

Senate Steering Committee
Minutes
June 4, 2009
3:15-5:00 P.M.
226 Tigert

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 PM.

Attendees:

Jack Mecholsky
Jane Brockmann
Mary Ann Ferguson

Joe Glover
Ellis Greiner
Scott Nygren
Susan Percival

Teresa Rambo
Barbara Wingo

Guests:

Paul Mueller

Ellis Greiner asked to have an additional item added to the agenda: the Senate's motion regarding the changes to layoff regulations at the May Senate meeting.

Reports:

• **Chair's Report**

Jack Mecholsky, Chair

Jack Mecholsky presented five topics he thought needed to be a focus for the committee:

1. budget and communications related to the budget,
2. resource centered management (RCM)—particularly the trial run with a shadow system beginning July 1,
3. regulations and processes for changes to them more generally,
4. an academic strategic plan—Academic Policy Council has been instructed to work on one this year, and
5. national rankings and consequences of focusing predominantly on metrics for achieving high rankings (Article about Clemson University recommended.)

• **Provost's Report**

Joe Glover, Provost

Joe Glover reported on the status of Dean's searches: Engineering and International Center in final stages, PHHP search is just beginning, and Health Science new vice president will be officially on board as of July 1.

Provost Glover gave a detailed description of RCM, both conceptually and in practice. Basically, all revenue generating units (RGUs) will have to pay all bills incurred from weighted (weight determined by CIPS) SCH monies earned. RGUs will be taxed (perhaps 8% of expenditures—excepting research expenditures). Implementation will be complex. Goal is transparency and incentivizing revenue-generating behaviors of units to grow and to reduce costs. A lengthy discussion followed about those complexities. Steering Committee members expressed concern about: effects of RCM on multidisciplinary programs, relationship of RCM to academic mission, definition of "bad" behaviors under RCM, Colleges competing for SCHs, incentives for quality vs. resources generation, faculty representation on decision making committees, the Honors Program, opportunity for units to opt out of services, and effects on units that do not generate enough SCHs to pay expenses. Provost Glover addressed each of these concerns.

Provost Glover also reported on the administration's decision to remove the language about layoff units for faculty layoffs from the proposed regulation change until faculty have an opportunity to discuss this in the fall. Virtually all the deans on campus supported the regulation section removing retention points and bumping, thus it was sent forward to the Trustees.

Council Reports:

None given

Information Items:

Suggestion was made that Senate and Councils be asked to discuss changes to layoff unit regulation language, and role of faculty in cutting of programs vis a vis layoffs.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be July 9th at 3:15 p.m.
The meeting adjourned at 5:30.