In Attendance: Lauren Adamson, J L Albert, Jim Alm, Mary Finn, Bill Fritz, Laura Burtle (in for Charlene Hurt), Irene Duhaime (in for Fenwick Huss), Steve Kaminshine, Randy Kamphaus, Susan Kelley, Robert Sattelmeyer, Ron Henry, Chair

Visitors: Carol Springer

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of March 26, 2008 were approved.

'Just Three Minutes: A Learning Innovation for Struggling Students'

Ron introduced Carol Springer, Instructor in School of Accountancy and winner of this year’s Instructional Innovation award. Carol created a project for the Accounting-Principles II class, a gateway course for Business majors that had a ‘DFW’ rate of 45-55%. The project was a 3-minute digital tutor (voice-over PowerPoint). The PowerPoint presentations were support mechanisms for struggling students and focused on the common misconceptions of the ‘big ideas’ in the lectures/class book and applied helpful strategies. Benefits included the following: it reduced intimidation for struggling students; students were accessing the tutors w/o course credit (26.9/27); increased attendance in classes; positive feedback on exit surveys; and the pass rate improved by 20%. The innovation is more audience-specific than content-specific as struggling students are found across all disciplines. Struggling students were willing to try harder as long as they knew it would pay off. Ron will email copies of the PowerPoint to the deans.

Enrollment

Summer semester enrollment is expected to be higher than last year, due to the push for students to enroll in the summer semester under the fixed-for-four plan. 12,870 students are enrolled to date for the fall semester with 146,000 credit hours. It’s still unsure whether we will make our freshman enrollment targets of 2,800. Compared to last year, we are up 6% in applications received thus far. Even though our priority deadline has passed, we’ve always had a history of accepting applications from students as long as they are completed. We have already accepted 5,000 applications, which are also up 6% compared from last year, and there are 1,500 pending applications.

Graduate graduation rates

Bill passed out data gathered from the Council of Graduate Schools. The data looked at our 1998-2000 PhD completion rates by area (humanities, life science, social science, etc.) and compared them to the council’s (several hundred institutions nationally) 1992-1994 cohort. Nationally the rates are getting better. With the exception of the life sciences, GSU fairs better in a number of areas. Underlying issues for Deans to discuss in the colleges include: when are students dropping out of the PhD programs, which departments are most at risk, is there anything we can do to change and help them, etc.

Areas of Focus proposal discussion

There were 22 areas of focus (AoF) proposals submitted, but there was not enough money to support all of them. A faculty group of eight along with the Deans Group looked at proposals and provided bullet points of strengths and weaknesses. Ron Henry, Robin Morris, and Bill Fritz looked over the two group’s recommendations and decided to fund three proposals: Language and Literacy ($1.6 million for the next 3-4 years), Risk and its Management ($1.5 million for 3 years), and Internationalizing the Arts ($91,000). There
was a preference for interdisciplinary proposals. In retrospect, it was a mistake to allow for departmental proposals as it became more evident that interdisciplinary proposals could have a greater impact. There were many good ideas with the smaller proposals, particularly the Undergraduate Research Academy. While there isn’t enough money to allocate, Ron would like that proposal and the Science, Technology, and Society proposal to be combined. The NanoSensor Entrepreneurship proposal was excellent but it was believed that a clean room needed to be established first (without using AoF money). Ron will provide feedback with each of the proposals’ authors.

**Any other business**

The Office of Admissions has a successfully concluded its search for a new Director of Admissions. The search committee recommended two outstanding finalists. One of the finalists was a big picture type, focusing on the level of Admissions and up. The other candidate worked very effectively from the admissions office down. Last month we hired Noel-Levits, an enrollment management consultant firm, to look at our recruitment and aggressive admissions plans. They concluded that we were doing all the right things according to national best practice models but we weren’t doing them sufficiently well. Based on Noel-Levits conclusions, it was decided that the second candidate, Scott Burke, would work best to get the admissions staff to meet targets effectively.

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Next Meeting: May 28, 2008 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Golden Key Board Room, 2nd Floor, Student Center.