Planning & Development Committee Meeting
March 21, 2005


Others Attending: Elizabeth Jones

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

2. ASUR Report . . . (Research Office across the university)
3. Subcommittee Reports
4. Facility Updates
5. Other Issues

Phang Tai called the meeting to order at apx. 1:06pm. The minutes from 2/22/05 were motioned in and approved.

Mary Jane Casto headed the discussion on item# 2 of the agenda: the ASUR Report.

[The ASUR Report was sent out in early March for comment via email; Christine Gallant sent back the following comment before the meeting.]

From: Christine C. Gallant
To: Lydia K. Woltz
Date: Friday - March 18, 2005 3:33 PM
Subject: Re: P&D AGENDA 3/21/05 & MEETING SCHEDULE

As is noted in the report's Overview, the information given related to the previous administration and so some of the recommended changes may not apply. However, I think this is a valuable report because it strongly suggests the directions in which the present ORAA should move, particularly Action Recommendations 1, 4, and 5. Train the research staff adequately! Centralize the research information of all academic units! Get "customer" feedback!

The reviews of the units other than the ORAA are generally positive, and constructive; and I think it's good to make these reviews public at this time. The ORAA review seems to me absolutely on-target. As one of their dissatisfied "customers," I can attest to its accuracy.

Christine Gallant
Mary Jane Casto explained that the report had acknowledged changes made since its last draft, but that the report didn’t go into detail because of the large amount of changes that took place. She mentioned that all the support units had completed their review except for Arts & Sciences due to their change in command. She mentioned the ending observations of the review called for more communication & customer service within the units. [It was later mentioned in the meeting that A&S had completed their “Self Study” which (if needed) could be incorporated into the reports).

Al Baumstark commented that the changes in the report should be shown so the progress made/not made could be identified. He also mentioned it was important that Arts & Sciences NOT be excluded being that it was the unit that made the biggest financial impact . . . "Unless I’m wrong, 30 out of 56 million doesn’t have a voice in this document. I understand the amount of work that’s needed, but we need to streamline and put some of the input in or have the document updated or modified. Action Plans are going to be developed from this report."

Marty Fraser mentioned there were too many "glaring inconsistencies" within the report.

Siva Nathan said that they didn’t want to penalize the units that were completed just because A&S wasn’t ready . . . "there are new units in A&S that won’t have any data at all to report." He asked the group to consider the time-line & consequences involved in deferring the report just to wait on A&S.

Hugh Hudson - "At the last Board of Regents meeting (due to a mix up), we were not represented. This is about the most important thing we’re going to be doing (certainly for ASUR it is). If we don’t get greater publicity of our research . . . don’t enhance it . . . we’re going to be eaten alive. If you look at UGA & GA Tech’s presentations we’re creating about the same amount of dollars in medical college, but there’s a big gap between the 2 figures, so I can’t think of anything more important for ASUR to be working on than trying to insist enhancement of the research efforts in the university, so we need to send it back and ask that it be modified or worked on.

Tim Crimmins questioned the steps in the process after the reviews were completed. It was clarified that after the review was complete, Planning & Development would give comments and/or recommendations on the reviews, the units would then draft Action Plans based on the comments & reviews, and those Action Plans would be forwarded on to the Provost who would make commitments as necessary.

Robin Morris mentioned because of some of the holes in the report, it may be worth waiting a semester and having the time to re-do/update the report. He mentioned that there was talk of having an outside group to come in and look at the A&S unit, which he mentioned would be a positive aspect of delaying the report.
Charlene Hurt - "If this were the Library report, I would prefer to have it updated (so that my Action Plan recommendation would have more weight) rather than having it go through as an already-flawed product. The advisable thing to do would be to ask this committee or an appropriate committee to review the changed parts including the A&S part, and then make recommendations in the Fall."

Phang Tai verified with P&D as to whether Charlene’s suggestion was the consensus and the group agreed, and motioned her suggestion in. Tai mentioned that he would contact Joan Carson (absent at the present meeting) in regards to the suggestions & concerns.

THE GROUP THEN MOVED ON TO ITEM #3 ON THE AGENDA: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.

Greg Brack reported in for the Fire Safety Subcommittee. He mentioned the request list from the Fire Marshall’s office was steadily getting shorter somewhat due to better communication, and that the committee was currently working on mass mailing announcements via the university’s Groupwise emailing service and on university storage methods.

Elizabeth Jones reported that the university received approval from the State House & Senate for $2.7 million for the Science Teaching Lab and that they were just waiting for the Governor’s signature. Phang Tai mentioned a $5 million donation from Parker H. Petite & the new Parker H. Petit Science Teaching Laboratory. Tim Crimmins asked Robin Morris & Elizabeth if a presentation could be given to P&D on the new facilities, and Robin said he could. Elizabeth also mentioned that the Facility’s "Animal Project" would be listed on April’s agenda.

Charlene Hurt mentioned that the Library project was moving forward and they would be interviewing project managers in a couple of weeks, architects soon after, and finally construction managers about a month after that. She said she hoped to start construction during the Christmas break.

Phang Tai announced the next upcoming Organizational meeting for P&D on Monday 4/25/05, then the meeting adjourned at apx. 1:40pm.