

Xavier University of Louisiana
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Attendees of Strategic Planning Council Meeting
FROM: V. Allen Gale, Senior Institutional Research Analyst
DATE: October 22, 2007
SUBJECT: Meeting Summary—Friday, October 19, 2007

Mr. Calvin Tregre presented fiscal information:

- ❖ Current budget shortfall of \$2.2 million due in large part to less room & board collected for dormitories (300 less than forecasted 1,300 rooms occupied)
- ❖ Carnegie donation of \$4 million not reflected in budget
- ❖ Increased donations of \$35 million not reflected in budget (largely due to hurricanes; expected to be short-lived) has created surplus in 2006 and 2007, but surplus will soon evaporate
- ❖ \$50 million in post-hurricane repairs noted

Mr. Winston Brown presented admissions trends and forecasts:

- ❖ Higher GPAs, scores on PSAT noted in recent cohorts (speculated that more dedicated students are applying post-Katrina, knowledgeable about decline in local quality of life)
- ❖ Incoming cohort of freshman was 444 last year, 654 this year. Forecasted at 800 next year, 850 the next, 900 in three years. Overall attendance forecasted to reach 4,000 again within five years.
- ❖ Trend noted: lower percentage of African Americans, African-American males, in recent years

The following issues were raised by attendees at the meeting:

- ❖ Is percentage of freshmen being placed in developmental courses known?
- ❖ Is Xavier, a historically Black college, becoming less predominantly Black? Do we want to move toward becoming minority-serving institution, perhaps seek more Hispanic enrollment?
- ❖ More enrollment in non-science fields should be cultivated; program mix needs tweaking
- ❖ What does Xavier offer that other universities don't? This needs to be identified; disseminated
(what is it that we'd like students to know about XU? What do they know?)
- ❖ Retention should be a focus. Is there a male/female retention difference?
- ❖ Business model and revenue distribution need to be revised. Noted that indirect costs are too generalized, and lab fees that are department-specific do not get allocated to departments (noted that cost of allocating expenditures, revenues, may exceed benefits)
- ❖ Faculty input into budgetary process is inadequate.
- ❖ It is felt that XU is a top-down institution, with little faculty input in decision-making (which should be sought, in anticipation of change in leadership)
- ❖ Perhaps Admissions should focus less efforts on traditional feeder schools try to generate awareness in other locales. Are we reaching saturation point with traditional sources?
- ❖ With regard to decline in room and board, it was proposed that making dormitories more appealing could stave off students' relocating off-campus
- ❖ Student attendee noted that many students relocate off-campus due to cost/curfew/restrictions
- ❖ As a Catholic university, how many of our students, faculty & staff are Catholic?
- ❖ Are XU students getting traditional "college life" experiences?

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- ❖ We actively promote COP, health sciences, but do not provide healthy food options or gym
- ❖ Faculty start-up packages should address research issues.
- ❖ More emphasis needed on existing consortium programs with other universities; internships with businesses/healthcare; community service opportunities.
- ❖ More emphasis on keeping abreast of technological advances
- ❖ Safety in 24-hour study room is an issue; noted that non-students have access
- ❖ Investigate trend noted that incoming students are less prepared or uninterested in college

Main issues noted by A. Clinton:

- ❖ Program Mix
- ❖ HBCU Tradition/Image
- ❖ Retention
- ❖ Fiscal Structure and Processes
- ❖ Shared Governance
- ❖ Recruitment
- ❖ Alternate Forms of Revenue
- ❖ Division of Labor
- ❖ Student Life
- ❖ Xavier Environment/Facilities
- ❖ Faculty Load
- ❖ Teaching and Research Balance
- ❖ Technology
- ❖ New Orleans Secondary Educ. Matriculation

Main issues noted by T. Scheye:

- ❖ Historically black vs. predominately black
- ❖ Program mix: Science and pre-professional programs vs. liberal arts
- ❖ Retention
- ❖ Business model: other streams of income
- ❖ Shared governance
- ❖ Local--regional--national institution?
- ❖ Finance: where to spend more/less
- ❖ Student life
- ❖ Catholic character
- ❖ Environment and facilities
- ❖ Faculty work: teaching load; teaching vs. research
- ❖ Experiential learning: internships and study abroad
- ❖ 3/2 undergraduate/graduate programs
- ❖ Role of technology
- ❖ Globalization
- ❖ Relationship with New Orleans

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT FOR NEXT SESSION (per T. Scheye):

What are we doing right? (things to keep doing)

What are we doing wrong? (things that we shouldn't be doing, or should de-emphasize)

What's missing? (tangential issues not addressed at this meeting)