

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

**OCTOBER 18, 2017**

**3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**JPL 4.04.12C**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Dr. DeBrenna Agbényiga, Ms. Sheri Hardison, Mr. Gary Lott, Dr. Chad Mahood, Dr. Maricela Oliva, Dr. Sara Oswalt, Dr. George Perry, Dr. Heather Shipley, Dr. Steve Wilkerson, Dr. Keying Ye, Ms. Brittany Garcia

Members unable to attend: Mr. Jeff Dunn, Dr. Rogelio Sáenz, Mr. Clark Ryan-Gonzalez

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

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The Weighted Student Credit Hour (WSCH) Optimization Committee met on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017 to develop and recommend strategies to optimize production from formula funding for student success initiatives and related infrastructure development.

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mauli Agrawal outlined the guiding principles for the committee which include:

- Reviewing opportunities to maximize formula funding based on how we prepare for the coming counting year, or “base period” (Summer 2018, Fall 2018 and Spring 2019);
- Systems and measures need to be put in place now;
- Engaging the Deans and Department Chairs;
- Our approach should align with the Texas Legislature’s intentions for performance-based funding;
- Plan should align with strategic enrollment and student success plans;
- Report should include targets; metrics, accountability assignments, and times to delivery;
- Align with physical resources: classrooms, IT infrastructure, labs, etc.;
- Consider upfront investment into faculty salaries, online development, etc. to cover extra WSCH’s.

Dr. Agrawal discussed two options the committee could consider as a means to maximize WSCH:

### Option #1:

- Correcting Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes;
- Growing enrollment in higher WSCH areas (engineering, business, others);
- Converting Ed.D. program to a Ph.D. program;
- Focusing on summer term enrollment;
- Aligning strategic enrollment management to WSCH production.

### Option #2:

- Creating On-TRAC MOU with Alamo Colleges;
- Increasing upper-division transfers;
- Adding online courses, including summer;
- Continuing LEAD I and implementing LEAD 2;
- Monitoring all new courses in system for CIP codes;
- Setting targets for colleges on SCH and tuition revenue;
- Exploring options for May mini-mester.

Dr. Agrawal briefly discussed the responsibilities for the task force, which include, but are not limited to:

- Creating a plan for WSCH/FF production moving forward, but especially for the coming counting year;
- Developing targets, metrics and timelines;
- Developing sub-plans for each component, where needed;
- Assigning accountability for the short and long term;
- Other responsibilities to be determined by the committee.

Following Dr. Agrawal's presentation, Vice President for Business Affairs, Kathy Funk-Baxter, explained the flow of state funds to the university, which includes direct appropriations (formula funding) and indirect appropriations (covers costs related to health insurance, retirement and social security), tuition and fees and external funding. She then explained in detail the significance of formula funding, the base period, and weighted student credit hours. Specifically, there are two formulas driven solely or partly by semester credit hours:

- Instruction and Operations formula – driven totally by semester credit hours; and
- Infrastructure Support formula – in addition to semester credit hours taught, also includes academic program mix, staff size, research expenditures and the size of the Library collection. Predicted space is also used in this formula.

In addition, each institution receives a Teaching Experience supplement which is driven by the number of undergraduate credit hours taught by tenured or tenured-track faculty.

Ms. Funk-Baxter also stated that even though our research and service missions are important to the university, they bring with them virtually no direct formula funding. Special items and

research appropriations can provide some funding for these activities, but from the formula funding perspective teaching generates the semester credit hours that count towards producing most of our state formula funding.

Ms. Funk-Baxter defined the “base period” as the 12-month period used to measure the SCH to be included in the appropriations formulas. It includes the summer and fall of even-numbered years and the spring of odd-number years. The next base period will be summer 2018, fall 2018 and spring 2019. This is the data the legislature will use when it meets in the spring of 2019 and will determine formula appropriations for the next **two** years.

Ms. Funk-Baxter detailed the definition of “weighted credit hours” to the committee. Conceptually, formula weighting is supposed to reflect differences in cost related to teaching courses at different levels and in different academic fields. Graduate courses, for example, are expected to be taught in smaller class sections than undergraduate classes so graduate credit hours are weighted heavier than undergraduate credit hours. In addition, courses in some fields are weighted relative to each other. For example, a credit hour in a lower-division History course earns less formula funding than a lower-division course in Art or Engineering.

Ms. Funk-Baxter went on to explain that each biennium the appropriations act specifies the dollar value of each weighted semester credit hour. For FY 2018, the value is \$55.82 per WSCH which is provided to every public institution. She provided examples to show how you calculate the income received from WSCH.

The committee determined there were three areas that needed to be reviewed and divided up into sub-committees. They are:

1. Increasing Summer Enrollment/Online Courses:  
Co-Chairs: Sara Oswalt & Jeff Dunn  
Gary Lott  
Brittany Garcia  
Rogelio Sáenz  
Tulio Sulbaran
  
2. Reviewing Course Optimization (are our courses coded correctly to receive the proper funding) and Transfer students:  
Chair: Heather Shipley  
DeBrenna Agbényiga  
Maricela Oliva  
Steve Wilkerson  
Keying Ye
  
3. Graduate Programs/Recruitment:  
Chair: DeBrenna Agbényiga  
Sheri Hardison  
Chad Mahood

George Perry  
Clark Ryan-Gonzalez  
Keying Ye

The next meeting of the committee will occur on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Faculty Center Conference Room, JPL 4.04.12C

Future meetings dates/times:

Friday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Assembly Room, JPL 4.04.22

Thursday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Faculty Center Conference Room, JPL 4.04.12C

Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Faculty Center Conference Room, JPL 4.04.12C