

Fairmont State University Board of Governors – Academic Affairs Committee
Monday, April 1, 2024 at 2:00pm
Hardway 219 and Teams
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Gina Fantasia, Jon Dodds, Christa Kwiatkowski, Michael Davis, Dianna Phillips, Chris Kast, Susan Ross, Cheryl Lewis, Emily Swain, Alicia Kalka

Teams: Wendy Adkins, Debbie Prezioso, David Goldberg

Absent: Jason Pizatella

A. Call To Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:03p.m. by Wendy Adkins

B. Outdoor Leadership, B.S. Intent to Plan

- Dr. Dianna Phillips presented the Outdoor Leadership, B.S. Intent to Plan from the College of Education, Health, and Human Performance.
- This program is in response to a request from the State of West Virginia related to the prioritization of Tourism as a priority program.
- Wendy Adkins clarified that this is an intent to plan, not a full proposal.
- Dr. Susan Ross noted that this is an interdisciplinary program and would require little additional invest from the institution.
- Wendy Adkins asked Dr. Michael Davis about the conversation related to Tourism and education. Dr. Davis relayed he had spoken to the Secretary of Tourism and there are many tourism jobs open in West Virginia and employers would prefer they have a related degree.
 - Jon Dodds noted that he's done research and found many open Outdoor Leadership positions in the state.
 - Dr. Davis noted this program would be beneficial for non-traditional students who would like to advance in the tourism industry.
 - Dr. Phillips noted that she intends to meet with the Secretary of Tourism this spring to further drill down into opportunities for the program.
 - Debbie Prezioso noted that this type of program is popular across the country.

C. Associate of Arts Degree to Support Middle College

- Dr. Phillips provided an overview of the associate degree related to Middle College.

- Dr. Phillips noted that the program allows foster youth in the Middle College to obtain an associate degree and high school diploma at the same time.
- The curriculum has been approved by Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate.
- Dr. Phillips requested that the Academic Affairs Committee approve the proposal and move to the full board for approval.
- Wendy Adkins requested clarification on why Middle College students needed to have a separate academic pathway as opposed to associate degrees already offered at the institution.
- Dr. Phillips noted the current associate degrees are specialized and not broad enough to cover the high school diploma requirements.
 - Debbie Prezioso requested clarification on how the college courses will meet high school diploma requirements. Dr. Phillips reiterated that the students selected for this program will be tested for academic preparedness.
 - Dr. Phillips provided an overview of foster youth currently in the K-12 school system.
 - Dr. Phillips noted that these students will have wrap-around services from KVC and West Virginia Department of Diversion and Transition.
- Although she had no questions specific to the associate degree needed for the Middle College, Wendy Adkins asked whether the Board would need to approve the structure of Middle College before the degree and explained that even when considering whether to approve the associate degree, the Board would need more information about the Middle generally and will likely have questions about the program generally.
 - Gina Fantasia agreed that the Board needs to have information about Middle College's structure and finance.
 - Dr. Davis noted that the Board likely doesn't need to approve the program, only the curriculum.
 - Gina Fantasia stated that if there is a significant financial burden to the institution, the Board may need to approve.
 - The group discussed if it should be an information item or approval item.
- Christa Kwiatkowski noted no institutional dollars are being used at this point, as the State of West Virginia has allocated budget for this fiscal year.
- Gina Fantasia stated the Board will need an overview of the program related to institutional risk. Wendy Adkins noted risk and insurance are a critical piece of plan implementation.
- Wendy Adkins noted that it is typical for higher education institutions, when partnering with other entities to require additional insurance coverage by the private entity and to be named on the other party's policy.

- Wendy Adkins recommended supplying the Board with a report on Middle College at the next meeting in conjunction with seeking approval of the associate degree.
- Dr. Davis recommended sharing the media kit with the Board, as well.

D. Middle College Discussion

- Dr. Phillips reported that recruitment is underway for the first cohort.
- Dr. Phillips reported that plans are underway to launch a multimedia, state-wide marketing campaign.
- Dr. Phillips gave a brief budget overview. For the first year, the program will cost \$4 million and is being supported by the State of West Virginia and Aetna. Additionally, Fairmont State has requested congressionally directed spending for the program moving forward. Dr. Phillips further reported that work is underway to become eligible for Title 4E dollars, which will support the individual foster youth in the program.
 - Gina Fantasia asked for clarification on the steps needed to receive Title 4E dollars.
- Dr. Phillips noted that the process is underway, but details haven't been established.
 - She further requested information related to Fairmont State's long-term commitment to the program, such as personnel costs once the initial funding is used.
 - Christa Kwiatkowski noted that the jobs would be posted like any other grant funded position, indicating the position is dependent on funding.
 - The majority of Fairmont State's budget expenditure is related to tuition, room, and board expenses.

E. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm.



4/4/2024

Wendy Adkins, Committee Chair

Date