Institutional Planning Council

Minutes

April 19, 2006


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

The first item considered by the IPC was the revised peer institution list, which incorporated Hanover and Center Colleges, as requested at the last meeting. The committee reviewed the data assembled by Dean Simmons. After extensive discussion, it was concluded that Hanover College should not be considered part of the benchmark group for reasons of geography (outside of the south), its core revenues and expenses and endowment are at the upper range of the schools, and removing it will allow for a perfect twelve schools in the benchmark list. The group agreed that the list, minus Hanover, provides a reasonable group of schools by which we can make comparisons on any number of measures that at times will be reassuring for where we are, and at others, encouraging us to stretch to catch up.

The council discussed the definition of premier as presented by Dean Simmons that had three benchmarks: a six-year graduation rate exceeding sixty percent, submission of application to shelter a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and NSSE scores that place LaGrange College in the top quarter of all Baccalaureate-general institutions in the areas of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment. Considerable discussion ensued whether the benchmarks should be expanded to include average SAT scores, graduation placement rates, and other measures of student success. In the end, it was agreed that keeping the definition and the benchmarks small and concise was best, and that additional “sub benchmarks” should be developed on which we will track our progress and gauge our success.

Kim Myrick and Well Shepard presented data regarding the status of pre-registration and entering student enrollment for fall, 2006. The pre-registration data suggests that we are thirty students behind where we were last year. The registrar is following up with freshman advisors, and soon the student life staff will begin telephone and e-mail contact with all non pre-registered students to discern their plans for next year.

The data presented by Kim Myrick for entering students showed a considerable increase in deposited students over this time last year. It appears that enrollment is tracking to meet the goal of 350 new students (freshman, transfer, and re-admit) by the September Day of Record.
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Wells Shepard gave the IPC an update on the new staffing in his area, events that have recently been hosted for prospects, and other strategies being used by the enrollment management area to assure success in our enrollment goals. Dr. Ahearn and President Gulley shared stories from a recent prospective student event in Atlanta.

The IPC meeting, nearing the end, was abruptly concluded by the sound of the tornado siren, as everyone dispersed for cover.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Gulley