

Angelo State University

Alumni Advisory Council Minutes Friday, July 10, 2009

1. Call to Order at 9:00 AM via Teleconference.

2. Roll Call

a. Members Present: Grady Price Blount, Taimur Khan, Shivam Pandey, Shivraj Sohur, and Andy Wallace.

3. Organizer's Welcome (Blount)

a. Welcome and introduction of inaugural members.

b. This call needs to focus on mission statement and council membership.

4. Old Business – None.

5. New Business

a. Mission Statement – discussion led to the importance of “student support and retention” within the College of Sciences via industry mentors, internships, and capstone experiences.” Shivraj will draft a mission statement. This statement will be posted on the council’s website for review.

b. Council Membership – discussion led to the recommendation of 12 council members with 2 members per department in the College of Sciences. Blount will draft membership letter and post on council’s website for review.

6. General Comments

a. Future meetings – the next teleconference meeting is scheduled for late August (Friday preference) in order to discuss the recruiting process and expanded council membership.

b. Grady’s notes: First off, my profound thanks to Taimur and Shivraj for their leadership initiative in helping to establish the Alumni Advisory Council. Our primary goal for this meeting is to discuss the creation of a mission statement and determine likely membership targets. Grady has placed the AAC activities in the context of ASU’s new mission-driven game plan by focusing our efforts on student and program support and retention. Shivraj commented about a dark mood which seems to be pervasive in some parts of the “old guard”. Grady agreed but commented that the institution is in the midst of a profound cultural shift away from a collectivist mentality to an entrepreneurial model. In particular, we need to address a sometimes-common attitude that our students aren’t up to the standards of more elite institutions. The work of Nick Flynn and the Honor’s program were cited as specific examples of how to do things right. Shivraj commented on a desire to share the excitement of what happens to our students when they graduate and enter the international marketplace. Based on this passionate view, Grady requested, and Shivraj agreed, to take a stab at writing a draft of the mission statement.

The draft mission statement will be included in a solicitation letter to be mailed out on ASU letterhead to selected alumni. Grady suggested a short and memorable mission statement (5 words?) followed by an explanatory paragraph. Taimur suggested the solicitation be limited to one page or less. An anchor date for a first on-line meeting would be approximately 30 days after the mailing. He also suggested the letter identify, by attribute, the sort of leaders we are looking for with comments that the selection process is already underway.

Grady will provide a more detailed list of potential candidates for comment. Sande Harrison suggested 2 representatives from each department for a total of 12 with the recognition that it would be rare for all 12 to actually show up at once.

Drafts of the mission statement and the solicitation letter will be posted on the AAC website.

<http://www.angelo.edu/dept/sciences/advCouncil.html>

Adjourn at 9:37 AM.