

PRESIDENTIAL STUDENT FORUM
 HOWARD COLLEGE SAN ANGELO STUDENTS
 March 20, 2023, 12:00 p.m.
 Room SAA 150

Dr. Sparks opened the presidential round table (student forum) by thanking the students for attending. She provided a quick overview of the forum and noted that we try to keep to one hour to be respectful of student’s time.

Dr. Sparks began with introductions. She explained that student roundtables are held at each college site during the semester. She shared that we have been doing roundtables for many years, and we try to do one every semester to get feedback from our students, and then we go to work on the suggestions/ideas that students provide. We are here to make your “Dreams Real.” Do not feel that a negative comment is bad, we want constructive criticism. This is part of our continuous quality improvement process. She stated that we need student feedback on what will make their college experience better, and that sometimes we cannot accomplish immediately, but implement later to improve the college experience for future students. She explained that the suggestions/comments shared today will be sent to individuals on campus for their response/feedback. Responses are posted on the HC website.

The ground rules for the forum were shared: We encourage you to share constructive criticism as we want to hear ways to improve, but we also want to hear about the positive experiences. We want you to feel comfortable. Share things that we are doing well too. Dr. Sparks noted that there is a suggestion box on campus. Also, need to remember that we do not get personal. This is not the place to talk specifically about an individual faculty, staff, or student. There are other avenues to handle those type of confidential issues.

Dr. Sparks then shared a quick review of the Fall 2022 Student Forum items and then opened the forum to student comments, suggestions and/or questions.

Five students were in attendance and their majors were Criminal Justice, Surgical Technology, Radiology and Social Work. Three are from San Angelo, one from Austin and one international student from Uganda. Two of the students were representatives from the Student Government Association. Student attendance is on file in the San Angelo Provost’s office.

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS	RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN
GENERAL COMMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate the health professions program chairs being up-front on program requirements and expectations for the program. • Tutoring is free—this is great. Having someone to reach out to for clarifications, additional help—great to know this service is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments to be shared.
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	
Student Forum Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the student forum start at 12:30 p.m. so 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam Callan stated yes, the time could be

<p>students whose class ends at 12:15 p.m. can attend and not be late?</p>	<p>adjusted.</p>
<p>Childcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about not being able to attend class because of not having childcare at times; could an exception be made to bring a child to class on occasion, but not on a regular basis. • Does not attending class affect financial aid and course grade, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sparks and Pam Callan both shared that this would have to be discussed with your instructor. The college does not have a rule to make this an automatic exception. Instructors may not be able to accommodate this type of request as they need to take into consideration the class dynamics and other students. Dr. Sparks noted that this would need to be an exception and not the rule, but we would try to be reasonable. Children in the classroom could cause a disruption, or the type of class may not be conducive to having a child in attendance. Pam shared that missing class could affect financial aid and the course grade depending on the instructor's attendance policy. Pam also added that students need to talk with their instructor, advisor or even Pam Gabriel in advising. • The Carl Perkins grant is available to assist CTE students and those who have been admitted into a Health Professions Program with childcare. It provides limited funding and is available on a first come, first served basis. Workforce Solutions of the Concho Valley provides Child Care Services. The link to their application which includes information about eligibility including income guidelines: https://form.jotform.com/230604268870154
<p>Financial Aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about VA and financial aid; worked hard to get into program, but not able to receive full financial aid because the number of credit hours is not enough, but taking the courses that are required for a particular semester. Summer aid is even more difficult as no aid is available. Is there an option to count hours of the lab for summer sessions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sparks explained that there are different rules that need to be followed for different types of financial aid. Need to have someone review to maybe see what can be done. The VA has its own set of rules that need to be met. She advised student to talk with Mike Hemmeter. • Financial Aid is disbursed based on the number of credit hours according to the pell payment schedule issued by the Department of Education. • Summer aid eligibility is determined on an individual basis bound by regulations mandated by the Department of Education.

	<p>An email was sent to all students about the availability of summer aid application on 02/23/2023, the link for the application can be found below. Financial Aid counts all credit hours in student's degree plans that they are enrolled in per semester and disburses aid according to the pell payment schedule issued by the Department of Education. Link to summer financial aid.</p> <p>https://form.jotform.com/210544998531058</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rules that dictate how VA education benefits are paid are very specific. If a student is not enrolled at a full-time rate, then they do not receive full-time VA education benefits. As you can see from the example listed below a student pursuing the AAS, Surgical Technology degree is not considered full-time for the final three semesters of the degree, however, there are rules within VA education benefit regulations that allow for the combination of semester credit hours and clock hours to help get students to a full-time rate, or as close to this as possible. <p><u>Surg Tech, AAS:</u></p> <p>Summer Semester</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRGT 1161 - Clinical - Surgical Technology 1 semester hour Language, Philosophy, and Culture OR Creative Arts - choose from Core Curriculum 3 semester hours <p>Total: 4 Hours</p> <hr/> <p>Third Semester</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRGT 2561 - Clinical - Surgical Technology 5 semester hours SRGT 2130 - Professional Readiness 1 semester hour <p>Total 6 Hours</p> <hr/> <p>Fourth Semester</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRGT 2562 - Clinical 5 semester hours SRGT 1191 - Special Topics in Surgical/Operating Room Technician 1 semester hour <p>Total: 6 Hours</p> <hr/>
<p>Outside Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What about horseshoes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can certainly look into horseshoes. Will need to coordinate with our facilities for agreement. If they are placed in the grass, they will have to be mowed/weeded around. If we build sand pits, they will need to be involved with the placement and pits will still require maintenance.
<p>Disabled Parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student expressed concern about personally seeing individuals on a regular basis parking in the disabled parking without stickers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are working with our local head of security as well as Big Spring security to find a resolution that may reduce these infractions.

CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION	
<p>Printing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the cost of printing in the library be added to tuition instead of paying as you print? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sparks explained that we are working on this. She asked the students what they thought about a fee that would cover the cost of printing. While most were okay with the idea for a fee, one student expressed concern because they only take online classes and was told not to come to campus, so why would they have to pay a fee for something they do not use. Dr. Sparks stated that is not true, you are always welcome on campus. Our facilities are always available to you, it does not matter that you are only taking online classes.
<p>8-Week Class Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could you elaborate on the 8-week classes? • Will this be mandatory for all students? • What about students with special needs; could be disastrous for some of them, based on their special needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sparks explained that we are transitioning to an 8-week class schedule. Students will take two courses per 8-week session, so 12 credit hours for the two sessions. The 8-week courses are intense, but the student will only have to focus on two classes at a time. Dr. Sparks noted that several community colleges have already moved to this type of class scheduled and students have been successful. There will be some classes that will stay 16-week, but as an exception. Financial aid will not be impacted if students take 6 credit hours for each 8-week session. • Dr. Sparks shared that yes, the 8-week sessions will be the schedule. • Dr. Sparks shared that this is a good point and a question for the community colleges that are using 8-week sessions on how they are working with students with special needs. She added that any class schedule is not perfect for everyone.