Minutes, Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee

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Attending:

Faculty: A&S: Hoyt Edge, Ashley Kistler, Susan Cohn Lackman, Paul Reich, Steven St. John, Eric Zivot; Staff: Leon Hayner; CPS: Romulo Rainha; Ex-Officio: Bill Short (Asst. VP, Finance), Guest: Bob Smither (Dean, A&S)

1. Rainha: Presented student suggestions via SGA (attached); students are involved in the process.
2. Hayner: Jeff gave the Staff a presentation the previous week (documents forwarded to F&S). Staff asked very detailed/questions and answers. The important message is that there is not a budget crisis; there are some things that need to be addressed.
3. Discussion: When fundraising do we have estimates? Is it difficult to figure out goals and possible income? Short: Now in $150 million goal phase. We have a $1M offer to design a museum – which was questioned as the proposed project duplicates the CFAM – mentioned in All-College faculty mtg. Is there concern from Office of Development? Alfond Inn donation was $12.5M. The Capital Campaign is still in the Silent Phase. Normally 70% in hand/pledged/designated before formal announcement of capital campaign. Rollins has $58 M in hand; by end of year perhaps have $60M. 80% of the campaign will be fulfilled by a small number of people.
4. Leon: Jeff is feeling confident going forward. Alfond Inn doing significantly better than anticipated – will be budget enhancer.
5. Comment: The one-year 2% stipend caused some backlash.

Conversation on A&S Budget Presentation/Colloquium: importantly, faculty wanted something to vote on. What are our values, what can we cut? Also, is it possible to talk about ideas from the Future of Liberal Arts Colloquium from January 2012. 3%/6% budget cuts suggestions have to be turned in March 14. Higher Administration will have all the information in hand then, at that time. The concern with Jeff’s presentation: for many years, the President has been arguing in front of faculty and trustees: “the budget model for liberal arts colleges is broken.” Jeff’s analysis: “Crummer will spring back to life; Holt will spring back,” yet this is inconsistent with what the president has been saying – many faculty have been arguing against this notion. Should we start worrying about the long-term budget model? Even if all three income sources bounce back, maybe there ought to be a process that there should be a strategic budget, one matched to values, mission. We will discuss alternatives to this March 21, SunTrust Auditorium: discussion about setting up long-term plan.

What to do today?
Reich: Bob, have you already given Carol B your plan? Ans. Decided to take 3% and 6% off the bottom; offered cuts to Dept budgets. The faculty budget (salaries) is in the Provost’s Office. Reich: We must have a discussion to put input to Deans’ offices about budget idea. We have no idea about how faculty is reassigned.

Suggestions:
- Cancel courses with fewer than 10 students at 100-200 level; courses at the 300-level and draw fewer than 10 students should be taught every other year, with exceptions for certain majors.
- Right-size caps for courses to increase course capacity – within reason. Make sure that we each teach 100 students/year (per Duncan). In rankings, how important is class size? Ask Division Chairs to work on course caps.
- Courses that could be cross listed but now are taught independently by different schools, examples like duplicates of courses in A&S and CPS.
- Can we cut: Releasing faculty from teaching responsibilities for 5:1 and other projects? It’s probably a third rail. Further discussion: Can we limit the number of releases to one a semester? Or we’ll pay you for teaching them. Hoyt: Is this a question about course releases in general? The question is on how course releases are used. Automatic: 5+1, Mid-course, Dept chairs, Cornell Chairs, Endowed Chair, FEC; we are not 5+1, but limiting number per semester to one. Bob: what about banked courses? Endowed chairs – mainly it’s a banking issue; can put limits on the bank.
- Lower mid-course course relief from 2-1: makes sense. (Roger, Hoyt, and President gave time off in lieu of merit; from Cornell funds.)


Meeting adjourned 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cohn Lackman, Ph.D., M.B.A
Secretary, Finance and Service Committee