Deans’ Group Minutes 09/12/01


I. Minutes of 08/29/01 were approved.

II. Funding Releases
Ron Henry informed the group that FACP would meet the afternoon of 09/12/01 to decide about directing the release of contingency and moves and renovations funds. He explained $600,000 could be provided, 0.5% of the 1% hold might be removed, and $300,000 unmet demand may be made available. Tim Crimmins suggested the colleges have incurred expenses to meet new enrollment needs. Henry explained $300,000 would be available to help meet unmet demand. Roy Bahl asked if proposals would be accepted for dire these funds, Ron Henry agreed suggestions would be taken.

Ahmed Abdelal suggested the hold could be removed due to potentially available supplemental budgetary funds. He also suggested importance of discussion to assess if moves and renovation funds should be allotted to Physical Education or be better allotted elsewhere as well as for the deans to voice their opinions as to their needs relative to the contingency funds. He also indicated he thinks that incentive/disincentive funds might better be thought of as the costs of increasing workload associated with expanding course offerin

Sid Harris also suggested the 1% hold money be released. He also recommended the deans’ group should deliberate proposals and agreement regarding budget matters before FACP discussions this afternoon. Janice Griffith also suggested the 1% hold be removed especially concerning Urban Life space limitations. Roy Bahl expressed concern about the release of the 1% hold, especially with respect to moves and renovations and act needs. He stressed the possibility of being fiscally conservative in the current economic environment and therefore not releasing the hold.

Charlene Hurt indicated that CBSAC is considering many moves and renovation plans simultaneously. She also described the strain on the book budget due to inflationary increases. She encouraged the forward movement in the area of planning and designs for moves and renovations. Ahmed Abdelal indicated he feels the university will realize increased revenues ($4M) due to increased enrollment, with potential supplemental funds.

Ron Henry indicated he would forward the suggestion supported by the majority, but not all, of the deans that the 1% hold would be released. He also asked for proposals from each unit for contingency needs (one-time requests) before the Deans Retreat on October 15th.

Susan Kelley suggested that more public discussion be advocated relative to budgetary discussions, especially relative to “flip-flopping” budgetary funds. “Flip-flop” requests will be made directly to the Provost.

III. Printed Schedule of Classes
Bill Fritz reviewed his proposals for the production of the printed copies of schedules. He continues to seek input from the university community. Roy Bahl asked for reassurance that students could get “on-demand” copies. Bill Fritz assured him these resources were available. Bill Fritz also presented information regarding current enrollment. He noted he has confidence in his projection for the Fall 2002. He also explained although spring and fall enrollments have increased, summer enrollments still lag behind. With respect to of students enrolled, the average SAT and average Freshman Index are tracking each other well, both increasing at relatively the same rate. He further noted that the relative ethnicity of the students has not changed except for small decreases in the both the white and black populations and a matching small increase in mixed ethnicity. Roy Bahl asked that the characteristics of the population of student applications also be examined.

IV. Credit Hour Incentive/Disincentive
Ron Colarusso suggested the plan does not take into account the diversity of the amount of work that may go into the generation of increased number of credit hours. He noted there are external restraints placed on the numbers of students that may be organized in programs and classes. He suggested scheduling, planning and use of space and time may need also to be considered in this discussion. Further, he indicated that dedication to external service accounts for a great amount of time which faculty devote in many colleges. Kelley asked that discussion should include professional restraints placed on some programs and that the level of support which has suggested to provide for increased costs of increased enrollments should be considered.
Ahmed Abdelal suggested that increased new freshman enrollments mandate the additional financial support required to supply more sections. Sid Harris suggested many other models of allocating these funds should be considered, including aid to nonacademic areas. Roy Bahl explained he felt this plan does not serve as an incentive because the playing field is not level - some colleges do not receive larger proportions of funds such as those resulting from contingency funds, action plan items, etc.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 26, 9:00 to 11:00 am, Room 200, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center.

Submitted 09/12/01 by Lisa Beck