Institutional Planning Council

Minutes

October 18, 2006

Attendees: David Ahearn, Kim Barber, Quincy Brown, Linda Buchanan, Stuart Gulley, Greg McClanahan, Linda McMullen, Sarah Beth Mallory, Kim Myrick, Marty Pirrman, Ben Podbielski, David Rowe, Maranah Sauter, Jay Simmons, Tina Whatley, and Phyllis Whitney.

Dr. Sarah Beth Mallory opened the meeting with a presentation of the efforts of the Sustainability Council. She noted the wide range of activities in which the Council invested itself during the 2005-2006 academic year, representing an increasing commitment on the part of the College to sustainability concerns. She noted a number of initiatives for the council for the year ahead: a curricular enhancement focused on social, economic, and environmental issues; Campus Sustainability Day on October 25; outreach possibilities-Focus the Nation Project and becoming a College leader in community conversations about sustainability. Campus Sustainability Day next week will include presentations by members of the Sustainability Council to Cornerstone and American Experience classes regarding sustainability, a band presentation, and, at a later date, a showing of An Inconvenient Truth. Stuart expressed appreciation to Sarah Beth and the members of the Council for their commitment and initiative in make sustainability a greater reality at LaGrange College.

Marty Pirrman updated the Council on the College’s Fiscal Year 2006 audit. The College received an unqualified opinion, with no material weaknesses. The report shows a strong financial position for the College, with $103 million in assets, an increase of nearly $5 million over the previous year.

Marty Pirrman presented the proposed operating budget for the Fiscal Year 2007. The budget will be balanced, though extremely modestly so, with revenues and expenses exceeding $29 million. Despite increases in outsourced services, health insurance, and utilities, the Administration is recommending to the Board of Trustees a 3% salary pool increase to become effective November 1. There was discussion after the presentation about how to communicate adjustments to salaries to faculty and staff. It was concluded that there should be no verbal communication, and that the adjustments to salaries should be communicated in writing by Jay Simmons to the faculty and Phyllis Whitney to staff and administration.

Linda McMullen led us through a review of Evening College accomplishments and challenges. This year the program enrolled 109 students, the largest class ever. The program is heavily female, at 88 females. Fifty-five percent of the students in the program are African American. Of the entering students, 12 were transfer. In addition to a major in business, the Evening College offers a human development major. A continuing challenge for the program is faculty resources, especially the availability of full time faculty.
Linda presented several options for enhancements to the Evening College, including the addition of a Degree Completion Program. (DCP) After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Linda will give more thought to the possibilities of continuing our Associates degree program in liberal studies, and offering the majors only in the form of the DCP. Originally, it had been thought that as West Georgia Technical College anticipates Commission on Colleges accreditation through SACS that they would pursue an Associates degree in liberal studies, but it appears now that WGTC is not headed in that direction. If West Georgia Technical College does not offer the Associates degree, except for applied sciences, we will not have a ready market of students admissible to a DCP only program.

We agreed that the agenda for the next meeting should be to continue dialogue regarding the Evening College, and a presentation by Bob Vitale about our Emergency Preparedness Plan.

The meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Stuart Gulley