

Student Forum
 February 15, 2012
 4:00-5:30 p.m. SRSC Pride Room

Announcements:

1. Update on New Residence Hall: The Board of Regents has approved Phase II of the Residential Living & Learning Master Plan. Construction of the new 500+ bed facility will begin soon with completion expected Fall of 2013.
2. Update on Student Center Expansion: A&M-Commerce will begin expanding the first and second floors of the Rayburn Student Center to double the space of the cafeteria and provide additional meeting facilities. The project is expected to be complete in August of 2013. The Student Center staff will keep everyone informed of the process and will be proactive in making accommodations during construction.
3. Portal Development Survey: A&M-Commerce is in the development stages of providing portal access and would like student input on what services students need and prefer. A survey was distributed and a request for beta testing was issued.
4. Domain Name Change: A&M-Commerce will officially change its domain name to www.tamuc.edu beginning Fall 2012. At that time the email address format will also change and the underscore between first and last names will be replaced by a period (example: Mary.Hendrix@tamuc.edu).

Next Student Forum Date: March 21 at 4:00 PM in the Student Center Pride Room

Current Issues:

QUESTION / CONCERN / SUGGESTION:	RESPONSE:
<p>Concern about safety of crosswalks, adequate street lighting, and drivers who do not yield to pedestrians.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing issue that the university has tried to address in several ways. The crosswalk lights have helped, but the university is open to all safety suggestions. Dr. Hendrix will follow-up with Facilities to determine if additional lighting can be added in areas around the dorms. Dr. Hendrix asked for input regarding a shuttle bus system that met with very favorable responses. Follow-up will be provided at the next Student Forum. Any immediate safety concerns should be addressed to the University Police Department.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Concern regarding timely responses to phone calls and emails, and to voicemail boxes being full.</p>	<p>The University has a 24-hour response expectation and students should not experience untimely delays or full voicemail boxes. Students are encouraged to report any problems through the We Care Survey site. Students may respond anonymously or provide</p>

	<p>contact information. Students are asked to provide as much detail as possible (including specific individuals and/or departments) that are not responding.</p> <p>http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/admissions/oneStopShop/weCare.aspx</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i> <i>Stephanie Holley, Dean of Enrollment Management and Retention</i></p>
<p>Where is the Student Handbook?</p>	<p>The Student Handbook can be found in several locations online including "Current Students" and the Judicial webpage.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i> <i>Robert Dotson, Assistant Dean of Campus Life and Student Development</i></p>
<p>Question about progress of old Music Building site demolition and what will be put there to replace it.</p>	<p>The demolition of the old Music Building site is ongoing but should be completed by summer. The site will become green space and the walking mall will extend through that area. Parking will no longer be available in front of the Ag Building.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Concerns about parking availability.</p>	<p>Several students brought up issues regarding parking. The first question asked if plans were being considered to add additional parking in front of Ferguson/Sorority Row. No additional parking for that area is expected. The second question was about Prairie Crossing. TAMU-C students who do not have PC-designated parking stickers cannot park either in the regular lot spaces or in the visitor spaces which makes it difficult for student visitors. Students also questioned why a color coding system was required and Dr. Hendrix explained that residents who live in and pay for a specific dorm need access to their residence. A student asked why the College Corner Café had been allowed to lease on-campus parking spaces. Dr. Hendrix indicated she would investigate. It was also noted that students are able to park in the lot next to the Library after 3:00 p.m. Additionally, students who have traffic tickets who would like assistance can work with the Student Government Association (SGA). SGA meetings are every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Pride Room.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Concern about the debris falling from Whitley Hall.</p>	<p>There is no cause for concern that additional debris might fall from Whitley Hall. The building has been inspected and found to be</p>

