SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

Minutes for Meeting #2, October 21, 2014

Members Present:
A. Dessel, R. Egolf, K. High, D. Lieb, K. Nelson, I Saltz, R. Smith, H. F. Stryker

Members Absent:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously after making a correction to note that Kane High was present at that meeting by phone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
1. Reports from Administrative Liaisons –
   a. Ford Stryker (Physical Plant) –
      i. Discussed the status of ongoing and planned building projects that will cost the University approximately $2.7 billion over the next five years. Projects include the building of two new dorms at UP and after the dorms are built, the older dorms will be closed, two per year, for a year for renovations. This will be a 15 year or so project.
      ii. Future building projects at UP include a new Chemistry and Biology building, a new Agricultural Engineering building and renovations to Fenske Lab.
      iii. Planned projects at non-UP locations include a new 400 bed dorm at Abington, new student union and dining hall at Brandywine, new Engineering building at Erie, renovations to Michael Baker Hall at Beaver, and others.
      iv. All planned building projects can be found on the OPP (Office of Physical Plant) web page.
   b. Rachel Smith (Budget) –
      i. The budget office is working on tuition projections for next year. UP looks to be in great shape as applications are up. Non-PA
enrollments are up. and the non-PA applicants bring in more tuition revenue for the University.

ii. Enrollments at the "stand alone" campuses are up.

iii. University College enrollments are still declining and pattern is commonplace. Only one University College campus experienced an increase in enrollment.

iv. There is a desire to "reset" campus budgets. Permanent funds are based on very old enrollments and the budgets are constantly in flux because of this.

v. Discussion of a desire for a new budget model for the campuses.

vi. (Roger, I did not say that underenrolled faculty in standing positions could be relocated. I said that some campuses may have faculty in disciplines with less demand which contributes to budget difficulties) Breakout of law school into two law schools.

c. David Lieb (Development)
   i. University raised $2.2 billion during the just-completed campaign. While we are in a "quiet" period, it is not the case that fund raising efforts are not underway. Fund raising never stops.
   ii. There has been some decline in commitments this year but mostly attributed to the fact that some donors gave more during the last campaign and that they will resume donations shortly.

2. Other discussion
   a. Roger pointed out that this committee will be busy in the near future with strategic planning but that the University is not far enough along in the process at this time to involve the UPC. We can expect a busy Spring.
   b. Keith Nelson presented potential budget savings to the University by reducing general education requirements to 36 credits from its current 45 units as discussed in some models by the General Education Taskforce. Roger raised the concern that reducing the number of Gen Ed credits would adversely affect enrollments at the campuses that depend on the 2+2 model for viability.

Minutes Submitted by Roger Egolf, Committee Chairs