University Senate Budget Committee  
Thursday, July 8, 2010  
315 Alumni Hall  
3:00 pm

Members Present: Paul Alberto, JoAnn Bacon, Dabney Dixon, Irene Duhaime, Jim Flowers, Hugh Hudson, Bruce Pilling, Bill Prigge, Mary Ann Romski, Rose Sevcik, Jowanna Tillman, Volkan Topalli, Youngsheng Xu, Katherine Willoughby

Meeting Minutes

Katherine Willoughby called the meeting to order and asked Paul Alberto to provide an update to members of the University strategic planning process. Paul noted that there has been “considered progress” in developing the plan and next steps involve advancement of the plan from “bullet points to prose”. A draft of the University strategic plan is scheduled to be produced at the end of September, with hearings held in late September and early October to finalize it. According to the schedule, the University Senate will vote on the plan at its December meeting. After the Senate vote, FACP and the SBC will be able to provide suggestions and response to the President regarding plan components. Paul noted that, so far, the plan considers a five- to ten-year horizon and includes a number of new ideas and opportunities for University advancement and growth. To date, the process for development of the strategic plan has included outreach to a number of groups as well as the conduct of a variety of forums. Paul explained that the skeleton of the plan surrounds five major goals, including: (1) enhancement of University research capabilities, (2) a stronger international orientation, (3) a focus on “great cities” both here and abroad, (4) commitment to an undergraduate honors program and student retention, generally, and (5) structural change within the University.

The floor was open for discussion and members questioned the breadth of the plan versus future budget realities, particularly in light of fiscal stringencies expected in the next few years. Conversation centered on funding possibilities and the coordination of the strategic direction of the University with revenue possibilities. Paul stated that fiscal support for strategic plan initiatives could come from a number of different revenue streams, including:

✓ Accumulated funds held back
✓ Capital Campaign funds
✓ Redirected funds
✓ Funds associated with the five year 2CI initiative

Members were cautionary regarding the factors that could compromise any ambitious University strategic plan – the current “state assisted” nature of the University System; continued difficulty in retaining productive faculty/salary compression issues; ongoing infrastructure needs; and sustained stress on human capital, generally.

Katherine then asked members to consider the University strategic planning process and results, the long term (18 month) state budget process, and the FACP meeting schedule when thinking about SBC input to University budgeting. A final meeting to draft SBC budget input plans will be held on July 15, 2010 in 315 Alumni Hall, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.