

PRESIDENTIAL STUDENT FORUM  
 HOWARD COLLEGE SAN ANGELO STUDENTS  
 September 6, 2023, 12:30 p.m.  
 Room SAA 153

Pam Callan welcomed and thanked the students for attending the presidential roundtable (student forum). She shared that Dr. Sparks was delayed, but that we would go ahead and get started. She provided a quick overview of the forum and the rules noting that we try to keep to one hour. Dr. Sparks has been hosting these roundtables for many years. It is a way for you to share feedback on concerns or suggestions so that we can improve your student experience or the experience of future students. Your feedback is appreciated, we want your constructive criticism. Pam stated that one rule is 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 confidential issues. 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.

Pam then shared a quick review of the Spring 2023 Student Forum items.

Dr. Sparks thanked the students for attending and then opened the forum to student comments, suggestions and/or questions.

Four students were in attendance and were representatives from Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa. Student attendance is on file in the San Angelo Provost's office.

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS	RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN
<b>STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	
<b>Safety/Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students expressed concern about the proximity to the county jail and release of inmates; have seen them wandering on campus, looking into the window during new student orientation, walking down the middle of the street and in front of cars causing traffic concerns; digging in the trash, coming up to students.</li> <li>Could a boundary be built, a fence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pam shared that security is addressing this issue.</li> <li>While we can't do anything about our proximity to the jail we can continue to monitor when inmates are released and try to intercept them before they come on campus. Our security team catches 95%-97% of those released before they come to campus. There are several websites that are used by security to see when inmates are released and will post themselves outside or monitor the security cameras. Our security team is also keeping in touch with city/county officials to discuss the issue. A fence along the front of the WTTC building is a great suggestion and we will look into it. Students, as well as faculty and staff, are free to call security: (432-816-5151).</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Aid</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why was there a later release date for financial aid; why was the date changed,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pam shared that Candice Maldonado, District Dean of Financial Aid shared that the change</li> </ul>

because of 8-week classes?

- Did not know about the change to the aid release date.
- Radiology is not on an 8-week class schedule so why did it change; the student unaware of the date change had to take personal loans.

to the financial aid release date was due to the CAMS conversion and the changes to non-attendance policies. The process to award financial aid works regardless of whether a course is 8-weeks or 16-weeks.

- The only disbursement dates that have changed are for student loans. Pell and other financial aid funds have always been disbursed the beginning of October for the Fall semester.
- Due to policies and procedures changing beginning this Fall semester, we are not able to credit accounts for all financial aid, including loans before the semester begins. Students must be officially enrolled at census date and attendance confirmed before funds are released. All students are unofficial before the census date. In our new student information system, CAMS, disbursements are not able to be sent until the student is classified as official after the census date. After all census rosters are submitted by instructors, attendance is confirmed, then aid is then processed and transferred to the Business Office. The Business Office receives the funds, then within 14 days the student will receive their refund for any remaining financial aid after their balance is paid.
- The dates for financial aid are on the academic calendar at the link below and also listed on the billing statement each student receives when they register for classes. Each year when the calendar is released, dates are always subject to change due to changes in policies and regulations.  
<https://howardcollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/PDF/Academics/Academic%20Calendar%202023-2024.pdf>
- Financial Aid funds for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8 weeks, and other courses that begin later in the semester are actually being disbursed earlier than in the past. There were no changes for later disbursements to the Radiology program, or any program because of 8 weeks or 16 weeks. The loans funds were available to pay tuition, fees, and books before the semester begins, however students must be officially enrolled

