

August Board Report

Shannon Carroll

Krista Wilson, Michele Stevens, and I attended the summer SACSCOC conference in July. It appears that they are making substantial changes, including a name change to Commission on Colleges, aka the Commission. The new president spoke about the role of SACSCOC being a partner in helping colleges improve rather than a punitive entity who puts colleges on sanction and even removes accreditation. All the staff and the peer reviewers like Dr. Forgey and me will be retrained. He also mentioned their role in determining our compliance, including the rules regarding faculty qualifications. We may be able to make a case for a faculty with exceptional experience, but our job is to make the case, and their job is no longer to tell us we aren't allowed to use a teacher with exceptions. It is a mighty change in their mission for us as we were considering looking at other accrediting agencies.

Our Pathways plan this year has changed to a focus on adult learners and providing services such as GED and ESL. Christy Dovel is looking at adding a GED in Spanish course, and Cassi Laxton and I will follow her lead with it.

Michele and Krista will attend the Gardner conference in October. We will encourage faculty and staff to engage in their platforms such as Foundations of Excellence and Transformational Education. These are programs that cost several thousand dollars, but as a partner with the Foundation, we can engage in them at no cost.

The PEP program is moving along. We discussed it at the faculty meeting, and several of our full-time faculty expressed a desire to engage in teaching the students at the Dalhart unit. WE are piloting our first two courses to make sure we know how the partnership needs to work and will begin adding more courses in the spring. We submitted a sub change to open the campus as an off-site location and have received approval. Our next step is to apply for a sub change for the PEP program, which allows us to offer Pell money to the students. We expect to be able to offer Pell in the fall but have a plan for tuition and fees this academic year.

We have hired a physics teacher who will begin on Monday. He is an electrical engineer and has master's degrees in related fields. He is on an international student Visa that allows him to work for up to three years in a job that is an internship. During this time,

he will be seeking a permanent Visa. He is qualified for math and physics, and we hope to offer an engineering course in the spring.

Kamron Brittain, Michele, and I attended the first Borger High School meeting for parents this month, and the turnout was exceptional. The week we also attended the back-to-school night at which students pick up their schedules. Mary Johnston represented agriculture; William Easley represented welding; John LaCour represented I&E, and Juan Avila and Misty Sullivan represented cosmetology and barber. We did not bring nursing as it is not a dual-credit program. Kamron, Michele, and I talked with academic-transfer students as well.