Faculty Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2009 3-4pm  
MINUTES

Members Present: Melissa Hughes (Chair), Morgan Koerner (Secretary), Bob Mignone, Deb Miller, Celeste Lacroix, James Neff, Katina Strauch, Leslie Sautter, John Walsh

Updates from the president
- The due diligence process for the purchase of McLeod plantation will likely be finalized by February. The College is still in the midst of investigating the costs of the plantation and other technical details.
- McLeod plantation, if purchased, would likely offer boat access, athletic fields, and several other possible spaces for the college. It would likely be divided into two parts, a segment with the historic buildings and another section with intramural fields and, perhaps, an agriculture institution.
- The possible purchase of McLeod plantation does not indicate an abandonment of the Dixie plantation. Both pieces of land will figure in possible future use by the College.
- The College’s budget situation: earlier in September the state made another cut to the budget, leaving us at around 12% state funding at present.

FAC Agenda Items

Consequences of increased enrollment, coupled with reductions in faculty lines
The FAC voiced concerns about the stress on faculty and staff created by higher enrollment and less faculty lines.
- The president stated that once the strategic plan is ready, the College will move into an implementation phase, one of the goals of which is to acquire 50-100 more faculty members over several years.
- The FAC voiced concerns about reduced custodial staff, as well custodial issues that result from the overbooking of classrooms (custodial staff doesn’t get a chance to clean the rooms because they’re always full). The president acknowledged these concerns.
- The president discussed the need to develop new financial models for the future that would facilitate the planned new hires, as well as support other aspects of the strategic plan.
- The president updated the committee on the attempts to obtain regulatory relief from the state government. A bill has passed in the house and will likely be taken up by the state senate in January.

Future Allocation of Faculty lines
The FAC expressed concerns about gaining lines for teaching core courses at the college.
- The president assured the committee that new hires will be made for teaching in core courses. He noted that lines for new programs will not come at the cost of the core mission and courses of the College.
Suggestions for improved communication between the president’s office and the faculty

• The president noted that he and the speaker of the faculty have begun to meet several times a semester, usually a week or so before he meets with the FAC.

• The committee discussed the possibility of an electronic newsletter with weekly updates/bullet points from the office of the president. The president has been planning something similar but his communications team has yet to set it up.

• The FAC encouraged the president to have his town hall meetings recorded and streamed on-line so that faculty members with time conflicts can remain informed.

• The committee and the president had a brief speculative discussion about the negative tone on the faculty discussion email list.

The next FAC meeting is scheduled for October 26th, 2009 at 11am.
Morgan Koerner
Secretary
FAC 2009/2010