

PRESIDENTIAL STUDENT FORUM
HOWARD COLLEGE SAN ANGELO STUDENTS
November 13, 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Sparks welcomed the group and introductions were made. Dr. Sparks shared that we have been doing student forums for over 25 years. We try to keep the forum to one hour, but do a quick review of the items/concerns from the prior forum. The focal point of the hour is to give you time to share your suggestions/concerns. This is your time to share constructive criticism, ways to improve your experience at Howard College. Your suggestions could improve the experience for future students. This is one way for continuous quality improvement. Comments/suggestions provided today are sent to the appropriate department for a response. Sometimes that response may be an interim response, as more time might be needed to review the suggestion. Responses are sent out, but also posted to the web page. However, the open forum is not a time to talk about a specific individual whether it be a faculty or staff member or another student. For privacy, personal matters are handled on a one-on-one basis through other avenues. Dr. Sparks reviewed the spring 2019 items, followed by students sharing their concerns/suggestions/ comments.

Student attendance is on file in the San Angelo Administrative Dean for Instruction and Student Services office.

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS	RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN
GENERAL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there some things that have more success at one campus or another? 	<p>Dr. Sparks shared that we have a unique complex college district. Each campus is unique and this can vary from semester to semester. One difference is that the Big Spring and SWCD campuses have dorms. Therefore, something that works for one site, might not work so well for another site.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of Tennessee has paid tuition for residents. Could that be something for Texas? 	<p>Dr. Sparks shared that there have been conversations about this and some states have an education promise. However, no discussion about a state of Texas initiative, but some Texas community colleges have discussed and are doing. Dr. Sparks further explained that the San Angelo students are out-of-district so the student is carrying a larger amount to pay. Dr. Sparks also explained the 4-levels of funding for community colleges: state appropriations, tuition and fees, donors, and local taxes. She added that San Angelo does not have a tax. She noted that some communities tax more in order to keep that tuition free promise. She shared that she does not believe this will be discussed anytime soon for Texas.</p>
FACILITIES/STUDENT SERVICES	
<p>Food Vendor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excited about the Café – positive changes Students seem to be enjoying it more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment to be shared.

<p>Student Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ping Pong Table is good – it is nice to see students in the student center enjoying themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam noted that we are hoping to add a foosball table. Comment to be shared.
<p>Reporting Incidents on Campus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Protocol for Reporting Incidents, such as break-in of a vehicle? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal incidents should be reported to local law enforcement and to the designated campus safety and security officer. Any Howard College employee can contact the campus safety and security officer to meet with you. Also, criminal incidents should be reported via the Online Incident & Crime report form that can be found at the bottom of the Howard College Homepage: https://www.howardcollege.edu/ • Direct Link to the Online Incident & Crime Report: https://www.howardcollege.edu/safety-security/big-spring-safety/online-incident-or-crime-report/
<p>Help for Moms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything that colleges can do to help moms? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sparks shared that we do have some childcare funds available. We know this is a challenge for students who have children and are going to school. The Big Spring site has a childcare facility. However, you must have ground floor money for a childcare center. Students shared comments, with one being an idea for finding someone to watch a child for just a few hours—babysitting sharing. Pam Callan shared that we are in the initial stages of starting a “Caring Coalition.” Coalition goals are to address student needs – the barriers’ for attending school, such as childcare needs.
<p>CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION</p>	
<p>Cosmetology Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab needs an update. Floors have stains, shampoo chairs are old, some rusting; walls need repainting; classrooms could use an uplift too, but mainly want to focus on the lab • Students invited Dr. Sparks to visit the lab after the forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sparks and Pam toured the lab and visited with the students to see and hear their concerns. We are aware, appreciate the student concerns, and will determine what we can do during the budget process in the spring.
<p>Chemistry and Physics Classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a shortage of instructors to teach these classes? • Could additional Chemistry and Physics classes be offered? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sparks shared that in general qualified instructors are hard to find. Pam will visit with Campus Dean of Arts and Sciences about this. • It is a struggle to find qualified instructors in these

	<p>areas. We are in the process trying to hire a Physics adjunct instructor. Many of these qualified individuals also work a full time job, so if they are interested in teaching their availability is limited. The Chemistry we offer online right now is required for a program we offer at Howard College, the Dental Hygiene Program. None of our health programs requires General Chemistry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of these classes are taken to fulfill requirements in the STEM field. We have met with one department at Angelo State University and discussed the possibility of having students be dual enrolled at Howard College and ASU (and be able to use their financial aid) for these major specific courses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Open Discussion 	<p>Dr. Sparks briefly discussed the new training required. This training is a requirement from the Federal government. It is a new expectation for students. Dr. Sparks also shared some information on the Pathways initiative sponsored by the Student Success Center. She shared an idea that some schools have implemented “Zero Week.” This would involve students starting a week or even a few days earlier. This time could possibly be used for new student orientation, taking care of training, meeting faculty, Blackboard training, meeting other students, etc. She asked students, “What would you think about that?” Responses were that it could help a lot, possibly make super informal, and could be helpful.</p> <p>One student shared that they are working on a trendy video about Blackboard for students.</p> <p>Dr. Sparks also shared about the need for a balance of learning between traditional and non-traditional students.</p> <p>One student shared about a program similar to Big Brother/Big Sister that she did as a senior in high school. Idea maybe start something similar with Howard College alumni – mentorship for new students. Dr. Sparks commented that students are the best recruiters.</p>