

URC MEETING MINUTES

Present: Jo Anna Benavides-Franke, Dennis Elam, Allison Garcia, Sherita Love, Cynthia Matson, Darrell Morrison, Eugene Ramirez, Luis Rodriguez, Jennifer Skiver, Holly Verhasselt, Edward Westermann, Stefanie Wittenbach

Absent: Elizabeth Murakami, Lorie Webb

Charge: URC assist with selection of a design professional for new University Master Plan and to serve as lead consultant on new Science and Technology facility.

Start Time: 2:06 p.m.

End Time: 3 p.m.

I. FY16 Budget Update

- Morrison provided an enrollment update and noted that while overall head count is up graduate semester credit hours were down especially in the College of Education & Human Development
- Matson described a pattern of late enrollers at our institution and this may be the reason for low numbers
- Matson continued that moving forward our University will do a better job of tracking our students by college and semester credit hours and examine data
- Matson, Verhasselt, Morrison and Westermann discussed examining various factors that may be contributing to low graduate numbers such as admission requirements, feedback from ISDs, classroom schedules/space use, programming and course strategy and program demands.

II. Downward Expansion Update

- Morrison briefly acknowledged Downward Expansion newsletter (Vol 1, Issue 1)
- Committee members were provided with a copy of the Downward Expansion worksheet currently being filled out by University Leadership.
- Morrison and Matson discussed the importance of providing supporting data for requests and inclusion of URC throughout the process as necessary
- Wittenbach asked about connecting these requests with the budget planning group from the Super Group and it was noted by Morrison a meeting will be scheduled to discuss

III. Facilities Update

- a. Master plan

- Morrison described that a committee was gathered to help select a firm to help consolidate and reconcile two existing master plans (an original plan and an updated plan) and programming for the STEM building.
- b. New building
 - Matson, Westermann, Elam and Morrison discussed factors to be addressed throughout the consolidation/reconciliation process such as lab and classroom space, location of the STEM building, impact to existing infrastructure like parking lots and utilities and previous vs current needs and goals

IV. Wayfinding

- Morrison discussed three wayfinding proposals were presented and the proposed budget for the project not only included exterior wayfinding but also enough funding for enhanced interior wayfinding. Selection and bidding will begin this fall.

V. Merit Pay

- Morrison noted Matson presented a one-time Merit Pay proposal at the summer Board of Regents meeting and the President's Cabinet is currently working on modifications; further details will be shared at the next URC meeting

VI. Organizational Changes

- Matson and Morrison briefly discussed future organizational changes

VII. Other Items

- Morrison announced "tamusa.tamus.edu" will soon be replaced with "tamusa.edu" for emails and website. He also announced staff and faculty will have the opportunity to have a preferred name on email account vs legal name.
- Morrison also announced Tuition and Fees submissions to Board of Regents meeting coming up in September.