MINUTES

**Executive Council**

5/07/2025|1:00 PM Meeting called to order by Brian Logan

**Members Present:** Brian Logan, Gerald Plumlee, Kim Rand, Angela McLaughlin, Brittany Lenard, Kim Bloss, John Schneiderwind, Makenzi Hamilton, Jennifer Rowsam, Roger Giles, Sarah Jennings, Sheryl Edwards, Krista Nelson, Bruno Hicks, Robin Sronce, Eric Valenzuela

# **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were approved as written. Motion: Gerald Plumlee, seconded by Kim Bloss

# **Announcements**

* **NSSE Update**
  + Brian Logan reported the spring semester NSSE survey started in February, ran 8-10 weeks, and is complete. Currently the raw data set is available, but the school is still waiting for the comparison group reports. When compared to previous semesters, the response rate was poor, with 59 surveys fully completed compared to over 130 completed in the previous year. Due to the poor response rate, brainstorming will be done regarding how to increase response rates in the future.
* **Updates on Specialized Accreditation**
  + **AAQEP** – Kim Bloss reported the initial accreditation report has been submitted. A virtual visit will occur September 9th & 10th and results will be available two to three months after.
  + **NACEP** – Sarah Jennings reported results will be available at the end of this month.
* **Strategic Planning and Mission & Vision Review**
  + John Schneiderwind reported the strategic plan has been branded “Mulerider Trail to 2030”. Four in person forums and additional virtual forums were hosted to get feedback from faculty, staff, alumni and SGA students. The feedback data was compiled and overlapping points were determined and used to create initiatives to go along with the strategic plan. These initiatives will be presented to Bruno Hicks and Robin Sronce and then the SPC and QEC groups to gather feedback before going before the board to be approved.
* **Updates from HLC**
  + Brian Logan reported the QLT attended the Higher Learning Commission in early April and went to the Husch Blackwell session. During the event, there was a discussion about the rules and regulations at the federal level that have influence on higher education including the potential impact of cuts from higher education and the demographic cliff. In addition, information was discussed regarding Title IX, gender identification, race-based decisions, and that final decisions regarding the financial value transparency/gainful employment framework will be announced in September. Additional information about these topics and others discussed during the session can be viewed in the Husch Blackwell slides attached to the QEC meeting agenda email.
  + Jennifer Rowsam reported the HLC event also discussed the changes that will be announced in May regarding the student success measure benchmarks and what category SAU is in. The measures will look at retention and graduation rates and will be looked at on a three-year average.
  + Jennifer Rowsam also reported the session discussed a court case involving social media. The scenario was discussed that if an individual working for the institution posts something about the institution on their personal social media account in a way that can be construed as speaking on behalf of the institution and the post receives a negative comment, certain standards must be followed regarding how to handle the comment. See the Husch Blackwell slides for more information on this topic.
  + Brian Logan reported it is being discussed what IPED group SAU should be a part of that includes a similar population and graduation rate.
  + Gerald Plumlee reported changes were made to the 10-year open pathway cycle in February that will go into effect in September. In this change, instead of completing the mid-year cycle review, the quality initiatives focused on student success review can be completed. Due to the year SAU is in within the current path cycle, these changes cannot be practiced by the institution during the current 10-year cycle but may be considered in the next cycle.
  + Kim Bloss reported the keynote of the event stated higher education should focus on both job preparation and civic learning as both are important as opposed to traditional narratives of civic learning vs job preparation.
* **QLT Summer Plans**
  + **Assurance Argument** – Brian Logan reported the assurance argument must be written and submitted by July 26, 2027. The structure of the report includes an argument explaining how the institution meets the standards specified and proof is required for support. The evidence detail cataloging system that keeps track of emails, minutes, etc. for the group will be used during the argument writing.
  + **Strategic Planning Alignment** – Brian Logan reported brainstorming will be done over the summer regarding the most effective method to roll out the strategic plan and finalize all aspects.
* **Update on Potential Chatbot**
  + Brian Logan reported that Josh Jenkins was asked about implementing a chatbot on the SAU website to improve communication. After conducting research Josh reported there are three different options the institution could implement. The first option is an in-house DIY solution that would require Josh to build the chatbot from scratch with no outside assistance (this would be labor intensive, costly, and difficult to make a high quality chatbot). The second option is the self-service type chatbot that involves purchasing a basic template model and then doing in-house modeling and tailoring to get the technology up to the institutions specifications (this is a combination of in and out of house work and can range from $3,000 to $3,600 annually plus additional in-house costs). The third option is the turnkey (similar to UAFS) chatbot that allows for up to 500 webpages and 50 documents to be analyzed by the chatbot to give quality answers to individuals on the website (could cost around $23,600 annually). Jennifer Rowsam moved to forward this information to VPC, and Kim Bloss seconded.

# **Action Items**

* **HEDS Consortium and Surveys**
  + Brian Logan reported the NSSE survey cost $4,500 ($76 per completed survey) this year. A potential resource that could replace the NSSE survey and other surveys done across campus is the HEDS surveys. This survey tool includes a variety of survey products like the ones already used by the institution and provides comparable data from other institutions, but costs less than $3,000 per year. So, the HEDS surveys tool is an option that could provide similar and better information at a lower cost to the institution. This information was presented to the QEC so members could review the tool over the summer and discuss it in the fall.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Schneiderwind.