

ASU and DSC Consolidation Implementation Committee Meeting
Lovett Hall – ASU Campus
February 25, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The ASU and DSC Consolidation Implementation Committee meeting was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Arthur Dunning, President of Albany State University.

President Dunning began by welcoming the group and announced several topics of discussion:

- 1) Our process: how did we get to this point? Richard Carvajal, Interim President of Darton State College, will send this statement to the system office after today's meeting
- 2) The March 9 deadline was given to us by the system office and was not determined by either institution
- 3) The Presidents' weekly meetings are to ensure we are kept on track with OWGs and deadlines

President Dunning encouraged the group to keep a robust spirit during this period. Richard Carvajal spoke on the importance of our process, i.e. compiling drafts of the guiding principles, revising them, and then returning them to the CIC for feedback. Today, we will be using the guiding principles in crafting our mission statement. President Carvajal also spoke about a similar process in regards to the vision statement. Recurring themes and suggestions identified in the feedback of the mission and vision statements were the following:

- 1) A more specific mention of diversity and inclusion
- 2) Some mention of career focus as part of degree listing
- 3) Does use of "for Southwest Georgia" limit our reach?
- 4) Shorter is better
- 5) Less "robotic" language, if possible

As President Carvajal distributed the most recent draft of the mission statement to the group, President Dunning stated that ASU's history as an HBCU as well as DSC's history would be captured more comprehensively in a history of the universities that was being developed; he asked the group for final feedback before final submission to the system office. After perusal of the mission statement, the group was given an opportunity to provide input. A question was posed regarding the reasoning of including "career-oriented and certificate programs." The majority of the group expressed concern regarding the exclusion of "career-oriented" in the statement. Another issue brought up was the removal of "online" from the original statement as it is required in the SACS policy that it must be included in the mission statement if there is an extensive offering at an institution. Lastly, transfer degrees were discussed, to which President Carvajal indicated that "associate degree" has an implication of a transfer degree. Both presidents will meet again after this meeting to discuss the mission statement concerns presented today in order to present it for submission tomorrow, Friday, February 26, 2016.

Presidents Dunning and Carvajal will assemble an advisory group comprised of those in the business community, faith community, non-profit organizations, and the private sector to advise them regarding community and economic development strategies for the new Albany State University. Furthermore, the Presidents will be meeting with Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital leadership as well, adding that we could potentially increase our college population (age 18-20) with the inclusion of health career programs; this is triggered by the predicted fastest growing age group within the next three years: 65+. Let us leverage our health programs and use them to teach prevention, not intervention. That is the future of the health field.

President Dunning also wanted to allay concerns of the constituents of existing issues as they are normal issues in all institutions, not just ASU and DSC.

President Dunning clarified that we are streamlining the administration. He also reiterated that there will be no mass layoffs; however, some restructuring institution wide may be necessary.

President Dunning addressed the issue brought up during this meeting regarding communication to the students by clarifying communication is being done primarily through the consolidation website, SGA, and local media.

The next meeting will be March 11, 2016, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at DSC.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.