	<p>structurally sound although additional reinforcements to the façade will be completed in the next few weeks to prevent any future issues.</p> <p><i>Dennis Koch, Residential Living & Learning</i></p>
<p>Question about why student organizations cannot have bake sales inside the Student Center.</p>	<p>Sodexo is under contract with TAMU-C which prohibits the sale of any outside food in the Student Center. Additionally, the sale of outside food creates liability and food safety issues. Students are not restricted from having bake sales in any location on campus except the Student Center and Charles Lear is willing to talk with and work with all student groups to try and help accommodate them.</p> <p><i>Charles Lear, Sodexo General Manager</i></p>
<p>Is there a way for student organizations to receive funds to sponsor weekend events that promote alcohol and drug abstinence?</p>	<p>Student organizations are encouraged to contact Deepti Vanguri with any questions or suggestions they may have and for assistance planning campus events. Deepti can be reached at 903-886-5821 or Deepti_Vanguri@tamuc.edu.</p> <p><i>Wendy Morgan, Sam Rayburn Student Center</i></p>
<p>Is there a Campus Master Plan that students can access?</p>	<p>The Campus Master Plan is available, but is out-of-date. Mr. Brown will be contracting with a firm to create a new Master Plan. Broad-based input will be solicited from the university community.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Concern about slow wireless internet speeds at Prairie Crossing.</p>	<p>Several students have commented on the problem of slow wireless internet service between the hours of 7 p.m. until midnight. Dr. Raymond Green has brought the issue to the attention of the Chief Information Officer, Mr. Anwar Karim.</p> <p><i>Dr. Raymond Green, Honors College</i></p>
<p>Concern about being logged off from eCollege by myLeo.</p>	<p>Students expressed concern that they are being logged out of eCollege because they are timed out from myLeo for inactivity. This does happen, and it is sometimes possible to recover but the safest way is to log into eCollege directly by using the following link:</p> <p>www.online.tamuc.org</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>

<p>Concern about 8-week courses and how they affect international students.</p>	<p>The visa status for international students is adversely affected when they enroll in 8-week courses and this issue has been brought to the attention of the academic deans and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Concern about the condition of streets and sidewalks around the university</p>	<p>The City of Commerce and the University are aware of the problem and are working toward a solution. However, it is the roadway/water system infrastructure which needs to be replaced and that work will not begin until 2013.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Question about the recent student robbery.</p>	<p>At least one of the suspects has been apprehended. Students are encouraged to remain vigilant and to be aware of their surroundings and to report any suspicious behavior to the University or Commerce Police Departments.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Question about leadership opportunities for students.</p>	<p>There are several leadership experiences available for students and they are particularly encouraged to contact Danielle Davis at 903-886-5816 (Danielle_Davis@tamu-commerce.edu) to discuss the various options.</p> <p><i>Danielle Davis, Leadership Engagement & Development</i></p>
<p>Concern about Chemistry program.</p>	<p>Chemistry students are concerned about the lack of courses and the faculty workload for their program. Dr. Hendrix will bring their concerns to Dr. Larry Lemanski, Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs.</p> <p><i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Concern about notification of housing fee increases.</p>	<p>A student expressed concern that they weren't notified of the increased housing prices in a timely manner. This issue has been resolved and students will be notified by March 1 of what the actual summer and Fall 2012 housing rates.</p> <p><i>Dennis Koch, Residential Living & Learning</i></p>

<p>Concern about Veteran student transfer credits.</p>	<p>Veterans are concerned that their experience-based courses are only being transferred into the BAAS program and not all credits are accepted. The Registrar's office is working with academic departments and deans to resolve the issue. In particular, the university is moving toward a competency-based system rather than the old "sit and get" model. In other words, if students can demonstrate proficiency, they should not necessarily be required to sit in a classroom just to gain credit hours.</p> <p><i>Paige Bussell, Registrar</i> <i>Dr. Mary Hendrix, Vice President for Student Access & Success</i></p>
<p>Concern about support for teacher certification in the sciences.</p>	<p>The Math department does a great job of providing support for students who seek teacher certification. However, the other sciences do not seem to provide as much support. It is suggested that students who need additional information and support work with the advisors in the Colleges of Humanities, Social Sciences & Arts, and Education & Human Services.</p> <p><i>Dotty McIntyre, College of Humanities, Social Sciences & Arts</i></p>
<p>Concern about lack of culture-specific food in the cafeteria and the restrictions on how foods are distributed.</p>	<p>Students who need assistance or have concerns about the foods offered at the cafeteria should feel free to meet personally with Charles Lear, the Sodexo General Manager. Charles is extremely open to suggestions and wants to provide the foods that students need and want. Charles' office is on the first floor of the Student Center and students are encouraged to walk into his office and meet with him at any time.</p> <p><i>Charles Lear, Sodexo General Manager</i></p>