Members Attending: Ahmed Abdelal, John de Castro, Bill Decatur, Chuck Derby, Sid Harris, Ron Henry (Chair), Fred Jacobs, Jim Scott, Carol Whitcomb

Members Absent: Timeka Lombok

Others Attending: Roy Bahl, Tim Crimmins, Thomas Haynes, Tom Lewis, Jerry Rackliffe, Dene Sheheane, Paula Stephan, Edgar Torbert, McRae Williams

Robinson College of Business

Dr. Harris presented an overview of the new funding requests from the Robinson College of Business (RCB). He pointed out that the requests were tied to the University Strategic Plan as well as the college strategic plan. He highlighted the requests for interdisciplinary "Industries of the Mind" initiatives, promotion of new programs and locations, and an assistant development director. He added that the requests represented long-term needs and were part of a multi-year strategy to build up the college infrastructure.

Dr. Jacobs asked for clarification of the request for new faculty positions relating to Industries of the Mind. Dr. Harris stated recruitment would be for positions not only new to RCB, but in a new field as well. He cited Carnegie-Mellon, New York University, and Vanderbilt as other institutions developing faculties in the area of e-commerce.

Dr. de Castro asked about a connection between the Industries of the Mind request and the request for promotion of new programs and locations. Dr. Harris stated the latter request would in part target offerings in e-commerce and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Crimmins asked about intentions to address unmet demand in gateway business courses. Dr. Harris stated that unmet demand would be addressed primarily through redeployed faculty in FY2000, but would be a greater problem in FY2001. He added that the budget requests reflected tradeoffs to build up in areas in line with the college strategic plan. Dr. Henry commented that unmet demand in introductory undergraduate courses in RCB was not a new phenomenon. Dr. Crimmins suggested the hiring of non-tenure track faculty to teach heavier course loads to diminish unmet demand.

Dr. Scott asked for clarification of the request for a development officer. Dr. Harris stated there was currently one person in the college development office and the new position would be important to the capital campaign effort and to reach donors in the $25K-50K gift range.

Dr. de Castro asked about accreditation issues. Dr. Harris replied that the first draft of the AACSB self-study had been completed, with the final draft due in May 1999 and the accreditation team visit in fall semester 1999. He added that new faculty positions funded in FY99 had helped address the standard that 60% of instruction be by full-time faculty, with only one department still short in this regard.

Dr. de Castro asked if filling all four faculty positions in the number one request would be desired over the number two request. Dr. Harris stated it was a matter of balance and that filling three of the positions, then addressing the promotion package, would probably be preferred.

Ms. Whitcomb asked if the staff positions identified in the college redirection plan were currently filled or vacant. Dr. Harris responded that this would be real redirection with some currently filled positions eliminated or merged between units.

Dr. Crimmins asked about RCB involvement in possible operation of both North Metro Center and Alpharetta Center. Dr. Harris stated the matter was under study. Dr. Henry noted the possibility of operating both for the spring semester 2000 given the provisions of the North Metro Center lease, but expressed doubt about dual operation beyond that semester. Dr. Jacobs suggested a survey of students taking courses at the North Metro Center now to ascertain their preferences between the two sites. Dr. Decatur noted that no negotiations were in progress to extend the lease of the North Metro Center.

Arts & Sciences

Dr. Abdelal presented an overview of the new funding requests from the College of Arts and Sciences (CA&S). He pointed out that the first four requests were linked to Action Plans developed as follow-ups to academic program reviews. He stated that the unmet demand related requests were aimed both at reducing unmet demand and reducing
reliance on part-time instructors. Dr. Abdelal added that the strategy was to convert part-time instructor lumpsum positions into non-tenure track faculty positions. He indicated the remaining requests from CA&S were related to funding initiatives presented to the University System.

Dr. de Castro asked for clarification of the Action Plan request for Mathematics and Computer Science given the split in to two departments. Dr. Abdelal stated the Action Plan called for the additional faculty positions in FY2000 to be in mathematics. He emphasized that the Action Plan was modest with respect to new faculty positions given the increasing number of students and unmet demand. He added that development of the new Computer Science department was reflected in the number six request.

