Members Attending: Shelia Bradley, Ron Henry, Hugh Hudson, Fenwick Huss, Susan Kelley, Jerry Rackliffe, P.C. Tai

Others Attending: Lauren Adamson, Charlene Hurt, Steve Kaminshine, Robert Moore, Edgar Torbert

Minutes of June 11 and 13 were approved as presented.

Dr. Henry and Mr. Rackliffe reported on the status of the FY2004 budget. Dr. Henry noted a 2.5% cut for FY2004 was “probable” and an additional cut of 5% in FY2005 “possible”. Mr. Rackliffe pointed out summer tuition revenues were approximately $400K under budget and that it was too early to make a definitive statement about fall tuition revenues because of pending refunds. Dr. Henry warned that although headcount and credit hour enrollments were up, budgeted tuition revenues for the fiscal year could be $1M-2M short. He reminded: (1) $2.2M had been set aside in FY2004 budget although “allocated” to units for FY2005, (2) another $400K was available through university flipflops (exclusive of college and vice presidential flipflops), and (3) there would be savings from fringe benefits budgeted for vacant positions. Dr. Henry advised that while these sources would offset the currently projected tuition shortfall and cuts, the deans and vice presidents had been asked to hold 1% in reserve in case of further cuts. He explained that state revenues were down in July and up in August, with the net effect of requiring an unrealistic 7.5% increase in revenues over the remainder of the fiscal year to balance the state budget.

Dr. Henry announced a meeting with Board of Regents staff on September 22 to discuss cuts in programs to cover the cumulative 7.5% budget reduction for FY2005. Dr. Henry lamented that these discussions would not take into account increases in workload funds, which would significantly reduce the net cuts and avoid unnecessary alarm about the effects of the hypothetical cuts on programs, personnel, etc. He invited suggestions of how to proceed.

It was suggested hours of operation could be reduced for Pullen Library and the computer center. It was suggested library serials could be cut back. It was suggested enrollments and course offerings could be reduced. It was suggested summer school could be eliminated. It was suggested some police could be replaced by security guards. It was suggested custodial services could be reduced. It was suggested state funding for the recreation center could be reduced. It was suggested a four-day academic week could be established. All of the suggestions were discussed, but no consensus emerged.

It was agreed the number of tenure track faculty positions should be protected, given the minimal increase in the number of tenure track faculty despite rapid growth in enrollment. It was agreed travel should not be restricted given its importance to faculty research, pursuit of external funds, etc.

Mr. Rackliffe asked for reaction to adding a convenience fee for use of credit cards to pay for tuition and fees. There was consensus this would be counterproductive.