President’s Report

September 9, 2010

Faculty Senate

* Enrollments for the fall have settled at about 6600—approximately the same as record Fall enrollments for 6594 last Fall. This in sprite of increased financial challenges for our students, changes in financial aid policies, and a larger than usual reduction of class rolls for non-payment. These enrollments are greater than those estimated in the building of the 2010-2011 budgets. More on issues of budget and strategic enrollment management as we move through the Fall Semester. As soon as the enrollments finalize, we hope to have some more detailed information on average academic qualifications of new students and current classes, as well as data on first to second year retention.
* NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) results are available. Please examine them, and share as you like. Among other results, freshmen and seniors consistently claimed that they only rarely came to class unprepared. That assessment was not always shared by faculty. Our students universally observed higher than national average satisfaction with interactions with campus offices; they are more likely to believe that they are provided the support they need to succeed academically; they are significantly more likely to provide care for dependants and work for pay off campus; on the whole, these results are largely positive, give us some basis to examine a whole array of current administrative and academic practices to help us improve the environment for faculty and student learning.
* Thanks for participating in the inauguration events—as a celebration of learning and service, the committee has done an excellent job of creating conditions to make this a campus wide activity. Steve Burnett will be speaking, and so thanks to him and you.
* Interviews by Pappas on Strategic Planning—Representatives from the Pappas group will be visiting campus again on September 16-17 (mostly conversation with external affairs, such as communications, development, and alumni affairs) and September 27-28, where there are scheduled to be a number of faculty and staff focus groups. If you are asked to serve, please, please do so.
* Question Time