FISCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT
Minutes of May 11, 2011

Members Attending: Paul Alberto, Amber Amari, Hugh Hudson, Steve Kaminshine, Susan Kelley, Robin Morris, Risa Palm, Jerry Rackliffe, P.C. Tai, Katherine Willoughby

Others Attending: J.L. Albert, Brendan Calandra, Fenwick Huss, Beth Jones, Fred Mote, Tim Renick, Nan Seamans, Edgar Torbert, Eboni Walker, Mary Beth Walker

The minutes of April 20, 2011, were approved with deletion of one sentence.

Student Technology Fee

Dr. Calandra presented the FY2012 funding recommendations of the Student Technology Fee Subcommittee of the University Senate Committee on Information Systems and Technology.

Dr. Calandra noted an increase in the number and dollar amount of FY2012 proposals with 86 proposals for a total of $8.5M. He cited projected fee revenues and rollover dollars from FY2011 of $5.7M. Dr. Calandra pointed out that the dollars available to the committee for allocation among the proposals was reduced by $2.4M pre-funded for on-going expenses covered by the fee (eg, Digital Aquarium, Alpharetta Center computer labs, wireless, software licenses). Dr. Calandra reported the committee faced a 27.7% shortfall in available funds for the projects determined to be deserving of funding. He indicated the 27.7% reduction was applied across the board with the deans given an opportunity to adjust to the total amount of their reductions among their funded proposals. He added that a small amount of residual dollars after this percentage distribution had be en set aside for the new Honors College, which could not participate in the FY2012 process.

Dr. Morris asked for more information regarding the decision to cut all rather than fund fewer proposals up to the threshold. Ms. Walker (IS&T) replied that comments had been gathered from the colleges concerning the approach taken and that the deans had ranked the proposals originally as well as deciding on the distribution of cuts. Dr. Kaminshine commented that some proposals were more padded or luxurious than others and that some proposals were not easily divided and still doable. Mr. Albert stated that the first stage of the review process involves setting price marks for equipment. Dr. Kelley commented that the process was a surprise and challenge. Dr. Adamson commented that the approach was reasonable this year, but should not be repeated because of missing information from the committee discussions and shortness of time to complete. Dr. Huss voiced appreciation for allowing the deans to make decisions
of where to cut. Dr. Walker added her appreciation as well, adding that the approach was efficient.

Mr. Mote suggested that the committee hold an open forum to discuss its overall view of the proposals and to explain the decision process. Dr. Calandra agreed that the deans needed more guidance from the committee and stated that the committee would provide more information about criteria in print.

Dr. Kaminshine asked about further consideration of the pre-funded items, including personnel lines and other on-going costs, and the possibility of reducing fee dollars earmarked for these purposes through multi-year replacement with new continuing state funds. Dr. Morris commented that the fee should be used for a set of core services for students. Dr. Alberto questioned use of fees for maintenance items. Mr. Albert responded that the Board of Regents had eased restrictions on the use of fees to some extent with more control given to the campuses.

Dr. Kaminshine made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Student Technology Fee Committee. Dr. Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dr. Palm asked that the minutes reflect the concern about the pre-funding items. Dr. Willoughby noted other concerns about the security of the technology.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
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