Deans' Group Minutes 4/20/05


Minutes of 4/13/05 were approved after modifications under Budget update section.

Budget update
Ron Henry reported that the Board of Regents approved a tuition increase. Research institutions tuition will increase by 8% and Four and Two-Year institutions will increase by 5%. The Regents will provide a copy of the budget allocations to the institutions by 1 PM on 4/20/05. The tuition increase will go into effect this summer instead of waiting until the fall. The Chancellor recommended to the Board the Hold Harmless workload money. This recommendation will generate $2 million for the university beyond the $1.575 million already allocated for the Science Teaching Building. Ron Henry mentioned recommending additional funds of $267,000 from non merit pool. These funds will be available to be used for compression/inversion. The Provost and VP for Finance & Administration may need to review compression/inversion requests from the colleges. Ron Henry stressed that the 2% raise pool should only be used for merit raises. In order to go beyond giving the 2% raise, the colleges will need to find the additional money on their own. Roy Bahl asked if there would be any restrictions on where the additional money comes from. Ron Henry responded that there are no restrictions. The question was raised if the compression/inversion funds go into effect in January. Ron Henry responded that the funds may be administered in July or August, but no decision has been made yet.

Discussion on strengths & weaknesses of triggered programs
Ron Henry explained that the deans have met in the last two weeks to make recommendations to FACP on the programs under evaluation. Roy Bahl expressed concern on the process used to evaluate the programs saying that it may be self-interest on the part of the evaluators for particular programs.

Ron Henry addressed the handout on the Academic Program Evaluation of Physical Therapy. Ron Henry mentioned that the program has a number of strengths. The Physical Therapy program is the most cost effective, but Respiratory Therapy is expensive. Ron Henry reported that the Respiratory Therapy program has seen a decrease in student enrollment in past years, but courses are now filling up.

Ron Henry mentioned that it is difficult to find doctoral faculty for the Respiratory Therapy program. Ron Henry added that the Respiratory Therapy program is the only one in the Atlanta area which would be an incentive to the program. Ron Henry added that the Physical Therapy and Respiratory Therapy programs should connect to the Urban Health Initiative. Ron Henry added that there needs to be ways to enhance the revenues in some of the programs. Ron Henry mentioned that departmental programs need to connect to the Areas of Focus.

The deans commented that they are supportive of the Provost as decisions are being made regarding the triggered programs. The comment was made on possibly using outside reviewers to evaluate programs. Ron Henry mentioned that collaborations across departmental units may help to bring resources to programs. Ron Henry commented on discussions at the recent Foundation Board retreat focused on creating a sharper image for the university and finding ways to distinguish ourselves in the community. Ron Henry added that the university will need to find less expensive ways to deliver high quality instruction. Ron Henry expressed interest in further exploring the concept of Teaching & Research faculty mentioned at last week's Deans' Group meeting.

Any other business
Ron Henry mentioned that the Regents staff are moving closer to approving Graduate Student Health Care. Ron Henry added that there have been very positive meetings at the Regents level on the graduate health care issue.
Henry plans to set up a University Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Student Health Care with a representative from each college as a member. Ron Henry mentioned that John Medlock from the College of Arts & Sciences has attended several of the health care meetings held by the Regents Office.

Ron Henry mentioned that Joan Carson emailed a draft of the Grievance Process currently under revision in the Employee Classified Handbook to the deans.

Susan Kelley commended Dean Bahl on the week-long events by the School of Policy Studies. The deans especially commended Dean Bahl on the Symposium featuring Jimmy Carter and Andrew Young.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2005, 9:30-11:30 am, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center.

Submitted by Cynthia Fox-Giddens