

# Big Spring President's Student Roundtable

October 4, 2023

*Dr. Sparks welcomed everyone and introduced Phil Furqueron and Terri Hansen. They discussed the 2023 Master Plan and gave the students the QR code to do the survey. They encouraged students to share the QR code with their classmates that were not in attendance. Twenty students were in attendance. Dr. Sparks reviewed the ground rules and how issues are addressed. The student concerns will be sent to the appropriate areas to be addressed and then these are presented to our students at the next President's Student Round Table to be held in Spring 2024.*

*The President's Student Round Table has been implemented for over two decades now and the purpose behind this is to find out how Howard College can serve our students better.*

STUDENT CONCERNS	Assigned Response
<b>RESIDENCE HALLS</b>	
<p>In the men's dorm, the air conditioners leak when it rains and puddles form on the floor.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Condensation forms from all HVAC units as they are made to dehumidify the area they are air conditioning. Significant amounts of condensation form when the relative humidity levels are elevated, such as on rainy days. These condensation leaks also happen in offices and classrooms when humidity levels are high. Usually when our HVAC technicians troubleshoot these concerns, they find that condensate drain pans/lines are blocked by lint that floats in the air. Please have your dorm supervisor or CRE submit a work order and our technicians will inspect and resolve the issue.</p>	Fabian Serrano
<p>The shower temperatures in the men's dorm were very cold last week due to the gas leak.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> We had an underground gas leak, and we were without gas on most of the campus (including both dorms) from Wednesday 9/27/23 to Friday 10/06/23. The gas leak was found and fixed with the help of a contracted plumbing company and all dorm water heaters were lit during the afternoon of Friday 10/06/23.</p>	Fabian Serrano
<p>The dryers in the men's dorm do not work well, it takes two cycles to dry the clothes.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE:</b> The dryers are new. The students need to ensure they are cleaning the filters after every load. We will continue to monitor this.</p>	Christi Fenter

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<p>In the girl's dorm, there were dead roaches, dust, paper, and random trash behind the bed during August move in.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE: The student who found this, unbolted her bed from the wall. To clean behind the beds, we would have to unbolt all beds and pull them out. Modular furniture would assist in cleanliness (movable, stackable). Modular furniture would also assist with bed bug eradication. This will be considered in the budget for next year.</b></p>	<p>Christi Fenter</p>
<b>8 WEEK SCHEDULE</b>	
<p>A student stated the 8-week schedule was a problem for her. The student is struggling with it. She has nonstop homework and constantly asks for help. She does not have a day off from studying/doing homework. She is taking two classes – General Psychology and Contemporary Math.</p> <p>Another student that is only taking A&amp;P feels like it has been exceedingly difficult to keep up with the fast pace of the 8-week schedule. They felt like the professor must cover the material so quickly that there is no time to retain it.</p> <p>A Rodeo student stated that he is struggling with science class and knows several students that are also struggling.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE: This is a new initiative for our district. Instructors have been provided with training and resources for the past year to help prepare for this change. All instructors have reviewed their student learning outcomes and program outcomes to ensure that we are not removing content that is essential to the class. They have redesigned lectures, in class activities and out of class activities. Students are still getting the same quality of class, but it has been redesigned to better fit the 8-week schedule. Research shows that students are more successful in college when they can dedicate more time per course. This new model allows students to do this without harming their eligibility for financial aid/scholarships and maintain their goal to finish their degree or certificate within the appropriate timeline. We will work with students to help them learn how to be prepared to schedule their time differently. I strongly encourage students to express concerns to their instructors about specific assignments so we can address the concerns in real time as well. Staff will continue to have training and resources available to them. We will continue training faculty on course development. We will also continue to evaluate student progress in the 8-week classes.</b></p>	<p>Luci Gabehart</p>

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ACADEMIC/INSTRUCTION	
<p>The art equipment is old and falling apart. The table screws are loose, some of the tabletops are falling off.</p> <p>Last semester, a disabled student was not able to work at the tables in the Art Department. There is a need for adjustable tables.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE: Work order has been submitted for the tables, and we will look into accessibility issues. After completed work order we will decide if we need to budget in new tables.</b></p>	<p>Kelby Vise</p>
<p>There are no business transfer classes offered in person on the Big Spring campus. It is difficult to learn the topics, it would be beneficial to students to have in person classes.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE: We have not been able to hire someone full-time to teach the business transfer courses in Big Spring. There is one course in the second 8-week schedule with Andrea Cline. Mike Alexander teaches other Business (non-transfer) courses in person. We will continue to seek faculty for the transfer business classes.</b></p>	<p>Kelby Vise</p>
STUDENT SUCCESS	
<p>The tutoring center could use more tools (especially for AP and Biology). There is not much to work with in there.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE: There are a couple of science models in the Student Development Center, however, there is a full study room with many models available in the MCAS building. There are also models available in the library, which have been in the East room for a period of time. We do not mind adding models to the Student Development Center as we are currently working on making it a more inviting area for students but do not want to try and replace what is available in the MCAS or library. We can continue to keep this issue in mind as we work on the Student Development environment as a strategic planning objective in the 23-24 academic year.</b></p>	<p>Cindy Smith</p>

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<b>BUILDING</b>	
<p>The signage for the buildings on campus is not helpful. It is difficult for new people to know where to go.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE: I will make it a point to discuss this during upcoming facilities masterplan meetings.</b></p>	Fabian Serrano
<p>The pipes under the building at the sub/cafeteria keep busting.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE: There is one cast iron drain line under the SUB, which drains the women's bathroom sinks (not toilets), that we suspect has collapsed after inspecting it with a drain camera. Water drains at a much slower pace because of this issue; however, the women's bathroom sink drains are currently working. We are waiting for bids from plumbers to fix this issue, which will require that the concrete floor be busted up from the adjoining custodial closet. This is the only pipe under the SUB that is collapsed.</b></p>	Fabian Serrano

<b>POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS</b>
<p>During the meeting, the students had many positive things to say about Howard College.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Amazing staff – everyone is super helpful and kind. They are always smiling.</li><li>❖ The faculty is extremely helpful. They go above and beyond, one faculty member is tutoring a student that is not enrolled in their class.</li><li>❖ The dorm staff is sweet and helpful.</li></ul>