In Attendance: Lauren Adamson, Robert Moore, Mary Finn, Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminshine, Gwen Benson (in for Randy Kamphaus), Chris Rosenbloom (in for Susan Kelley), Robin Morris, Tim Renick, Nancy Seamans, Robert Sattelmeyer, Ron Henry, Chair

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of October 1, 2008 were approved.

Digital Signage Policy

The Provost opened the floor to discuss the digital signage policy. Group members expressed concern over the requirement to display up to 20% of university content; the obligation to receive prior approval from CoreWeb, Facilities, and IS&T; and the necessity to display the name and unit that controls the local content via physical sticker. The following recommendations were proposed: 1) change 4th bulletin under Content Standards to read, “The University content may represent up to 20% of the content”; 2) modify the 6th bulletin under Technical Standards to state that Facilities and IS&T will coordinate with the installation process; 3) the policy will need to be more clearly defined about which monitors actually fall under the policy; 4) develop specific policy standards for businesses/organizations affiliated with the university.

Budget Update

Budget - The Board of Regents (BOR) recently ratified a 6% budget cut, but there were talks that this was only a floor figure. The BOR continues to remain silent on the raises and it is presumed that we won’t hear any news until after the election cycle. The raises amount to about 2% of our state budget for a full year [and 1% for FY’09]. There is another speculation that the state would like to see how the November revenues are, which could mean we might not hear anything until December. The bad news is any announcement made in December will have missed the November BOR meeting where a decision to raise the student fee would have been possible. The Provost informed members that we should regard the 1% hold as a distinct probability that this will become a cut. The good news on revenue is that we have generated money beyond our original predictions. We were up summer semester by $500,000 and fall semester we are up $1.4 million. It is projected that for FY’09 we may be up by as much as $3 million.

Projection of impact of 200 new freshman students – $2.64 million is the projected new revenue from an increase of 200 new freshmen for fall 2009 and prior increases in fall 2007 and 2008 freshman cohorts. The new funds will be distributed to cover prior commitments (instructional resources, CTW courses, enrollment services, etc). A portion of the revenue will also be allocated to research/campus security due to unexpected circumstances. This draft plan will be discussed further in FACP.

Comparator Institutions

We developed a set of peer/aspirational institutions to send to the BOR. When we focused on large 4-year institutions, primarily non-residential, and high transfer-in/research our peer institutions resulted in the following: George Mason University, Old Dominion University, San Diego State, Univ. of Central Florida, Univ. of Nevada (Las Vegas), Univ. of New Orleans, Univ. of Texas (Dallas), Univ. of Wisconsin (Milwaukee), Wichita State, IUPUI, Temple, Univ. of Houston, Univ. of Louisville, Univ. of Missouri (Kansas City), and the Univ. of Texas Arlington.

When we focused on high research activity, higher transfer-in, and primarily non-residential our aspirational institutions resulted in Univ. of Alabama and the Univ. of Oregon. When we added primary residential as a
search our results were Drexel and Northeastern. Finally, when we added very high research as a prerequisite our results were Univ. of Delaware, Univ. of California (Riverside), and Arizona State.

Any other Business

First year retention rates – 78.4% of first year students not registered for an FLC and not living on campus were retained. 81% of first year students registered for an FLC but not living on campus were retained. 88.3% living on campus and registered for an FLC were retained. The perspective now is that an increase in retention has more to do with on-campus housing as opposed to joining an FLC (which only results in a 3 point bump).

The BOR RPG guidelines are requiring departments to have retention plans. We started a couple years ago on a voluntary basis. It is not clear if we will retain RPG money from the BOR past the three year initial allocation.

The University Senate will have a resolution ready to the State regarding the TRS issue at their next meeting (10/23/08).

We should be getting occupancy in Courtland North Building (formerly Counseling Center) for faculty members in the spring semester. As we prepare for the budget cuts we may leave money for renovations for necessary office space.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2008 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Golden Key Board Room, 2nd floor, Student Center.