UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE
The University Faculty Senate

Minutes

8:30 to 10:30 AM, January 28, 2014
214 Business Bldg


Members Absent: C. M. Brown, N. DeAngelis, D. J. Gray, J. F. Horn, R. P. Kirsch, W. B. Reeves, S. G. Strauss

Guest Present: N. Jones

1. Presentation and discussion on the topic of Strategic Planning with Provost Jones.

Provost Jones acknowledged the difficulties of the past few years -- including continuing criticism of the University -- but is confident that we will get through it with minimal impact to the budget. Funding and sequestration also play a role. We mitigate that impact through productivity and innovation. Federal regulations and oversight is increasingly playing a role -- often motivated by what other institutions are doing, rather than efforts to address problems that we actually have. This leads to an increase in administrators and other spending. The state is a big supporter of the University -- over $300M it's a time of unprecedented change and challenge in higher education. One concern regarding external influence is the ongoing discussion of the costs of higher education. Being a top ten university, we are high profile and frequently targeted for high tuition. If our state funding were higher, we would have lower tuition. This is a vital planning process due to the timing and environment. A wide-reaching process with lots of feedback means lots of independent dialogues going on. Nonetheless, many significant themes emerged. This process is intended to empower the units to grow. The Provost will give a presentation on this subject at the April 2014 Senate meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of the December 10, 2014 UPC committee meeting. Minutes unanimously approved.

3. Announcements by the Chair
   a. Updates on future reports: reports are progressing smoothly.

4. Brief updates from administrative liaisons in UPC
   a. Physical Plant and Resources – Ford Stryker: new projects going to the BOT in
March: Tripp Hall in Erie, renovations to Tyson Building, renovations to Steidle Building, upgrade to cafe Laura, renovations in Atherton, updating Bathgate soil, sprinklers in Pattee-Paterno, BJC renovations, Hershey Radiology Suite

b. Development & Alumni Relations – Dave Lieb: campaign celebration scheduled for April. We're at 90% of our goal as of this, the last published report. We're not going to announce when we go over goal until this event (to generate excitement).

c. University Budget Office – Rachel Smith: Their focus for the next week or so is the governor's budget, coming out a week from today. Early indications are that the governor recognizes the need to avoid cuts. Expecting a flat renewal of funding, no increase. We faced a drop in non-resident enrollment -- trying to address implications of this.

d. Office of Planning & Institutional Assessment – Michael Dooris: Nick Jones has really energized the planning process -- lots of excitement and innovation. Nelson proposed taking the plans and halving them so that the very most important issues would be addressed.

5. Mandated Reports
   b. Space Allocation and Utilization – Web only report in March or April 2014
   d. Development and Alumni Relations Report – January 2014 (today’s Senate meeting)

6. Old Business: need to address the Child-Care Task Force report asap. Chair needs to submit feedback by next Friday. Sen. Nelson will draft a report commenting on the report and circulate it to the committee. In general, he is concerned that the report lacks a focus on the actual education that is being provided. It's also important to consider providing benefits to the employees to increase faculty stability. Members expressed some critical concerns regarding Hildebrandt. It would be helpful to draw upon the University resources (especially the undergrad and grad students) to provide learning opportunities to the children (perhaps in the arts and languages). Think about how to assemble a rich staff.

7. New Business: None raised

8. Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Roger Egolf, Committee Chair