Planning & Development Committee
September 29, 2009

Present: Davis (Greg) Abt (Student Senator), Pam Barr, Al Baumstark, Dabney Dixon, Mary Finn, Christine Gallant, Sandra Garber, Robert Harrison, Chris Henrich, Richard Miller, Risa Palm, George Pierce, Jerry Rackliffe, D. Mike Raderstorf, George Rainbolt, Lesley Reid, Timothy Renick, Jeffrey C. Rupp, Bruce Seaman, Nancy Seamans, Ruth Stanford, Phang C. Tai, Vijay K. Vaishnavi, Shelly-Ann Williams, Maryann Wysor,

Absent: J. L. Albert, Elizabeth Beck, Cathy Brack, Jennifer Chiovoro, Marsha Clarkson, Douglas Covey, Lacey Enyart (Student Senator), Michael Eriksen, Paul Gallimore, T.J. Hausauer (Student Senator), Leslie Madden, Robin Morris, William Nichols, Mary Shoffner, Roy Sobelson, Andrew Sumner, Carol Winkler, Yi Zhao.

Others Attending: Beth Jones, Rose Sevcik, Sara Weigle

Replacements: Risa Palm replaced Ron Henry, Leslie Madden replaced Casey Long

The Agenda was for the meeting was as follows:

1. P&D Minutes 8/24/09
2. Introduction of Provost/VP Academic Affairs, Risa Palm and brief discussion of the process of the Strategic Plan 2010-2015
3. Beth Jones - Updates of HR/ADP, Spectrum 8.9
4. Subcommittee Reports
   a) Campus Safety, Beth Jones
5. Other Issues

AGENDA ITEM #1 - Approval of The Minutes
Phang Tai called the meeting at 1pm. The motion was made & approved to accept the 8/24/09 minutes.

AGENDA ITEM #2 - Introduction of Provost/VP Academic Affairs, Risa Palm and brief discussion of the process of the Strategic Plan 2010-2015

After a brief introduction by Phang Tai, Provost Palm began by explaining to the group that in going over the former strategic plans at GSU she noticed that the benchmarks that GSU set for itself had not only not been reached, but in some areas had gotten worse. She explained how there were ways to achieve the desired benchmarks, and talked to the group about some of the peer institutions she researched and some of the ideas she had to help the university achieve its goals. She discussed 4 documents she sent out in regards to planning for GSU’s upcoming strategic plan:
Boston University’s Strategic Plan - http://www.bu.edu/president/strategic-plan/
Carnegie Mellon’s Strategic Plan - http://www.cmu.edu/strategic-plan/

For Boston University, she explained that they were similar to GSU in that they were an urban university spread throughout the city. The title of their strategic plan was “Choosing to Be Great”. The problems focused on by their strategic plan addressed the issues of 1) campus identification: because the campus covered such a broad area, it was hard for the campus & the community to identify with exactly “who” Boston University was and 2) faculty recruitment: they had problems with too few faculty and a lot of the faculty needed improvement in various areas.

She mentioned that Carnegie Mellon (along with the University of Southern California) had (more than any others) reinvented themselves based upon their strategic plans. Carnegie Mellon focused on very few areas, but they focused on those areas in a “World Class” way.

In her research of various universities, she found that Louisiana State University handled similar issues with their strategic plan titled “Flagship Agenda”. It identified the departments that were key in achieving the success they wanted, and focused all their energy on those departments 1st. They also set minimum entrance score for the ACT of 23 (equivalent to 1030 on the SAT). She highlighted to the group that one of the main topics constantly revisited in GSU’s strategic plan was that of retention & graduation rates, and that she thought that this could be done by accepting better prepared students. She thought that this could be done without spending huge amounts of money and while still maintaining student diversity.

