

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
December 9, 2015

NRUF Metrics

President Trauth welcomed Cabinet members and guests, including Dr. Cynthia Opheim, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs; Dr. Michael Heintze, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management; Dr. Bill Covington, Associate Vice President for Research and Federal Relations, and Dr. Andrea Golato.

President Trauth discussed IPEDS data that was collected by the U. S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics, and that was presented at the recent SACSCOC conference that she attended. President Trauth reviewed the IPEDS findings that the following five factors directly correlate with high student graduation rates: (1) the larger the school, the higher the graduation rate; (2) the higher the Carnegie classification, the higher the graduation rate; (3) residential campuses that house students have higher graduation rates; (4) the larger the endowment, the higher the graduation rate; and (5) the more selectivity in freshman admission, the higher the graduation rate.

President Trauth announced that Cabinet will be reviewing National Research University Fund (NRUF) metrics two times each year as we continue to move forward toward the goal of becoming eligible for funding from the NRUF.

Provost Bourgeois discussed Texas State's pathway to becoming a NRUF university including the important metrics and the tracking process.

Dr. Heintze presented information relevant to the high quality freshman class metric and discussed the importance of the assured scholarships in our ability to continue to attract a high quality freshman class. After discussion, the group arrived at the consensus that obtaining net new scholarship dollars must be included in the new strategic plan.

Dr. Opheim presented information relevant to the metric that requires a high quality faculty as evidenced by certain awards and discussed strategies available and the evidentiary requirement that relate to each strategic option.

Dr. Golato presented information relevant to the metric that requires excellent Ph.D. programs and discussed upcoming Ph.D. programs.

Dr. Covington presented information relevant to the restricted research metric and our progress toward reaching the metric.

Dr. Breier presented information relevant to the endowment metric, our progress, and strategies to include in the new strategic plan relative to achieving this metric. Strategies discussed included categorizing state matching TRIP funds as quasi-endowment funds and creating a new policy that will require quasi-endowment and spending limits be the same as those associated with regular endowment accounts.

Dr. Pierce and Provost Bourgeois presented information relevant to the institutional recognition of research capabilities and scholarly attainment and progress toward reaching the metric in terms of obtaining a higher Carnegie classification and the achieving Association of Research Libraries membership. The discussion included dedicating a larger portion of the core research funding to go to the library to defray expenses and exploring, as an interim step, seeking membership in the Greater Western Library Alliance.

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