September 3, 2015

Dear Campus Community,

In her Convocation address to the campus, Chancellor Carwein charged USAP:

- to think outside of our current structures and ways of doing things
- to identify programs and services that are poised for growth and investment
- to ask what new and innovative programming we should be investing in
- to reject thinking that maintains the status quo
- to suggest creative and innovative ways to offer programs and deliver services that clearly demonstrate that student success is not only the top priority of IPFW in words of our strategic plan, but that we live it and promote it every day in everything we do
- to ask the question, how do we create a better future for IPFW so that we grow in distinction, in value and in service to our metropolitan area

In addition to aligning to Plan 2020, Chancellor Carwein asked USAP to provide input for the multi-system metropolitan university study which is due to the legislature December 16, 2015. To meet this goal, USAP must review 120 individual units and submit its report by the beginning of December. Therefore, the submission deadline for your unit report has been moved up by one week to October 23, 2015. We recognize the challenge this timeline presents and appreciate everyone’s understanding as we all work to support the opportunity to provide input into the legislative study. To this end, we would like to remind you that the quality of your report submission will affect our ability to provide meaningful recommendations.

In order to give specific recommendations, this year’s USAP model will provide a more comprehensive look at individual programs and the university as a whole. In addition to the planning process started last year, the Task Force will review performance measures (developed in coordination with each vice-chancellor), employment outlook (provided by the Community Research Institute using a national database), and employment data (provided by the Destinations survey or academic units if available). A new and user friendlier report interface was developed by IPFW’s Information Analytics and Visualization Center and will allow you to directly enter information into a Word document. The software will prepopulate with last year’s goals, making it easier to report on your progress.

The new system will be available by the end of the month. In the meantime, we’ve attached a template that you can use now to begin planning and preparing your report. This year, we’ve added a few additional questions as well as an embedded rubric which the task force will use to evaluate your report. Academic units are asked to review reports on academic performance measures and employment outlook, which will be available soon, and are encouraged to comment and contextualize the information. Three other changes in the template include updating USAP on your goal progress, discussing how resources are being used to support your goals, and a section for you to respond to last year’s feedback.
The USAP team remains focused on transparency and openness and will share the results of our analysis and evaluation along with the final report and recommendations. Understanding this shift to a more comprehensive review may create concern and questions. As such, we encourage you to use the “Questions & Comments” section of the USAP website so that your questions and our answers/responses can be shared with the campus community. Alternatively, you can email usap@ipfw.edu.

Strengthening IPFW means looking to the future and making important decisions that align our programs, services and resources with Plan 2020. We are committed as Institutional Trustees and strive to provide recommendations that will reflect our new status as a multi-system, metropolitan university while most importantly, focusing on our students and being the best university we can be.

USAP Facilitation Team