Administrative Council
Minutes of February 6, 2002


Minutes of December 5 were approved as distributed.

Budget Update

Dr. Patton reported limited information from the legislature regarding the FY2003 budget. Dr. Patton noted 3.5% salary increase funds for faculty and staff were still in place. He expressed disappointment that the Arts & Humanities minor capital project was omitted from the Governor’s recommendations for funding, but he indicated efforts were underway by him, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Sheheane to build support for the project among key legislators.

Dr. Patton emphasized the importance of fund-raising under the present budget conditions. He thanked all volunteers working on the faculty-staff campaign, and he reiterated the significance of high percentage participation by faculty and staff. He commented that fund-raising was very difficult in the current economy, with many foundations delaying payments. He pointed to the impact of this fund-raising environment on the science teaching lab project, and again cited faculty and staff giving to this project as a key to external fund-raising efforts.

Dr. Henry echoed the wait-and-see status of the budget, but added enrollments were a very positive aspect of the overall outlook. Dr. Fritz distributed tables showing enrollment trends. Dr. Henry reminded that supplemental funds were still essential to balancing the FY2002 budget without actually taking back the funds being held by units.

Dr. Henry pointed out that even with the excellent fall and spring enrollments, the drop in summer enrollments resulted in a shortfall of 45K credit hours below FY1998. Dr. Patton injected that students home for the summer from other institutions were good prospects for boosting summer enrollments. Dr. Fritz commented that manual review of records before automatically dropping registrations due to non-payment aided maintenance of spring credit hours. He added that strategic programs to increase summer enrollments were under development, including a “jumpstart” program for new freshmen enrolling in the summer. He cited success with a similar jumpstart program at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Patton asked about tying Housing to summer enrollment initiatives. Dr. Fritz replied that Housing had been contacted regarding a guarantee of fall housing for students who opt for summer housing.

Pullen Library Master Plan

Ms. Hurt presented a PowerPoint summary of the Pullen Library master plan. She noted the plan reflected the changing role of academic libraries with an integrated approach to services for students and a shift away from collection-centered planning. Ms. Hurt outlined renovations and
changes, including creation of a learning commons area in Library North first and second floors, shifting of specialized collections to Library South, designation of Library North as the stack tower, extensive utilization of compact shelving, and enlarging the Decatur Street bridge between the towers. She commented that the cybercafe in the Aderhold Learning Center would offer a test of the learning commons model. Ms. Hurt pointed out that Library North had been designed as a stack tower with column placement to block sunlight from windows. She indicated a possible phasing of the renovations to sync with availability of funds. She noted salary savings could be used to accomplish initial staff moves, but cautioned salary savings may decline in future months due to job market trends. She also commented on fund-raising/naming opportunities.

Dr. Patton suggested consideration of a temporary student fee to enable completion of the entire project. Dr. McGinnis commented that such a fee would be an excellent way to leverage gifts from donors. Mr. Lewis voiced optimism that the Board of Regents would support a fee for this purpose. Ms. Hurt indicated the overall cost would be $20 million plus move costs for the computer center. Dr. Patton asked about the timeline for the overall project if addressed as a series of minor capital projects. Ms. Hurt responded that the consultants had worked on the basis of 10 years of collection growth.

Announcements

Dr. McGinnis announced the faculty-staff campaign kick-off with the goal of 78% participation.