

Fairmont State University Board of Governors- Enrollment, Housing & Student Life Committee

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Hardway 219 and Teams

Meeting Minutes

Present via Teams: Mr. Jason Pizatella, Dr. Dianna Phillips, President Michael Davis

Absent: Ms. Wendy Adkins, Mr. Rusty Hutson, Mr. David Goldberg, Mr. Jason Henderson, Ms. Debbie Prezioso, Mr. Kevin Rogers, Ms. Riley Neal

Present: Dr. Gina Fantasia, Ms. Jennifer Kinty, Mr. John Dodds, Ms. Alicia Kalka, Dr. Heath Howard, Jeremiah Kibler, Mr. Jason McCoy, Ms. Cheryl Lewis, Ms. Dawn Blankenship, Mr. John Nisbet, Dr. Brian Selmeski

Call to Order

Jason Pizatella called the May 30, 2024, Enrollment, Housing & Student Life Committee meeting to order at approximately 2:03pm and turned the floor over to Alicia Kalka to present updates.

Enrollment Updates

Ms. Kalka explained that Fairmont State's enrollment strategy strongly emphasizes guiding prospective students through the consideration and decision stages of their educational journey. The University aims to attract and retain a diverse and talented student body by providing tailored support and resources at each step.

She reported that as of May 22, 2024, the University has admitted 2,393 students for the Fall 2024 semester. This represents an increase of 8.5% compared to this time last year. Notably, 1,796 of these are first-time college students, indicating a solid pipeline of incoming freshmen.

Ms. Kalka noted that among admitted students, 221 are transfer students, 29 of whom joined us from West Virginia University. To further support Fairmont State's commitment to accessibility and affordability, the university has extended the deadline for our new scholarship model from April 1, 2024, to August 1, 2024. This decision will be communicated through a press release, and we will personally reach out to students who have not yet accepted their offer to inform them of this change.

She also reported that as of the current reporting period, 30 students have completed the registration process, marking a decrease of 49 days compared to the previous year. With upcoming orientations, we anticipate fluctuations in this number as students finalize their enrollment decisions. Fairmont State's new institutional scholarship model reflects the institution's commitment to supporting students financially, with \$2,446,250.00 offered and \$525,000.00 accepted thus far.

Ms. Kalka added that despite Fairmont State's progress on enrollment, we continue to face challenges related to changes in the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process. Currently, we have packaged financial aid offers for 960 students, most of whom are in West Virginia. This represents a decrease of 100 offers compared to the previous year, largely attributed to FAFSA processing delays. President Davis noted that comparatively, Fairmont State is doing quite well and other public institutions in West Virginia have experienced much greater impacts.

Housing Updates

Next, Ms. Kalka provided a summary of campus housing. She began by noting that Fairmont State has successfully assigned rooms to 871 students, ensuring a supportive and enriching living environment conducive to their academic success. Notably, updates to Prichard Hall's lounges are nearing completion, enhancing the residential experience for both students and staff. Additionally, Residence Life has assigned 45 students to live in Pence Hall, further optimizing the University's housing capacity to meet student needs.

She highlighted the University's commitment to providing modern and engaging amenities, as exemplified by the popularity of the ESports Lounge at Bryant Place. Residents have embraced this innovative space, and updates to lounge areas have further enriched the living experience, fostering a sense of community and connection among students.

Ms. Kalka added that Fairmont State will host several diverse events this summer that will contribute to our university's vibrancy and financial sustainability. Notable upcoming conferences include the HOBY camp, set to commence next week, and the Governor's Honors Academy, which we are hosting for the third consecutive year. To retain the Governor's Honors Academy beyond this year, Fairmont State has submitted a proposal as part of the bidding process, as the state prefers to rotate this prestigious camp among different universities every three years.

Finally, she shared that Fairmont State will host 13 camps this summer, with more than 580 participants expected to attend. This robust conference schedule is a testament to our university's appeal as a host site as well as an opportunity to increase revenues by approximately \$101,500.

Student Life Updates

Ms. Kalka then delivered an overview of student life initiatives, starting with the theme of Welcome Weekend 2024: "Destination: Fairmont State!" She added that the Concert on Campus will be reintroduced, providing a vibrant kickoff to the academic year and fostering a sense of belonging from the outset. Welcome Weekend is scheduled for August 22-25.

She then noted that Fairmont State alumni engagement efforts continue to flourish, with events planned across West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Beyond fostering connections

with our esteemed graduates, she highlighted that these events serve as valuable recruiting opportunities, showcasing the spirit and opportunities offered at Fairmont State University.

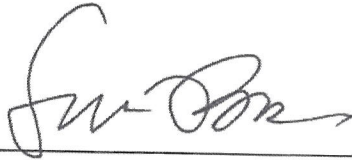
Ms. Kalka highlighted that the Falcon Center, at the heart of campus, is bustling with activity and innovation, including the launch of day camps and youth swim lessons. The latter were met with overwhelming demand, selling out in just 13 hours—a testament to the university's impactful role in our community.

She added that to further enhance accessibility and engagement, President Davis has provided employees and their families with free access to the Falcon Center's fitness facilities. Additionally, Fairmont State University students will enjoy complimentary summer passes and local teens are eligible for free summer passes.

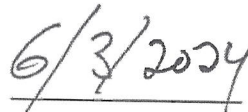
These initiatives are anticipated to grow the Falcon Center's revenues and underscore the University's commitment to serving our students and neighbors alike.

Adjournment

Jason Pizatella adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:59pm.



Jason Pizatella, Committee Chair



Date