President’s Report

Faculty Senate

April 13, 2010

* Program changes for the BHS Annex. As a result of discussions with several faculty and academic leaders about future of space needs, we determined to change the previous assignment of space on the first floor of the annex from the dental clinic to laboratory and office space to psychology, physics, and a general class room. The dental clinic will remain in its present location for the time being. This will require additional discussions with the campus facilities committee to review earlier immediate recommended uses of that space.
* Planning activities
  + Facilities Master Planning—we are currently at the stage of report of some preliminary findings to the campus, town hall meeting #1, with “…the goal of soliciting broader input.” The Sasaki group, headed by Linda Eastley, led town meeting discussions (under challenging acoustics), last week, as one part of that input. These responses, including expressions of concerns, are to be included as a part of further refinements of alternative plans for meeting future needs. The planners have indicated a need to work to adapt the best portions of alternatives, as well as adaptations to campus input. Prior to finalizing any master plan, there will be additional draft master plan review, which will not occur until fall to all for faculty, student and staff discussion and review. Comments may be directed to the members of the facilities planning advisory committee <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/opb/fppo/facilities%20committee.htm> which includes Dr. Burnett and Dr. Campbell. Based on discussions I have had, there are several items of concern (buildings discussed in earlier periods of time, office configurations among those I have heard most frequently), as well as several items which received positive reactions (matching anticipated facilities growth with academic programming and student user areas, all while protecting the beauty of the campus).
  + Strategic Planning—this exercise started officially yesterday. At the heart of these activities will be a series of campus conversations that should lead to shared perspectives on who we are as a campus, how we will consistently communicate those perspectives to internal and external audiences, and how those perspectives will frame a series of activities and decisions we will be making to secure learning for faculty, students, staff, and community in our future. We will post the work plan of the Pappas Group to the president’s web site a bit later this week.
* Budget issues—we are moving toward the end of the legislative session. Until the budget is passed, there will be nothing certain to report. We shared already (through Dr. Burnett) information on Health Care proposals currently under review at the Board Office. The Chair of the Board has made a priority cost control for Health Care. We will keep you advised on this as more information becomes available. We will also share information as we receive it on institutional budget requirements, tuition increase proposals and discussions about allocations with Divisions.
* Thanks to all for continued support for the University for this Semester—as noted earlier, we will need your continued participation in an array of activities that will culminate in setting some future directions for the University early Fall.