Faculty Advisory Committee to the President
Thursday, December 9th, 2010, 3:30-4:30pm
MINUTES

Members Present: President George Benson, Cara Delay, M. Scott Harris, Edward Hart, Melissa Hughes (Chair), Morgan Koerner (Secretary), Larry Krasnoff, Celeste Lacroix, Bob Mignone, Clifton Peacock, Susan Rozzi, Heather Tierney

Also in attendance: Provost George Hynd, Brian McGee, Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to the President.

Agenda Items:

1. Tuition, budget and the state response
   - The President discussed the Board of Trustees’ decision to roll back the tuition raise from 14.75% to 7%. He underscored the need to sensitize the state legislature to the importance of higher education in South Carolina and noted that he will continue to meet with legislators to this end.
   - The President noted that the presidents of state universities in South Carolina will meet in the near future in order to focus on getting regulatory reforms passed by the SC legislature.
   - The President discussed fee structures for different schools at the College as an alternative means of revenue. He noted that there is precedent for such fee structures at other universities in the state.
   - The President also described his recent efforts to develop a relationship with the management and the editorial board of the Post and Courier, to facilitate better public understanding of the financial issues facing the College.
   - Brian McGee summarized the changes that will be made next semester in order to compensate for the $2.3 million mid-year cut caused by the tuition roll-back:
     - Some of the planned new lines may be cut.
     - There will be significantly less spending in IT upgrades than previously planned.
     - The College will dip into its financial reserves.
     - Plans to upgrade certain out-of-class experiences will be abandoned for the moment. Examples include a planned expansion of the bus system for students and late night library operations.
     - The market adjustment raises for meritorious faculty are smaller than they would have otherwise been.

2. Role of faculty-initiated research/scholarship grants at the institution
   - The Provost praised the College of Charleston faculty’s excellence at bringing in grant money and discussed plans to strengthen and expand the research infrastructure for faculty at the college.
• Concerns raised by the committee with regard to added burdens placed on grant-writing faculty included increases in indirect (Facilities & Administration) rates, reductions in the proportion of indirect costs returning to Schools and Departments, and restrictions on grant expenditures, including course buy-outs.
• The provost noted that he plans to initiate a discussion of how faculty time is allocated and budgeted, including time spent on grant writing and administration.

3. **Update on academic Computing**
   • The discussion of IT issues was postponed until the next meeting in the new year.

The Next FAC Meeting will be announced in January.

Morgan Koerner
FAC Secretary
2010/11