

State of the College Address: Student Forum with President Andrews
October 10, 2017
Mossman 101

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by President Jones.

Guest Speaker: President Andrews

Summary: President Andrews begins the meeting by discussing the state of the college, now that we've begun to implement the strategic plan. He completes his discussion by opening the floor for questions from all student attendees.

Minutes

- Board of Trustees meets 3 times a year. Upcoming board meeting during Homecoming is where the President will give his Executive summary of the state of the college to the board.
- Two things for all of us at SC to know right now:
 - This is a tough time to be a small private college. Recently, small colleges have experienced decrease in enrollment, budget constraints and even closing. We're in the process of going through another change in college education. However, Southwestern is still progressing, and is in a good place within that environment.
- Enrollment and Finances –
 - Southwestern has had a range of 450- 600 total enrollment for main campus over time.
 - We are in the top 5% of colleges in terms of enrollment growth
 - Average class size from 11 in 2016-2017 to 14 in 2017-2018
 - 86% of what the college spends is from student tuition, with 14% from donors to fund scholarships, institutional grants, etc.
 - Adding baseball this year contributed to enrollment growth. Plans to add a women's sport is in progress.
- New initiatives in the future as a result of the strategic plan
 - Establishing an honors college. Most likely will be an interdisciplinary program. However, the model/structure has yet to be determined, but is in progress.
 - Career center
 - Starts as a more traditional career center, with focuses on identifying your strengths (first year), careers (second year), internships (third year) and resume', interviewing skills and career search (fourth year)
 - The second piece to the career center focuses on vocation; identifying our place in the world and understanding our purpose.
 - Campus physical plant master plan
 - No new buildings in the next few years. The goal is to improve the quality of education every year in whatever ways we are able
 - Many ideas about renovating current facilities and building new facilities
 - Branding initiative
 - People love Southwestern for many reasons. What is it that makes this place special? What are our aspirations, hopes, and dreams? The purpose is to think about what the college ideally is in 25 years

Open Discussion:

- Tanner Schartz – Staffing issues with housekeeping and maintenance due to pest and bug issues in Darbeth. *President Andrews response:*
 - Staffing has decreased slightly. Continue to report issues
 - Committed to maintaining same size of staff
- Craig Lantz – Inquired about the concept of builder family and what does that mean? *President Andrews response:*
 - Builder family is about caring for and caring about others having a large support system – everyone supports you and developing individualized programs. A high level of care, compassion, and commitment
- Shayla Jordon – Maintenance has been a common complaint with students. Is resolving this issue part of the master plan? *President Andrews response:*
 - Need to keep reporting problems. Master plan is to renovate existing buildings and begin the process of incorporating new facilities.
- Emily Jones – Residence Halls are filling. With increased enrollment what are short term goals to resolve housing issue? *President Andrews response:*
 - We are growing to our capacity in the residence halls. Short term goal is to build new a residence hall in 2-5 years potentially near Sutton hall. However, a lot of planning goes into this process and students will be part of this discussion. Timeline includes:
 - Next 1 or 2 years – will need to make a decision and move forward. Following year will begin building. Completion is between year 3-5
 - As early as 3, maybe 4-5 before completion
- Beth Jewett – incentives for upperclassmen to move off campus? *President Andrews response:*
 - Need to take advantage of the space we have
- Brent Vancuren – Currently, 40% of your scholarship goes away if you move off campus – would that change once new residence hall is built? *President Andrews response:*
 - Students are more successful and graduate sooner if they live on campus and we're committed to being a residential campus. Policies such as this one and many others will most likely be taken into consideration as the conversations of new residence halls begins.
- Victoria Lybarger – A number of students have had challenges with financial aid in regards to communication, timeliness, paperwork approval/processing, counseling. Is there a plan to resolve this issue now, but when we increase enrollment? Will staffing increase? *President Andrews response:*
 - It's important that faculty, staff and administration are made aware the concerns of the students in order to know where we fall short and how we can resolve the issue. In order to increase in staff, we'll potentially need to grow to 700-720 students, as we need to be conscious of our spending habits and making wise financial decisions. However, we can definitely find ways to resolve the issue with who we have now.
- Quinlan Stein – follow up financial aid question- move in day ran smoothly in regards to financial aid they're amazing people, however the workload maybe a lot.
- Daren Reed – Suggested that financial aid have individual follow-up appointments in the semester to address financial aid issues what weren't previously resolved.

- Cameron Goodrich – I committed to Southwestern because of the connections with professors. As enrollment increases, will the “connection” aspect change/decline? *President Andrews response:*
 - We are striving to hit the 15/ 1 student/faculty ratio and we 15-17 average classroom sizes. We’ll need 700-750 students to make this happen. It will feel different with more students here – it will redefine who we are. Class sizes of 15 are better than sizes of 10 in terms of learning
- Troy Fort – As you increase enrollment – will you increase faculty in order to maintain a certain ratio? *President Andrews response:*
 - Yes – a 15-1 will be maintained
- Ryan Pangracs – In terms of recruitment, are we looking to target large events such as DECA, National Thespian Festival, etc. for prospective students? *President Andrews response:*
 - Though we had a successful year in recruitment, the Vice President of Enrollment Management will spearhead the recruitment process
- Brent Vancuren – Recent changes to RICOH staff, are there plans to replace the head of the Copy Mail Center? *President Andrews response:*
 - Currently, there’s a temporary person in charge of RICOH. Kristin Humphreys oversees RICOH staff and may have long term plans to better the copy mail center.
- Shayla Jordon – Creating committees to address the 4 pillars of strategic plan – will students be involved? *President Andrews response:*
 - There will be 3-4 people per team, but will not contain students are the core group. However, students will be in the subgroups.

SGA Committees

- Communications and Advertisement: Arthur Anderson III and Marcus Richardson
- Elections & Constitutional Amendments: Ryan Pangracs and Scarlet Green
- Activities & Allocations: Karen Aros, Emily Berry, and Joshua Hallemeier
- Student Concerns: Jay Buffum, Tanner Schartz, and Quinlan Stein

Upcoming Events

- Continuing education luncheon on Friday, October 13, from noon-1p.m. in Pounds lounge. Department of Marketing and Communications will present. Senators and organizations are required to attend. Advisors encouraged to attend.
- Homecoming packets due Friday, October 13 by 5:00p.m. to the Campus Life Office
- Volunteer Opportunities: Labyrinth of Terror needs actors for their haunt days in October. Please see Anjaih’s email from last week for details.
- Homecoming Family Day on Saturday, October 28 from 10a.m-noon. Will need help facilitating games, face painting and more. Please contact Anjaih Clemons at Anjaih.clemons@sckans.edu or SGA at sga@sckans.edu for details about these volunteer opportunities.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.