	<p>at census date and attendance confirmed before any remaining funds are released as a refund to the students. In addition to the date information mentioned earlier, the loan disbursement dates are also published on our website at <a href="https://howardcollege.edu/students/financial-aid-and-scholarships/student-loans-process/">https://howardcollege.edu/students/financial-aid-and-scholarships/student-loans-process/</a></p>
<p><b>Financial Aid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was not told that Pell money could be used in the bookstore.</li> <li>• Why can't the bookstore advise a student to use their Pell; Does the bookstore know if a student has Pell?</li> <li>• Could the bookstore staff ask the student if they have a Pell award?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Financial Aid department shared that announcements about using Pell awards towards the purchase of textbooks in the bookstore are sent to students. This is also discussed when they counsel students.</li> <li>• There were announcements sent to students by email and Facebook about using Financial Aid at the bookstore.</li> <li>• The notice of Financial Aid funds, including the Pell Grant may be used at the bookstore can be found on our webpage at the link below. <a href="https://howardcollege.edu/students/financial-aid-and-scholarships/terms-and-conditions/">https://howardcollege.edu/students/financial-aid-and-scholarships/terms-and-conditions/</a></li> <li>• The bookstore Financial Aid policies are also listed in the financial aid section of the catalog at <a href="http://catalog.howardcollege.edu/content.php?catoid=21&amp;navoid=1011#bookstore-policy">http://catalog.howardcollege.edu/content.php?catoid=21&amp;navoid=1011#bookstore-policy</a></li> <li>• The dates to use financial aid at the bookstore are on the academic calendar at the link below and also listed on the billing statement each student receives when they register for classes. <a href="https://howardcollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/PDF/Academics/Academic%20Calendar%202023-2024.pdf">https://howardcollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/PDF/Academics/Academic%20Calendar%202023-2024.pdf</a></li> <li>• The bookstore has been trained and given information from the Financial Aid office for using Financial Aid funds at the bookstore. The bookstore does have access to student accounts to be able to see available Pell Grant funds after tuition and fees are paid. The interactions between the bookstore and students has been witnessed and the bookstore staff does ask students if they are using financial aid funds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial Aid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked about scholarships specific to Howard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Sparks shared that you could visit with the</li> </ul>

<p>College.</p>	<p>Financial Aid team about other available Howard College Scholarships. This information and the applications to apply can be found on the webpage. Some donors have scholarships for specific programs, and some have very specific criteria for award, such as a certain GPA, number of hours a student is taking, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Howard College San Angelo scholarships can be found on our webpage at the link below. Students can find the information and requirements for each Howard College specific scholarship, or they may come in and meet with a Financial Aid Advisor about them. Applications are reviewed each semester by the deadline dates outlined on the application. <a href="https://howardcollege.edu/students/financial-aid-and-scholarships/scholarships/">https://howardcollege.edu/students/financial-aid-and-scholarships/scholarships/</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial Aid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why are we not notified when we are given a scholarship, such as SA Gives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pam shared that scholarship awards are put on the student portal. Telephone calls are made to students for some scholarships, such as the Howard College San Angelo Foundation scholarships.</li> <li>The option to view all awards, including scholarships is on MYHC. Many funds require acceptance before funds are able to be disbursed; however, most scholarships do not require acceptance, but the student can see all of their awards at the same time. It is the student's responsibility to check on all financial aid, including scholarships on their MYHC. There were several different announcements from multiple departments that were sent to students by email and Facebook about logging to MYHC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Printing in Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost for printing adds up, especially for health profession students; Is this still being looked at?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pam said we are investigating options.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food Vendor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the influx of health students to the WTTC will there be a food provider at the WTTC? Health students do not normally leave campus during lunch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Sparks shared that a food service vendor must be able to sustain their business.</li> <li>We fully intend to have a food vendor on campus when health students come to the WTTC building. But at the same time a food vendor must be able to sustain their business,</li> </ul>

	<p>which has been an issue in the past. Currently we have the BSM people coming every Tuesday delivering a free meal to the students and Chick-Fil-A has changed their schedule from every Wednesday to every other Wednesday because of lack of profit. Once health students are on our campus, we think we may have enough on-campus population to support a food vendor.</p>
<b>CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION</b>	
<p><b>Online Classes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor has no notes, just told to read the chapter, and take the quiz—feel instructor is not instructing—no direction. Instructor did respond to my questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Sparks asked if other online courses taken were more effective. Students responded, yes A&amp;P, summer online classes were good, and some online classes were amazing. Dr. Sparks noted that it is not necessarily online classes, but more instructional for a particular course. The student added that it also depends on the student. Dr. Sparks commented that readiness and discipline is needed for online classes.</li> <li>All comments were reviewed at the San Angelo Instructional Council. Each specific area will share comments with their instructors. Our online classes just experienced a huge shift from Blackboard Learn to Blackboard Ultra over the past year. For some instructors this is their first semester using this new platform. We are excited to say that everyone is using the same template which should allow students better navigation in all their courses. Also, over the summer, instructional leadership have developed a NEW Blackboard evaluation tool. This will be used for faculty when they are up for evaluation. This tool was developed to review for best practices in online instruction. We are optimistic that this new tool will help improve all our online classes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8-Week Class Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student shared concerns that 8-week classes were overwhelming, feel rushed, everything from a 16-week class crammed into 8-weeks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pam shared that change is hard. Professors revamped course curriculum for the 8-week sessions. We appreciate this input, and you need to share it with your instructors. Pam told the students not to give up.</li> <li>All comments were reviewed at the San Angelo Instructional Council. Each specific area will share comments with their instructors. This is a new initiative for our</li> </ul>

