

Dr. Yaseen S. Alhaj-Yaseen, Associate Professor of Finance
Mr. Rex S. Andrews, Assistant Professor of Aviation Science and Management
Dr. Susan Asbury, Assistant Professor of History
Dr. Adrian L. Baker, Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Science and Fitness
Dr. Louis R. Camara, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Lorraine M. Dubuisson, Associate Professor of English
Dr. Stephen M. Fuller, Professor of English
Dr. John B. Murphy, Assistant Professor of English

Dr. William G. Cole, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education and Social Work
Dr. Rebecca L. Edwards, Assistant Professor of New Media and Communications
Dr. Jeremy Mills, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Mr. Christopher Smith, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Mr. Kirby C. Swenson, Associate Professor of Biology

Dr. James Blackburn, Associate Provost of Academic Innovation

Dr. Alhaj-Yaseen called the meeting to order at 9.00 AM. He welcomed everyone and performed rollcall. Next, he asked for approval of the previous meeting's minutes and approval followed. Then, he indicated that the committee may be deactivated for the next academic year and therefore suspended any decision about naming a new chair.

Dr. Alhaj-Yaseen introduced Dr. James Blackburn who spoke at length, citing a large number of statistics regarding university enrollment and various challenges in this area faced by the school. Topics surveyed included the relevance of the 'demographic cliff' to projected enrollment and the university's composition as it relates to gender and ethnicity. He surveyed too retention and graduation rates and supplied figures describing classes delivered online and face-to face and for fulltime and parttime students.

Dr. Camara asked about the accuracy of some of the data shown and especially about the numbers portraying DFW rates for introductory classes. Dr. Blackburn noted that he has more

data to support the figures shown and that those could be supplied. He then moved along to offer reasons causing some of the more troubling statistics: these included university preparedness, academic engagement, student resilience, financial wellness, and social belonging. He underscored that none of these factors relates to the classroom except engagement. Finally, he addressed new initiatives, like Knights Academy program, underway to counter the causes of low numbers. These efforts focus on social, psychological, and economic solutions, Dr. Blackburn observed.

Dr. Alhaj-Yaseen asked for additional comments and/or questions and urged the committee to send feedback to Dr. Blackburn and Dr. Schultheis. He ended the meeting by adjourning at 10.00 AM.

Submitted by Dr. Stephen M. Fuller, Recorder