

Minutes: faculty assembly meeting – presidential address summary – 2/20/18

Congrats on fundraising.

Stockton's budget is based on estimated 2% enrollment growth per year. We had a large increase in the freshman class for fall 2017. But transfers, fresh, and grad students enrollment in spring is important too. Stockton has not hit goals for spring enrollment since 2014, including 8% decrease in spring 2018. This puts us behind overall in some years. But for this academic years, we are up .35%, whereas we fell short overall in the previous four academic years.

Stockton still has barriers to access for adult learners. If we are to continue at 2% growth, we need to figure out how to overcome these barriers. We must provide access to these students who have not historically been among our student population. Given increased emphasis on community colleges among the new state administration, we need to focus on attracting more transfer students. We also need to think about things that we do that turn people off from coming to Stockton. We also need to stem state out-migration.

Stockton offers many fewer degrees and certificates than other state colleges and universities (e.g., 67 compared 240 at Rowan). This may present the impression that we offer fewer opportunities to potential students.

Direct state appropriation to Stockton has fallen considerably since 2008 (\$25.12m in 2008 vs. \$18.39m in 2018) and is now 10% of our operating budget (compared to 24% in 2008). Stockton has lower aid per FTE from the state than other state universities. State funded positions, however, have gone up to 1,069.

Where does our money go? The bulk of it goes to total debt service. Most of the rest goes to the AC campus. We've had significant costs in unplanned facility maintenance, especially at Seaview and Housing 4 (reroofing).

We still have about the same tuition and fees as the state average (just below). So we've tried to keep increases in tuition and fees at 2%. And this is why we need the increase in enrollment. This is not unique to Stockton. Compared to the state of higher education, in general, we are in pretty good shape. But we still need to expand our pool of students.

TAG (Tuition and Aid Grant): Maximum TAG at Stockton is 7,236, which is well below the cost of tuition and fees (about the cost of tuition). TAG at many other New Jersey schools is considerably higher. So we need to lobby for equity in funding and equality in TAG.

We have among the highest graduation rates in the state and nation – 61% 4-year, 73% 6-year compared to 35% and 59% nationally. Retention for first semester first-time freshmen is strong. It is a bit lower for transfer students, but still good. We have seen big increases in giving: Over \$4m in each of last two years, which is almost 4 times the previous year.

2020 summary: 73 total projects, \$1,180,197 total funding. As educators, we need to be vigilant in promoting the importance of higher education. We need a strategic plan and it needs to be funded.

University Expansion: Manahawkin: Great things happening here. Opportunities for growth. Galloway Campus Quad: Moving along. Gateway Project: Making progress.

Questions:

Question from faculty member: Asks about three-plus-one bill/plan.

President Kesselman explains the three-plus-one and believes it will pass. We need to pay attention to this because parents may want to know how we match up with other institutions. Other legislation is being considered that the President is keeping up with.

Question from faculty member: Asks how can we be a public university if we only get 10% funding from the state?

President Kesselman suggests that we are still state-assisted, not yet state-abused.

Question from faculty member: Asks about procurement.

President Kesselman: Suggests we need to get out from procurement law. We have a new administrator work on this.

Another administrator: We are doing our best to expedite procurement. This is an on-going struggle. We do what we can but are constrained by state contracts.

Question from faculty member: Can you elaborate on ombudsman officer?

President Kesselman: We have had lots of discussion on this. We need someone who is an expert on contracts. Some things cannot be kept confidential. We have someone who we want you to give a chance. We need to have support for this position and we are doing our best. Give him a shot. We did this because we actually did listen to the Climate Survey.

Question from faculty member: Why should we have confidence in an ombudsman who is just another administrator who answers to the same people who have ignored us in the past?

President Kesselman: I'm asking you to give it a shot.