

**College of Sciences Alumni Advisory Council Teleconference  
Tuesday, September 29, 2009**

*Minutes*

**Members Present:** John Blumentritt, Lee Higdon, Taimur Khan, Shamim Mohammed, Shivraj Sohur, Dan Herrington, and Grady Price Blount. Members Not Present but accounted for: Diane and Josh.

**Welcome:** Grady welcomed members to this teleconference. He thanked those present and had each member do a brief introduction to what they have been doing since leaving ASU.

Grady then gave a brief overview of recent events and structuring changes that have taken place at ASU within the last two years; particularly the arrival of our new president and how he expects fairly dramatic changes.

**Purpose:** To brainstorm the committee's opinions and ideas relating to bringing the future back to ASU. What can we do to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century school? What is our niche? Who are we serving? In what ways can we improve the growth of our student body?

The primary talking points were on a slide posted at: [http://www.sci.angelo.edu/aac\\_092809.pdf](http://www.sci.angelo.edu/aac_092809.pdf)

**Discussion:** Several points were discussed in detail.

- Concern of losing the personal aspect of students with growth. The value of staying small, or at least "intimate".
- Perception that inexpensive tuition may indicate a lower quality university.
- Broadening curriculum in a way that makes ASU unique as well as beneficial for students.
- Marketing issues a concern. The good aspects of ASU may not translate to youth in a positive way. Importance of research base.
- Center for Security Studies teaching cultural competence. Time was a concern for this curriculum.
- Center for Security Studies could be catalyst for change.
- IT workforce shortages in relation to the lack of motivation of youth to enter Computer Science and Science fields.
- Job bias in these fields may be a factor in the shortages. Open the eyes of youth to different choices available in these fields.

**Conclusion:** Wonderful things have been happening at ASU despite the fact that this university is not experiencing the same growth rates as other institutions in Texas. Therefore, there is a need to form a focus group to identify possible causes and solutions, in particular as they apply to science and mathematics majors. Networking options for this group were discussed as a means of reviewing the details covered at this meeting. Please forward a picture to be included with your biography. The next teleconference will be **Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm CDST/5:00 pm Eastern.**