Dr. Harris asked about the proposed PhD program in communication. Dr. Abdelal stated the program would be interdisciplinary spanning communication, computer science, graphic design, and potentially digital commerce.

Dr. de Castro asked for clarification regarding the use of non-tenure track faculty to reduce unmet demand. Dr. Abdelal replied that there was a question of the right balance among regular faculty, non-tenure track faculty, PTIs, etc. and that the balance would change toward tenure track faculty over time. He noted that at current rates the cost of non-tenure track faculty would not exceed the cost for PTIs for the same workload, but that non-tenure track faculty salaries were embarrassingly low. He elaborated that the unmet demand strategy was to add non-tenure track faculty in departments with low numbers of majors and tenure track faculty in departments with high numbers of majors.

Dr. Harris asked about benchmarks for students per faculty member. Dr. Abdelal suggested comparison with the University of Georgia which for a similar number of students in Arts and Sciences had approximately 900 faculty versus 420 here. Dr. Henry commented that the University of Georgia had further advantage of GTAs because of PhD programs in virtually all departments. Dr. Crimmins cited flexibility of classroom space enjoyed by the University of Georgia for breakout sections.

Dr. Jacobs asked about demand from RCB majors for foreign languages. Dr. Abdelal stated the language requirement for RCB undergraduate majors had not been implemented pending development of capacity to teach them. Dr. Crimmins suggested implementation one program at a time as teaching capacity is increased. Dr. Harris suggested Board of Regents interest in study abroad as a linkage to budget requests for language faculty positions.

External Affairs

Tom Lewis presented an overview of the new funding requests from the Division of External Affairs. He highlighted the increase in workload for alumni relations and other units in the division, the dual impacts of higher postage rates and the larger mailing list of alumni on the budget for postage, the need to add a full-time position to work with special events and to keep the Welcome Center open at times that tours are being given, and a proposed shared position in public relations with the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. de Castro commended the division for increased exposure of university research projects and noted international attention as a result.

School of Policy Studies

Dr. Roy Bahl presented an overview of the new funding requests from the School of Policy Studies (SPS). He pointed out that SPS enrollments had rebounded from the fall semester drop, and 4-4.5% of university credit hours are taught by SPS. He highlighted $40M in external funding, international programs, and tie-ins with the new state administration, in particular via the Land Use Policy Center and Children's Policy Center.

Dr. Harris asked about current involvement in children's issues. Dr. Bahl cited several examples through the Applied Research Center (education) and the Health Policy Center. He added that the Children's Policy Center would provide organizational structure for expanded efforts. Dr. Jacobs asked about projected growth of the centers. Dr. Bahl replied that growth would be packaged around particular issues as had been done with the ozone issue for the Environmental Policy Center and assembling a critical mass of faculty for such issues. Dr. Crimmins asked if the person recently hired by the College of Law as an expert in land use law would be involved in the Land Use Policy Center. Dr. Bahl indicated this was anticipated.

Dr. de Castro asked about the absence of requests for joint appointment faculty positions. Dr. Bahl stated SPS was still interested in these, but there were other needs this year.

Dr. de Castro asked about the use of non-tenure track faculty to reduce unmet demand. Dr. Stephan responded that cost savings for non-tenure track faculty were insignificant in economics. She added that SPS viewed larger sections as the more cost effective way to address unmet demand. She noted that much of the unmet demand came from RCB.

Dr. Crimmins asked about projected increases in the number of PhD students. Dr. Stephan stated externally funded projects were providing more graduate assistant slots for PhD students. Dr. Henry asked about the joint PhD program
with Georgia Tech. Dr. Bahl responded that Georgia Tech seemed to have a smaller program in mind, and that current enrollment was at 10.

Dr. de Castro asked about the focus of Land Use Policy Center. Dr. Bahl responded that building support around the senior person in place would be the approach with attention to regional transportation, accessibility to jobs, mobility, etc.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
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