

issue. This can be a component in the new enrollment strategy because students want a school with a competitive football program. For this to happen here, we need to invest in it.

Question: There are issues with the OVC realignment. The conference has never been truly competitive. What is the current situation?

Answer: Over the last 40 years we have had 10 winning seasons. This is a hard location for this level of competition. The OVC is attempting to change this. They are hoping that the changes will yield a return on investment.

Question: We are talking about a large investment in athletics when the employees are not getting sufficient compensation and the departments are planning for budget cuts. Related to the return on investment, talk about the visual optics of the budget situation.

Answer:
program will help the whole campus. We need to look at the long-term perspective and see the

enrollment. She also discussed the unspent funds and wanting to involve the campus more in the budget process. VP Stinson also stated that there has been progress made on making the summer school budget more realistic.

President Oldham expressed his opinion that we are in a very sound financial position presently. ahead, which is a good strategy. There are concerns about enrollment.

Question: Has the amount of state funding gone up?

Answer: Yes. In my term as president it has almost doubled. The latest increase is similar to that in other states. The current increase was mostly to go into salaries. The state usually mandates increases but does not provide sufficient funding. In that case we would make up the difference.

Question: We know there is a decrease in enrollment. What percentage is due to lack of retention? What is the final enrollment drop?

Answer: A high level. However, all students are not equivalent. We dropped 30% in enrollment this year, many were full paying students. A lot of the drop is attributed to the pandemic. It is also not just freshman. There was a 5% drop in first-year retention. These were mainly students who had not yet chosen a major. This was an incentive to the changes in the scholarship program that are being implemented. The goal is approximately 2000 new students or a 4% annual growth rate.

Question: In regards to summer school, when a faculty member teaches a class with low enrollment, they receive a prorated pay for that course. With a more stable budget, will they now receive full pay?

Answer: Provost Bruce said that this a challenge. Summer school is a part of the budget, which is different from many schools. The revenue to cost ratio is almost 2 to 1. This is a different model from some others, but there are both pros and cons to this model. The Provost is open to removing summer school from the budget, but it is a tangled knot that will require unraveling. As VP Stinson said, we are working toward a more realistic summer school budget. The prorated pay is not the only issue and we need to get it right. One goal is to change from reactive to proactive.

Discussion about the Library Budget (beginning ~4:30pm)

Guests: VP Stinson, Provost Bruce, Dean Bates

1. Overview of the history of library funding (Dean Bates)
2. What is the plan for funding the library moving forward?
3. Other questions from Senators

Dean Bates presented information about the Library budget. He discussed the inflation issues with library materials, which is a big challenge. The world of the library has changed significantly. A comparison of TTU with other programs that have an engineering program shows us on the low end of library budgets.

Question: There are a number of resources that have been covered by the state for the nursing program. This funding is going away, but they are still critical to the success of the program. Did the library receive any of the increase revenue when the Carnegie classification changed?

Answer: There was considerable competition for those funds and much discussion about where would get the biggest impact. It was a complicated issue. To give it to the library would mean taking it away from somewhere else. In the end, the funds were all allocated elsewhere.

Question: Where do we go if we need new or renewed resources?

Answer: There is a request form on the web site. However, there is no available money, so we would have to give up something else. The best option is to use the Inter Library Loan service.

Question: Since we are trying to increase our research productivity, we need good database access. Is there any of the research overhead fee going to the Library?

Answer

said that they could take from the indirect costs on a contract. Dean Bates raised the question what is the vision of the library? We need to set a vision for the library and then begin to plan how we can get there.

Please send any additional questions for the guests directly to them.

Discussion about Covid-19 Updates (~20 minutes)

1. Changes to masking on campus
2. Other questions from Senators

President Oldham asked the Senators to rewind to the beginning of the semester and remember the discussion about where we were and the decision to have the mask mandate. There were a lot of unknowns and controversy. It was decided to have the mandate and monitor the situation. They honored that plan and have now revisited the current situation with discussion in the

closely and have been falling substantially. As of this morning, there were only 3 confirmed reported cases on campus. Therefore, it seemed like an appropriate time to eliminate the mask mandate. So far, comments have been mostly positive. This was not influenced by any external pressure or reasons.

Senate Preside