Members present: Ron Henry (chair), Ahmed Abdelal, Fenwick Huss, Fred Jacobs, Larry Kelley, Tom Lewis, André Young

Members absent: John de Castro, Sid Harris, Carol Whitcomb

Others present: Lisa Beck, Tim Crimmins, Jerry Rackliffe, Edgar Torbert

Minutes of December 3, 1999 were approved.

Technology Fee

Dr. Huss reported discussion by the Senate Budget Committee of the technology fee proposal. Dr. Huss noted general support for the technology fee in the Senate Budget Committee along with some alternative suggestions for use of the technology fee revenues: (1) to connect directly to the Internet instead of through Peachnet; (2) to upgrade basic computing infrastructure; and (3) to provide $100K to colleges for staffing student labs operated by the colleges instead of more staffing centrally for faculty-technology support. Dr. Abdelal made a motion to recommend the $38 technology fee and suggested uses of the fee revenues. Dr. Huss seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Other Discussion

Dr. Crimmins raised the issue of elasticity of demand and a graduated mandatory fee structure. Dr. Huss cited concern about the "no cap" approach to a graduated fee in tandem with efforts to get students to enroll for more credit hours. Dr. Abdelal suggested a survey to gather information about potential enrollment impacts. Dr. Abdelal also suggested consideration of the graduated fee for graduate students only. Dr. Torbert recounted a conversation with Dr. Keppler concerning waived fees for students taking three credit hours or less upon application for a waiver. It was agreed to investigate further the fee waiver situation.

Dr. Abdelal reported the Subcommittee on Academic Program Costs had met three times and made substantial progress in agreeing to a multi-track presentation of cost data. Dr. Huss commented that including outcome measures was difficult and a shortcoming of the cost data presentation.

Dr. Kelley reported the Subcommittee on Administrative and Support Unit Costs had met once and was wrestling with performance indicators and how to pursue longitudinal information given changes in administrative structure. He added that units would be asked to propose performance indicators for their respective operations.

Dr. Crimmins asked about outsourcing as a cost-cutting approach. Mr. Rackliffe replied any short-term savings by outsourcing would likely be more than offset by the long-term loss of Board of Regents personnel funding. Mr. Kelley cautioned that managing outsourced operations demanded a lot of time. Mr. Rackliffe cited dissatisfaction in the past with outsourced custodial services.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved February 1, 2000