

President's Cabinet
Minutes
April 21, 2008

The Cabinet met on April 21 at 9:00 a.m. Present were: Bryant, Burke, Byrd, Clark, Denton, Hall, Huffman, Jackson, Kennedy, Loos, McMillan, McQueen, Struckmeyer, Wilson and Winters.

Guest in attendance: Sonja Stewart

- Hall met with Faculty Senate Budget Committee and the University Budget Committee to discuss the financial status for the upcoming fiscal year. Hall stated he attended a meeting last week with THEC officials and at that meeting he was informed that higher education should plan for a possible impoundment for 2008-09 and possibly permanent reductions to base budgets for 2009-10 should state revenue collections continue to decline. He also stated that currently THEC projects tuition increases at no more than 9% for 2008-09. However, this is subject to change based on state revenue collections. The state's revenue collections are projected to decline for 2008-09 and 2009-10. There is likely to be:
 - No across the board state employee raise for next year
 - No capital outlay funding for 2008-09
 - No capital maintenance funding projected for 2008-09
 - No TBR flexibility for equity adjustments for 2008-09

- Hall stated that in the THEC meeting, the formula for APSU's state appropriation was discussed. The formula is designed to reward institutions according to their retention rate. APSU's retention rate is 10% below all other TBR universities. Hall concluded that the most important issue facing APSU is how to increase the retention rate of APSU's freshmen to the sophomore year and beyond. This will become the core problem that the university focuses on for next year. The cabinet provided many suggestions to help improve the freshmen retention rate, such as:
 - Increase social events so students will become more involved on campus
 - Look at what other universities are doing to increase class attendance
 - Strengthen the early alert program to make it easier for faculty to use
 - Assess new initiatives to measure their success
 - Lower faculty/student ratio
 - Strengthen APSU 1000 course

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. This will be the last Cabinet meeting for this fiscal year. The meetings will resume in Fall 2008.