Institutional Planning Council

Minutes

February 15, 2006


The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by President Gulley.

The meeting began with a review of enrollment projections for 2006-2007 presented by Kim Myrick. She provided an analysis of the spring 2005 enrollment figures that are the basis for the setting of enrollment projections for the next academic year. She noted that the total enrollment projection for next year will be 1,115 students. There followed discussion about the impact of the increased enrollment on course size and classroom space.

Kim also reported about the upcoming Scholar event for this Saturday to which approximately 100 students were invited and 65 students have registered. The average SAT score of the attendees is 1200. She praised the faculty who have committed to participate which stands at approximately 30.

Phyllis Whitney presented the proposed 2006-2007 budget, which reflects an increase in tuition of 6.5% in the hope of an increase in salary if enrollment projections are met and annual fund projections are met for June 30. The IPC was in agreement with the breakdown of the budget.

There was considerable discussion of how the prospects of a salary increase should be presented to the larger community. It was agreed that we would not discuss specific hoped for amounts, but instead, indicate that the budget planning for next year has made a salary increase a priority. We will hope to know in September whether such an increase is possible, and then present that information to the Trustees at the October Board meeting.

Jay Simmons, in consultation with the Academic Council, will draft a several sentence statement regarding the prospects for salary increases which will be included with the cover memo to faculty as part of their March 1 contracts. Stuart will communicate the same information to the Administrative and Staff Councils at upcoming meetings. Staff and administrators will be informed that they will receive employment letters for the following year at the end of the spring, after evaluations have been completed. Those employment letters, however, will not include salary.

Phyllis also presented the YTD budget for 2005-2006. She noted that we are on track with original projections.
Jay reported that the hoped for faculty course load reduction for the next academic year will not happen, in part because of the movement of some departments in support away from the Core curriculum. The plan will continue to be pursued with the hope that course load reductions can be implemented for the 2007-2008 academic year. As part of this discussion, Tanner Garrard noted that a history major has begun a petition for the creation of a new faculty position in the History department, since the demands of the History faculty teaching in the Core are so great.

Jay led the group in a discussion of benchmark institutions. We discussed the purpose of establishing a cohort, the number and type of schools to be in such a cohort. There was also discussion regarding the Deep analysis as a part of the NSSE results, and the role, if any, that the NSSE results should play in our benchmark grouping. We also reviewed recent Phi Beta Kappa institutions. We did not reach agreement, but had a productive conversation, with instruction to Dean Simmons to work on a proposed benchmark grouping that he will report to the next IPC meeting.

It was agreed to change the March IPC meeting from March 15 to Wednesday, March 22nd from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Gulley