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FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT

Meeting agenda April 5, 2010

1. Up-dates or announcements from the President (if any)
2. Questions raised from Chamber of Commerce speech
   It seems you’ve been consistently trying to emphasize the importance of investment in higher education – do you have any sense that this message is getting through?
   What impacts of the Boeing decision do you see (long and/or short term) for the College?
3. As our new Provost is settling in and visiting with the Schools, are there new initiatives or priorities that you see emerging from Academic Affairs?
4. IT/Banner system – When he came to our meeting in December, Bob Cape noted that the transition of student systems to Banner would be rocky, and he was absolutely correct. I think everyone realizes that the system needs substantial improvement, and this may or may not be the right forum to list the troubles we’ve encountered, but we wanted to keep on-going troubles with the system on the radar of higher administration.
5. Discussion of impact of financial constraints from faculty perspective – even with a new financial model, it seems likely that it will be some time before we have all the resources necessary to meet all of the goals in the strategic plan; assuming that more resources become available over time, decisions will need to be made regarding their allocation. We thought it may be useful to share some faculty perspectives of how we’ve been impacted by declining resources – not to complain, but to be sure that as much information as possible is on the table as decisions are made regarding how to allocate limited funds during or after long periods of belt-tightening. Such issues may include:
   larger class sizes
   more independent study students
   more administrative tasks
   higher research expectations
None of these are necessarily bad in and of themselves (and different faculty and different departments may differ in their assessments of these – this is precisely why I think a discussion might be informative), but the general theme is ‘doing more with less’, and it is thus difficult to accomplish all of these at once while maintaining high standards of quality in any. Informed decisions as to where resources go as they become available will probably require some understanding of how these factors interact.

2009-2010 Members
Melissa Hughes, Biology (chair)
Morgan Koerner, German and Slavic Studies (secretary)
Celeste Lacroix, Communication
David Mann, Political Science
Robert Mignone, Mathematics
Deborah Miller, Health and Human Performance
James Neff, Physics and Astronomy
Leslie Sautter, Geology and Environmental Geosciences
Elijah Siegler, Religious Studies
Katina Strauch, Library
John Walsh, French and Italian