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. Students need to be prepared to schedule their time differently as well. Research suggests that students spend 2-3 hours per credit hour in order to be successful in their class. Some classes like STEM may require 3-4 hours per credit hour. This is time that is outside the “class time”. Hybrid classes are scheduled where you spend around half the time in the classroom and half your “class” work is done outside the class. THEN you would still need to spend 2-3 hours a week on TOP of that. IF you are taking two 3-credit hour classes, here is the breakdown:

**Traditional Class**

Class:	In class	Outside study time
Class 1: ( 3 credit hour)	6 hours a week	6 – 8 hours a week
Class 2: ( 3 credit hour)	6 hours a week	6 – 8 hours a week
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12 hours a week</b>	<b>12- 16 hours a week</b>
<b>Total Time:</b>	<b>24 – 28 hours a week</b>	

**Hybrid Class:**

Class:	In class	Out of class	Outside study time
Class 1: ( 3 credit hour)	3 hours a week	3 hours a week	6 – 8 hours a week
Class 2: ( 3 credit hour)	3 hours a week	3 hours a week	6 – 8 hours a week
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6 hours a week</b>	<b>6 hours a week</b>	<b>12- 16 hours a week</b>
<b>Total Time:</b>	<b>24 – 28 hours a week</b>		

- Taking 2 classes in an 8-week term is equal to the same amount of time that taking 4 classes in a 16-week term. The difference is that you are only focusing on 2 classes at a time opposed to 4 classes. Research shows that students are more successful in college if 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.
- If students would like to set up an

	<p>appointment with Lanna Hubbard, Dean of Instruction, she would be happy to map out an approach to their classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty and instructional leadership appreciate ANY feedback from students as we continue to adjust our courses every semester.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Textbooks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had to purchase a textbook (\$130) plus a novel (\$120)—why so much money? Couldn't they pick a less expensive novel or textbook.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Sparks did note that more and more professors are using Open Educational Resources, if available.</li> <li>• All comments were reviewed at the San Angelo Instructional Council. Each specific area will share comments with their instructors. Howard College has encouraged all faculty to explore low cost to free resources for their classes. The large majority of our instructors and classes have made this shift. There are some classes where this is not possible, but it is a goal that we achieve this in any class where we can.</li> </ul>
<p>Dr. Sparks explained to the students that the college district is going through a strategic planning process for facilities. Reviewing the master plans for each site and reaching out to employees, students, and members of the community for input.</p> <p>Dr. Sparks then introduced Phil Furqueron and Terry Hansen. Phil is the general architect for the college and Terry Hansen is our former vice-president. Both Phil and Terry have worked extensively with the master plans across the district for several years. The last facilities master plan was done back in 2007.</p> <p>Phil and Terry shared that this master plan study will include everything about the facilities, from campus lighting, dorms, to electrical and heating/air systems, etc. We are in the process of gathering information utilizing a survey so that we can develop/update the master plans. The surveys are being done specifically for each campus. Phil explained the survey to the students and noted that we need your honest feedback. If you mark an item as disagree or totally disagree, please tell us why. QR codes were shared with students to access the survey. Student asked if the QR code could be shared with other students. Yes, please share the code with other students so that they too can do the survey. Phil closed noting that the data from the surveys will generate recommendations for development of the district master plans.</p>	