Institutional Planning Council

Minutes

November 21, 2005


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

Don Livingston made a report in behalf of the Education Department which detailed current enrollment in graduate and undergraduate programs, the anticipated report from the PSC Review, and thoughts regarding growth in the graduate program. We must await word from the PSC about their endorsement of our MAT program. Assuming a favorable response, Don related the potential of growing the MAT program from approximately 40 students now to 60 students, without additional investments in infrastructure. We will continue to monitor the progress.

David Rowe reported on the status on the Defining Moment: The LaGrange College Campaign for Distinction, especially the recent announcement by Callaway Foundation, Incorporated, of a $6 million gift. David presented a Range of Gifts chart that suggested while much progress has been made in our fundraising to date, much more still needs to be accomplished to secure major gifts to the institution before we can anticipate breaking ground.

Jay Simmons reported in behalf of the Academic Council the discussion within that body about appropriate benchmark institutions for comparison of LaGrange College’s academic program. For a number of reasons, the council has been unable to identify a list of schools, but their conversations have been substantive, especially since they are reading together George Kuh’s book on student success. Jay outlined several initiatives underway, as a result of these discussions, which promise to enhance the summer orientation and First Week experiences.

In behalf of the Cabinet, Phyllis Whitney reported that preliminary conversations regarding the 2006-2007 budget suggest there will be no opportunity for an increase in program budgets. It was observed that this continues several years of no growth in program budgets, and the challenge this creates for academic areas that have especially small budgets. The IPC agreed that it is prudent not to seek budget requests for the next fiscal year, if we understand now that we are unlikely to provide increases. The council urged that President Gulley and Dean Simmons use the next faculty meeting to orient the faculty to the current state of the budget and the limitations of the 2006-2007 budget. After the report to the faculty, Phyllis Whitney should send a communication to the entire College community explaining what will happen with the budgeting process.
Stuart Gulley discussed the convocation challenges he presented to the community as a part of his opening convocation address. Each challenge was reviewed, and a brief status report on the progress discussed. The IPC should give more attention to these challenges as the year progresses.

Stuart Gulley identified the items for the next IPC meeting agenda as: a report on the program at Albany, a status report on enrollment for 2006-2007, the status of the 2006-2007 budget, and an update on the benchmark institutions discussion being held by the Academic Council. The council agreed that Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. could work well for future IPC meetings. Subsequent to the meeting, Stuart has communicated to the members that future meetings will be held from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in spring, 2006: February 15, March 15, and April 19. All meetings will be held in the Bailey Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Gulley