

**WEIGHTED STUDENT CREDIT HOURS (WSCH)  
OPTIMIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
FACULTY CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM**

**November 17, 2017**

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

**JPL 4.04.22**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Mr. Jeff Dunn, Mr. Gary Lott, Dr. Chad Mahood, Dr. Maricela Oliva, Dr. Sara Oswalt, Mr. Clark Ryan-Gonzalez, Dr. Rogelio Sáenz, Dr. Keying Ye, Ms. Brittany Garcia

Members unable to attend: Dr. DeBrenna Agbényiga, Ms. Sheri Hardison, Dr. George Perry, Dr. Heather Shipley, Dr. Tulio Sulbaran, Dr. Steve Wilkerson

Co-Chairs: Dr. Mauli Agrawal and Ms. Kathryn Funk-Baxter

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The Weighted Student Credit Hour (WSCH) Optimization Committee met on Friday, November 17, 2017 to review updated reports from the subcommittees.

**Summer Enrollment/Online Programs**

The subcommittee provided an update on ideas to increase enrollment for summer 2018 and online programs.

Ideas for increasing summer enrollment include:

- **Gateway Course:** Increasing access to gateway courses over summer
- **Transient Students:** Last year waived fees for transient students. We did not know what success this had on increasing enrollment; there were also questions about marketing. May be worth continuing this summer if there is evidence to support.
- **Maymesters:** Bring back maymester and potentially streamline other summer sessions so students don't have to choose between overlapping sessions.
- **Faculty:** Provide financial and/or other incentives for faculty to teach in summer. With the limited budget, many departments use flat rate for T/TT which may not be strong enough of an incentive for some to teach during summer.
- **Graduate Offerings:** Maintain or increase graduate offerings, especially for those programs that are more year-round with working professionals.
- **Summer Start:** Allow students that will start in the fall to begin taking courses in the summer.
- **Downtown Offering:** Increase course offering in the Downtown Campus during the Summer, Fall and Spring.

Ideas for Online Programs include:

- **Waitlist:** Developing a list of courses that could be converted to online; this includes courses with high waitlist numbers.
- **Downtown Needs:** Look at courses needed by individuals whose major classes are primarily downtown and increase the course offerings that they would typically have to travel back to Main Campus.
- **Honor College:** With the Honors College new citymester program, will students need increased access to DT/online courses so they don't have to come back to Main Campus?

There was a brief discussion about the challenges of obtaining full buy in for online courses from all faculty. Dr. Mahood expressed his belief that hybrid courses would be pivotal in gaining buy in from faculty members wary about the departure from classroom to online.

Dr. Agrawal asked if faculty might be incentivized to teach online courses if this was included in their assessments.

### **Course Optimization and Transfers**

The subcommittee reviewing course optimization and transfer students provided the following regarding action plans:

- Increase enrollment in high WSCH areas (Engineering, Business, etc.). Set targets for the Colleges on SCH and tuition revenue.
  - Action plan: work with SEP Taskforce to develop a strategic plan to increase these areas.
- Competency based credit
  - Action plan: determine the target areas for competency based credit; determine metrics to evaluate competency for credit: and determine recruiting and advertising plan.
- Course Scheduler – software has been purchased to help students optimize their schedule.
  - Action plan: create marketing plan for students; develop and train advisors on software

In the area of transfer students, the subcommittee provided the following:

- Finalize the MOU with Alamo Colleges for the Alamo On-TRAC program (incoming freshman would take classes at Alamo Colleges and UTSA and then transfer to UTSA after 24 hours);
  - Action plan: finalize agreement; appoint a coordinator for the program and develop implementation plan; recruit students into the program
- Review current articulation agreements to ensure they are consistent and aligned with UTSA curriculum.

- Action plan: have OIR provide data on community colleges from which we have the largest number of transfers; University College work with advising to develop plan for reviewing these for each degree program and update as necessary.

### **Graduate Education**

The subcommittee reviewing graduate education provided the following:

- Reestablishing connection with Fort Sam Houston. UTSA does not have a representative (recruiter/advisor) on the base.
- Increase corporate sponsorships
- Create a brand/message that builds UTSA's reputation beyond San Antonio in order to have a global presence; have staff members responsible for focusing on study abroad items for international programs with the goal of increasing quality of services offered to international students.

For our next meeting, Dr. Agrawal asked the committee members to include targets, both short and long term, and where the investment will be for each. Targets are important when discussion recommendations with the president.

The next meeting of the committee will occur on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Faculty Center Conference Room, JPL 4.04.12C.