

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

**October 31, 2017
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
JPL 4.04.12C**

MINUTES

Members Present: Dr. DeBrenna Agbényiga, Mr. Jeff Dunn, Ms. Sheri Hardison, Mr. Gary Lott, Dr. Chad Mahood, Dr. Maricela Oliva, Dr. Sara Oswalt, Mr. Clark Ryan-Gonzalez, Dr. Heather Shipley, Dr. Tulio Sulbaran, Dr. Steve Wilkerson, Dr. Keying Ye, Ms. Brittany Garcia

Members unable to attend: Dr. George Perry, Dr. Rogelio Sáenz

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

The Weighted Student Credit Hour (WSCH) Optimization Committee met on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 to review the initial reports from the subcommittees.

Summer Enrollment/Online Programs

The subcommittee reported at their meeting they reviewed data from last summer's formula funding and discussed ideas to increase enrollment for summer 2018 and online programs.

Ideas for increasing summer enrollment include:

- Increasing access to gateway courses by offering them in the summer;
- Continue to waive certain students fees for transient students and market our classes to them;
- Consider reinstating the May Minimester and streamline other summer sessions so students do not have to choose between overlapping sessions;
- Provide financial and/or other incentives for faculty to teach in the summer. Many departments are using a flat pay rate for tenured/tenure-track faculty as summer salary and that may not be a strong enough incentive for some to teach in the summer;
- Maintain or increase graduate courses, especially for those programs that are more year-round and geared towards working professionals. However, many faculty who teach graduate courses use the summer time to work on their own research;
- Allow students that will start in the fall to begin taking courses in the summer; and
- Increase course offerings at the Downtown Campus during the summer, fall and spring.

There was a brief discussion regarding summer 2016 effort to increase enrollment, including the marketing, and efforts to reach out to incoming freshman to take courses at UTSA in the

summer. The committee understood that many of our students need to work during the summer in order to pay for the tuition and fees for the upcoming year.

Ideas for Online Programs include:

- Reviewing courses that have heavy waitlists that could be easily converted to online courses;
- Review courses needed by students whose major classes are held primarily at the Downtown Campus and increase course offerings via online so the students would not have to travel back to the Main Campus; and,
- Honors College is offering a new City Semester Program. These students will need access to courses at the Downtown Campus or via online so they do not have to travel back to the Main Campus.

Dr. Agrawal cautioned the committee to not think about incremental increases to WSCH, but to think outside the box. He posed the question—what would you do if you were asked to increase the WSCH by 25%, other than increasing admissions?

Other ideas that the committee considered:

- Create more online classes for our study abroad students;
- Develop articulation agreements with other universities to offer classes to their students;
- Develop more hybrid classes; and
- Develop agreements/programs with the military, industry, etc.

Course Optimization and Transfers

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

- Undergraduate and Graduate Course Audit Process to ensure that the courses are coded properly. Also, develop policies for future reviews.
- Increase enrollment in high WSCH areas (Engineering, Business, etc.). Set targets for the Colleges on SCH and tuition revenue;
- Review the current infrastructure: do we have the space and lab capacity to add more classes, do we have the resources to add more faculty, staff and student support?

There was a brief discussion on whether or not points 2 and 3 should wait until the Strategic Enrollment Task Force has concluded their review and work. It was determined that this subcommittee could go ahead and provide a separate recommendation. In addition, there was a brief discussion on needing buy-in and input from the college deans and department chairs regarding growth of programs in high WSCH areas.

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);

- Increase number of upper level undergraduate transfer students; increase enrollment and programs in key areas (Engineering, Business, etc.); and
- Review current articulation agreements to ensure they are consistent and aligned with UTSA curriculum.

There was a brief discussion on creating certificate programs, even at the undergraduate level. It was mentioned that some employers are requiring certificates in certain areas, such as coding, as part of job functions. The subcommittee will explore contacting local employers to see what certificates their employees need. In addition, these certificates could be offered as professional development to non-degree seeking students.

Graduate Education

The subcommittee reviewing graduate education provided the following:

- Target recruitment into higher weighted SCH programs, especially at the Master's level, as they could prove the most impactful;
- Review the \$1,000 competitive award offered to international students. The students receiving this award pay in-state tuition instead of the non-resident tuition. However, the data shows that many of the students leave our programs after one year and we need to determine why they leave UTSA;
- Create a brand/message that builds UTSA's reputation beyond San Antonio in order to have a global presence;
- Establish corporate partnerships. Possibly reconfigure some programs at the Master's level to meet the needs of corporations. This would require the buy-in of the Deans and Department Chairs. Also, seek funding from corporations to support students in these programs;
- Increase role of faculty in the student recruitment;
- Continue working with the Coordinating Board to phase out the Ed.D. and only offer a Ph.D. as more students are graduating with a Ph.D. in Higher Education; and
- Consider creating new model of offering Master's programs such as specialized summer graduate courses in the evening and Saturdays. Also consider offering 1.5 to 2.5 credit hour courses every eight weeks for certain programs.

There was a discussion regarding developing joint graduate programs with universities in other countries and developing graduate programs for the military that are stationed on bases outside the United States.

For our next meeting, Dr. Agrawal asked the committee members to select two or three areas from their lists that could be implemented in the short-term and long-term and develop action plans and goals.

The next meeting of the committee will occur on Friday, November 17th at 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room, JPL 4.04.22.

Future meetings dates/times:

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

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