview of the updates on Academic Affairs Initiatives which includes twenty-two items. SMART Assessments, Early Alert, Academic Success Mentors and Turning Point are just a few of these initiatives. Many of the initiatives deal with improving retention, increasing enrollment, and internationalizing the campus. A complete view of the Academic Affairs Initiatives can be found on the website.

Carla Lowery reviewed the ACT Student Satisfaction Survey. This is the 3rd year of participation in this survey with the last one being administered in March 2006. For the March 2008 survey, there were 356 respondents with a 64.7% return rate. Parking was ranked the 2nd most important service among MUW's highest satisfaction rating, but received the lowest satisfaction rating of 2.40. This was also the lowest satisfaction rating for both MUW and Peer groups. Scores for both Recreation and Intramural Services rose. This was the last time this survey to be administered.

An update on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was given by Eric Daffron. Benchmarks are based on 42 key questions from the NSSE survey that captures many vital aspects of the student experience. This replaces ACT Survey of student opinion. The first administration will be Spring 2009 and should take fifteen minutes to complete. It will be done using a random selection

of freshmen and graduating seniors. This can be completed either with a paper copy or on-line with multiple reminders.

Eric Daffron gave a report on CAAP Results. MUW's is below average on all scores. Writing skills and critical thinking are the highest scores. Student progress from ACT sub scores in math and science is above expected progress. Native students outperform transfers. They also exceed national average in writing and critical thinking. Whites outperform blacks and are above national average in writing. Full time students scored better than part time.

Alternative ways to administer the CAAP and also alternatives to the CAAP were presented by Eric Daffron. Both students and faculty do not seem to be informed and also do not understand the purpose for the CAAP. There have also been questions as to the usefulness of the data received and what is actually done in follow up to the results. Currently, MUW administers the tests for writing skills, math, reading, science, and critical thinking. CAAP also offers the writing essay test which asks students to respond to two twenty-minute prompts. Embedding CAAP into the course is another alternative way of administration. This would help the student feel it is a more natural extension of the course itself. It would also allow for make-up testing if missed. Last academic year the cost was \$7678. VSA, Voluntary System for Accountability, endorses CAAP and NSSE, as well as CLA, Collegiate Learning Assessment. CLA provides comparisons with peer institutions as well as correlations with other student data such as CPA and ACT scores. Students take one of two possible tests for a total time span of an hour and a half. Testing typically includes native students; however, transfer students can also be tested. CLA is administered online which would mean using a computer lab. It can also be embedded into a course. Tests are scored using rubrics.

After being discussed the group, it was decided to continue to pursue looking at various options of both administering the CAAP or alternatives to the CAAP itself. It was noted that this is something also being reviewed by the Core Curriculum Committee.

The meeting was adjourned until January.