President’s Report to the Faculty Senate

February 9, 2010

* Budget Discussions—Professors Burnett and Williams attended the planning and budget advisory committee, and can share details of that discussion. In general, we reported that we continue to watch carefully FY 2010 budget activities (currently requiring us to have an 8.2% reduction—but requiring our caution in the event that the need for further reductions occurs). There will be an updated spread sheet, reflecting the recommendations to budget officers look to a 5 instead of a 10% holdback of operating expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year. Other than the BOR required days this spring, no further days are anticipated for the remainder of this fiscal year). For FY 2011, information is still sketchy. As information becomes available, we will share that with you.
* Meeting with CAPC—I am certain that the members will share reports of my enthusiasm/passion for curriculum issues. There should be no doubt that faculty leadership in curriculum remains a key value here. At the same time expressing my hope that you will interpret my engagement in questions from time to time as merely a reflection of that belief, and my own commitment to our engagement in the central (and rewarding) work of the university.
* Update on Chancellor Davis’ State of the System Address. What follows is a draft document that begins to outline principles for institutional innovation. Your comments will help inform my perspectives as I comment on the document in the next week or so.
* Thanks again for your dedication and efforts to support our commitments to learning for students, faculty and staff, and your care in helping to remember our commitment to collaboration and transparency.

Draft Document

Principles to Guide Innovation

Preamble: In order to preserve its academic excellence, reputation and competitiveness, given the projections for continued economic pressures and explosive student growth, the University System of Georgia must accelerate the pace of innovation in both administrative and academic areas. The following principles are designed both to facilitate and motivate a climate of innovation throughout the System. The Board of Regents assumes that any proposed innovations will be of a high quality and student focused. It also assumes that institutions will fuel innovation through the capture of operating efficiencies and the vigorous pursuit of both incremental and diversified resources outside of normal state and student funding processes.

Principles: Institutions should:

1. Give priority to innovations that enhance and hone their present mission ratherthan expanding missions.
2. Consider innovations that increase student learning, research and faculty productivity. (Included in this area would be such things as novel and innovative uses of technology, curricular assessment and redesign as well as an evaluation of accelerated degree programs.)
3. Investigate innovations that challenge our existing student life, academic and academic support structures.
4. Consider innovations that reprogram existing infrastructure use. (This would include such things as maximizing the use of facilities throughout the entire calendar year, the entire academic week and the entire academic day while fully utilizing academic related technology. This would also include expanded internships and study abroad opportunities.)
5. Give priority within the limits of their mission to academic programs that meet demonstrated state need.
6. Utilize the collective power of the University System. (This would include such things as collaboration with other System institutions, development of pilot programs that could be scalable within the System, new initiatives built upon transferable "best practices" from within the System or beyond.)
7. Be prepared to take measured risks in the process of innovation

**Support:** The BoR Office will be available as a resource and will give institutional proposals for innovative practices that require policy changes an expedited review and response.

**Accountability:** Presidents will be evaluated, in part, on their ability to be vigorous and innovative leaders who have engaged their entire campus communities in the process of rethinking the institution's future path in a scarce resource and increasingly complex world.