President’s Report to the Faculty Senate

January 26, 2010

* **Thanks to you and all faculty and staff for your exceptional contributions.** Please know that what you do is not taken for granted and is very much appreciated. Our students are the beneficiary for all you do to foster learning for them and for all of us at the university. We would very much appreciate hearing from you about things we or I might be able to do to communicate that even better— as we wrestle with the results of the state and national budget environment. Please know that our continued efforts to share the good and the bad of what we know, and to ask for your wisdom to help develop shared options to these circumstances is sign evidence of our appreciation of your knowledge and abilities.
* **Need for your reactions to recommendations of a Fee Work Group.** Please find attached six recommendations from a fee work group which was established late summer 2009 by me and provided a draft report last semester. The committee was charged based on some responses to initial SWOT reviews conducted by our office during the summer and early Fall of 2009. Those reviews suggested a perceived need to find greater transparency for how mandatory and course fees were collected and used, and a perceived need to review whether we should continue to charge all students currently charged for certain mandatory, or whether certain exceptions should be made in the interest of fairness. The committee was also charged with the responsibility for analyzing the financial implications of any such changes, and steps that might be taken to balance interests.
* **Legislative Issues** Budget, both the dollars for support of activities, and the capital budget that would support the New Science Building. We are working with our delegation, among others, to retain full formula funding and the restoration to the capital budget for the New Science Building. Some Formula support, but no bond support for the new science building was in the Governor’s recommendations. We will likely be asking for you to contact representatives to the legislature for support for funding, especially capital. We are also campaigning to continue to allow system universities to control guns on campus. Proposed legislation would allow the carrying of concealed weapons anywhere on campus other than residence halls, in contrast to present regulations which allow us to prohibit firearms anywhere on campus (for all but public safety officers)
* **Need for your participation in planning and visioning processes**. Many of these areas are moving a bit less quickly than I had anticipated, but I have been reminded that there are certain state requirements (for invitation of proposals, for review of the proposals, for a waiting period of up to ten days after proposals have been tentatively accepted) with which we must comply. For marketing and imaging, for strategic planning, and for facilities master planning, we are very close to completion of finalized contracts. All will require substantial, broad based participation of the campus community—and so I thank you in advance for your efforts. The abbreviated SWOT analysis we conducted this summer and early fall pointed to wanting a clear direction for the institution, leading through making choices about our future, encouraging collaboration to create shared choices where available, and acting (informed by broad participation) as an institution to advance these choices that enhance learning for our students, faculty, staff, and community. We also need to improve the way in which are successes are better communicated to a broader public. Again, we’ll be dependent on your participation.
* **Question time**