

THE BILLY PULPIT

Adams State's Faculty Newsletter

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BOT considers proposed tuition increase

Carol Guerrero-Murphy
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Last week's regular meeting of the Board of Trustees involved the sad and careful discussion of the "Financial Accountability Plan" (FAP) which included, among other strategies, asking the state to allow ASU to set a cap on raised tuition at 16%.

The FAP, including the proposal to increase tuition, which was misreported in The Valley Courier, is a plan that ASU is required to sub-



mit prior to learning what kind of support has been approved by the state. With the possible tuition increase, the BOT demonstrated their desire to protect faculty and staff positions by approv-

ing the possibility (albeit likely) of that amount tuition hike.

With some frustration, several BOT members argued for the need to plan more pro-actively for a future with "ever-decreasing state support," as Bill Mansheim, Finance and Governmental Relations described the situation. Trustee Arnold Salazar, Alamosa, said that every year we face a crisis and he wants to be better prepared; as a response, the BOT determined to spend the July 1 half-day

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ASU Mobile Adams State's new Adult Degree Completion program

Mark Finney
ETC Dept.

Beginning with the fall 2013 semester, Adams State is introducing a new adult degree completion program.

ASU Mobile will offer potential students who have AA degrees or who have completed a significant amount of their general education requirements an opportunity to earn bachelors degrees in nursing, elementary education and general business in an online, cohort-based model.

Michael Mumper, Enrollment Management and Program Development, explained that ASU Mobile will focus on using existing resources to reach thousands of potential students in Colorado.

ASU Mobile will exist online but, unlike many of our online courses, will be run through academic departments, and not through Extended Studies. Instruction in these courses will be in addition to existing faculty teaching loads. Mumper explained that the three departments currently involved have already committed to staffing full programs.

ASU Mobile will not add significantly to faculty workloads because "in fact, we're organizing" existing online teaching loads. Because ASU Mobile is on a cohort model, only a few courses will be offered each term on a pre-determined rotation.

"Very few new courses will have to be developed," said Mumper. Instead, the program

counts on redesigning existing courses.

Tuition will be slightly higher than main campus tuition. Mump-



er also indicated that unlike Extended Studies, students enrolled in ASU Mobile will pay out-of-state tuition, as appropriate. He is hoping to enroll 20-25 students for the initial offering and, as the program expands to other academic departments, for that

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Textbooks and the Campus Bookstore

Tony Weathers
Math Prog.

What if you found out that an individual or department on campus was undermining your attempts to do your job? Specifically, suppose you learned that someone on campus, acting in an official capacity, was directing students not to take your classes. How would you feel? Worse yet, what if they were offering an alternative to your class that was cheaper?

This scenario seems absurd, but something very similar is happening on our campus – just ask the bookstore.

The Adams State University Faculty Senate held its first meeting of 2013 on February 9. Included in the Faculty Senate President's Report was a plea from the bookstore, "let the students buy the books where they will."

Faculty Senate President Brent King, Psychology, reported that there are faculty on campus who write into their syllabus language encouraging students not to patronize the campus bookstore, but rather to purchase their textbooks online. Apparently, entire departments have engaged in a more subtle form of sabotage by voting to not return textbook requisitions to the bookstore, thereby forcing students to look elsewhere for textbooks.

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Billy's Back Page

Commentary - On Obama's new College Scorecard

David Mazel
ETC Dept.

Why do so many people have such funny ideas about college? Because of movies like Animal House and Legally Blonde? Sure. Because of professor-bashing schmucks like David Horowitz? No doubt.

Because of Barack Obama?

Him too.

The president recently announced the creation of an online "College Scorecard," which "parents and students can use to compare

schools based on a simple criterion: where you can get the most bang for your educational buck."

But like so many other attempts at educational "accountability," all the College Scorecard really does is generate numbers so devoid of context as to be meaningless, and at times downright misleading.

I pulled up the scorecards for Adams State and Western.

OMG — our graduation rate is 15.5 percent worse than Western's!

Our default rate is 7.4 percent worse! Do we bite, or what?

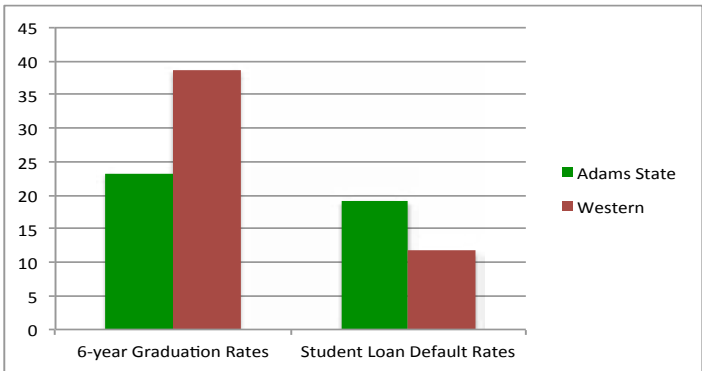
Of course we can all see the problem here. There's every reason to suspect that these differences are driven largely by differences in external factors like the socioeconomic status and academic preparation levels of incoming students. The College Scorecard provides no information at all about such inputs, and without that information these figures don't tell us anything at all about the quality of the institutions being "scored."

Casual users of the College Scorecard will see this information without the context needed to make sense of it. They've been falsely told the info can be used "to compare schools based on a simple criterion," and they will see

the numbers backed by the imprimatur of the presidential seal. Such casual users will likely mistake those numbers for official measures of institutional quality and, even worse, as indicators of their children's (or their own) likelihood of succeeding at the scored institutions.

Such users won't really know what they've been led to think they know, and what they think they know is likely to be wrong.

Thanks a lot, Mr. President.



Bookstore

There have even been faculty who bought books in quantity and resold them to their students, which according to King is both illegal and unethical.

These practices are serving to undermine the viability of the campus bookstore. Far from being a stand-alone commercial enterprise, the bookstore is regarded as another campus department whose profits go into the university's general operating fund. According to King, the management of the bookstore simply asks that the faculty "Allow them to try to be competitive."

Mobile

number to increase.

Mumper also indicated that, although they are "still trying to determine levels of faculty pay," current work is on "trying to blend" the Extended Studies system (pay per student) and the adjunct system (pay per course), in order to create a scheme that accounts appropriately for courses with low enrollment.

Contact/write for the Billy Pulpit!
Call or email your colleague, Mark Finney
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Tuition

retreat on planning for multiple budgetary contingencies.

Mansheim and Heather Heersink, Budget and Technology, explained that the FAP was a result of weeks of lengthy meetings, and the detailed proposal was only ready just in time to distribute for the meeting. The tuition increase is one part of the strategy to create a balanced budget.

Recently appointed (spring 2012) trustee Valentin "Val" Vigil, Thornton CO, spoke by phone in favor of the so-called Access Bill, a measure in the state senate that would allow undocu-

mented students who are residents of Colorado to have in-state tuition at state universities and colleges. He asked the Board to vote its support of the bill.

In the discussion that followed, the concern of the trustees for the welfare of students and the benefits to the college again were clear. Because of Sunshine law requirements giving notice of action items, the BOT will have a special meeting to discuss the measure further and vote. The BOT voted last year unanimously to support a similar measure that failed in the State Senate.