**Environmental Scan**

**JULY 2016**

**SOCIAL**

Definition: Social factors include cultural aspects, population growth rate, age distribution, career attitudes and emphasis on safety.

1. Preparedness & Personal Responsibility of incoming students
2. Emergency Preparedness & Campus Safety in light of national/state/local incidents to include Title IX
3. Financial literacy & responsibility
4. Local Education Initiatives (such as grants, community projects and fundraising)
5. Evolution of Social Media/Communication
6. Growth in special populations to include veterans, foster-care, international and first generation students

**ECONOMIC**

Definition: Economic factors include economic growth, interest rates, exchange rates and inflation rates.

1. Resource challenges (i.e. funding, faculty and staff ratios, work study students
2. Property taxes/values stabilization
3. Reduction in revenue yet requirement to serve more students
4. Market and industry demands to retool and reskill students
5. Students lack disposable income to spend on education
6. Impact of Eagle Ford Shale, Eastside Promise Zone, Downtown Revitalization and general growth of economy
7. Student default rate/student loan debt
8. Bond capacity and rating

**TECHNOLOGICAL**

Definition: Technological factors include aspects such as automation, technology incentives and the rate of technological change.

1. Ensure information system-level security
2. Stay abreast on technology trends and standards
3. Training and maintenance of systems
4. Assess technology for accessibility, availability and reliability (for example multisystem integration)
5. Integrated system inefficiencies and issues supporting employees and students

**REGULATORY**

Definition: Regulatory factors include acts of associated regulations, international and national standards, local government by-laws, and mechanisms to monitor and ensure compliance; addressing basically to what degree the government intervenes in the economy.

1. Developmental education basic skills requirements
2. Federal Funds
3. Unfunded mandates. (Dual Credit and Early College High School)
4. State Funds: funding by success points for student completion
5. Elimination of low enrollment programs
6. Individual Success Plan and Career Guidance
7. Maintain compliance with regulatory and accrediting agencies such as SACS-COC and THECB
8. Local, state and federal regulatory actions (Department of Education, Title III, Title V and Title IX)
9. Consolidation and systemization-impacting loss of employees, faculty and staff ratios, retirement, Faculty contact hour requirements vs. workload units
10. Shared Governance