She finished by noting that she would help the university reach the benchmarks it wanted to attain, that the ways/methods that the ranking institutions used weight/rank, should be focused on when trying to reach the intended goal/mark, and that the new plan should be strategic & limited in it’s goals ( . . . not even Harvard with it’s unlimited resources could fix everything. ” She mentioned that the plan should leave some leeway for the unforseen, and have a way to respond to the opportunities that are present. She ended the discussion by reminding the committee that the Deans & VPs were having a retreat on October 10th and would discuss (among other items) their unit’s national recognition and how it is measured, and that President Becker’s investiture would be on October 19th where he would discuss his mission for the university. She encouraged the members to attend.
The group discussed Q&A in regards to various ranking criteria and the ways various recruitment/retention methods for students and faculty may or may not affect those rankings. George Rainbolt commented that if a plan similar to LSU’s Flagship Agenda was chosen, a method for deciding who gets flagged should be included, and that the strategic plan in its entirety should be to the point and not so long and drawn out that the focus gets lost in the material. The group agreed.

AGENDA ITEM #3 - Updates of HR/ADP, Spectrum 8.9

Beth Jones entertained Q&A on GSU’s new HR & payroll system ADP, Automatic Data Processing, Inc. and she listened to the various issues that the members had in regards to the system. Some of the problems noted were: some employees were not paid on time or paid incorrectly; Rob Harrison reported that he knew of some GSU paychecks that “bounced” upon cashing, and that some of the grants that funded those pay periods have expired; Al Baumstark mentioned his department still cannot see amounts paid to employees to approve them ahead of time, so he had to have employees waste time & paper to print out their information for review; etc. Phang Tai mentioned that the next time the university was to undertake such a big change that it should not be done anytime near the July fiscal period. Beth let the committee members know that if they ran into any more severe issues to please email her office about the situation and reminded the members to make sure that faculty knew that they also needed to register for the system so that they could view their pay stubs & W2 tax forms.

AGENDA ITEMS 4&5 - Subcommittee Reports & Other Issues

CAMPUS & TRAFFIC SAFETY - Beth Jones announced plans for 1) a yellow flashing light to be placed under the Marta bridge on Piedmont Street next to the GSU Marta Station to help slow cars down and 2) “stop for pedestrians” signs that would be placed in the walkways. She reminded the group that over 3,000 students a day would be using the area once the new Science Bldg came online. She also mentioned speeding alert signs would be placed on Piedmont to record speeding cars, the records could be used as evidence help lobby for more help with the matter from the city. She noted that the process for the city to allow GSU to put up signs usually took about a year. Lastly, she mentioned that she’d once again go to the city to ask permission to put up a more noticeable blue/white crosswalk with the GSU emblem within it or a lighted crosswalk. She mentioned that although the city turned GSU down before on this idea, they may reconsider it because of the number of students due to use the area. Greg Abt, Student Senator agreed that this idea would especially be a help to the students using the area at night.

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON MRR - Sandra Garber mentioned all was well with MRR and they were just waiting for the list of new members from the budget section of the group.
Being that there were no further issues to discuss and some members had to leave for class, Phang Tai adjourned the meeting at 1:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lydia K. Woltz, Admin. Coordinator

Current/Updated Results of Subcommittee “Sign-ups” Listed Below

Campus & Traffic Safety, Beth Jones [2 Groups Now Combined]
Pam Barr, Elizabeth Beck, Marsha Clarkson, Lacey Enyart (Student Senator), Michael Ericksen, Beth Jones, Phillip Mitchem (attending), George Pierce, Mike Raderstorf, Lesley Reid, Bruce Seaman, Roy Sobelson, Shelly-Ann Williams.

DIC - Disability Initiatives Committee, Susan Easterbrooks (Combined W/campus Access / Ada 504)
[P&D Reps only] Al Baumstark, Christine Gallant, Sandra Garber, Casey Long, Mike Raderstorf, Maryann Wysor

GREEN SUBCOMMITTEE, Sandra Garber
J. L. Albert, Jennifer Chiovaro, Dabney Dixon, Sandra Garber, Rob Harrison

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON MRR, Sandra Garber
J. L. Albert, Al Baumstark, Sandra Garber, Casey Long, George Pierce, George Rainbolt, Jeffrey Rupp, Ruth Stanford

Additional “Sign-ups” or removals may be emailed to lwoltz@gsu.edu