Faculty Senate Agenda

February 13, 2012

I. Approval of Minutes from November Meeting

II. Treasurer’s Report

III. Old Business

1) Academic Misconduct Policy – Lutz/Cribb

Meeting scheduled February 17th

IV. New Business

1. Committee for Retention Innovation

Need representatives from each college

Meetings will be February 20th and 27th at 3:00 P. M. (approximately one hour)

Charge to establish guidelines for awards for Retention Innovation

1. Issues with custodial services
2. Required Advisement for students with less than 30 hours
3. Proposal for registration hold for all students who have completed 75 hours until they file UDF
4. State Budget – See below

Item not listed – Contract for Children’s Services

May impact staffing of FTTs and Adjuncts

1. Enrollment Issues

Spring 2011 – 24,660 Spring 2012 - 24,192 Decrease of 1.9%

1. Issues with University Standing Committees – Lutz - I read through the changes in the policy regarding standing committees announced last week, and I think there are two changes interesting enough to perhaps merit brief discussion at the Steering Committee meeting. The first change appears in the first paragraph under "II. Establishment of Committees." The significant change is that the new version includes the word "abolish" as one of the president's rights. The old version, as far as I can see, does not mention abolishing a university standing committee, an oversight that had to be rectified in the revision. I'm just wondering if turning it over to the president is necessarily the best choice. The second change concerns the composition of the Honors Council. The new version adds the following sentence to which there is no equivalent in the old version: "Nominations for membership will be solicited from the college deans and submitted to the Faculty Senate President." Is this simply a codification of the way it has always been done--I don't think so--or is this a new wrinkle whose purpose isn't entirely clear.
2. Faculty assessment of VPs
3. Instructor Absence Notification Policy – Boyd

V. TBR Faculty Sub-council Report (Alfred Lutz)

***Message from President McPhee, February 3, 2012:***

*Good afternoon.*

*As part of my effort to keep the university community informed, I would like to provide this update of Governor Haslam’s State of the State Address:*

SCIENCE BUILDING UPDATE

The University received some very good news this week from Governor Bill Haslam when he announced that our long-awaited and much-needed Science Building project was included in his 2012-2013 Budget Proposal. I was honored to be on the House floor at the Capitol as the invited guest of Representative Joe Carr (48th District)  for the governor’s State of the State address. And I personally witnessed the positive response that  came from legislators -- led by our own local senators and representatives – when the governor voiced his support for the building.

We are grateful to the governor for recognizing the importance of the Science Building and including a recommendation for $126.7 million in his budget for its construction. The next step is for the legislature to deliberate and approve the governor’s budget recommendation.  This is typically done at the end of the legislative session, which usually wraps up in late April or early May.  Under the proposed funding plan, the University will be expected to provide $18.75 million toward the project’s cost.  In anticipation of this requirement, we have been working to develop a plan utilizing a combination of local institutional funds, designated student fees and private gift dollars. As home to the state’s largest undergraduate student population, the Science Building is critical to our continuing efforts to provide Tennessee with graduates ready for the 21st century workforce.

We appreciate the governor’s leadership, as well as the encouragement and support we have received from the members of the General Assembly, especially the support of our area delegation – Senators Bill Ketron and Jim Tracy and Representatives Joe Carr, Pat Marsh, Mike Sparks, and Rick Womick.  We also appreciate the support of Representative Charles Michael Sargent , chair of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee;  Senator Randy McNally, chair of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee; and our local mayors, Murfreesboro City Mayor Tommy Bragg and County Mayor Ernest Burgess.  This funding proposal would not have happened without these individuals.   And we thank the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for their help in moving this project forward.

OTHER BUDGET NEWS

The governor’s budget proposal also included several other projects of interest to the University community. It recommends a 2.1 percent reduction, or $1.6 million, in our state budget appropriation. This reduction is significantly less than the 5 percent reduction that was under consideration last fall. And it is likely that the impact of that reduction will be mitigated by a non-recurring payment from the “hold harmless provisions” in the new outcomes-based formula. I will be meeting soon with the provost, deans and vice presidents to discuss budget needs and challenges and, as always, we will make efforts to minimize the effect of these potential changes.

The proposal recommends a 2.5 percent salary increase for all state employees, including employees of the higher education systems, effective July 1. As usually the case, it will not be fully funded and higher education institutions will be required to find a portion of that increase.

Last but not least, the proposal included $5,320,000 for four capital maintenance projects:

•                 $2,140,000 for underground electrical updates;

•                 $1,620,000 for updates to heating and air conditioning in the Murphy Center;

•                 $1,050,000 to replace the Walker Library roof;

•                 And $510,000 for water and sewer system updates.

*As you can imagine, the governor’s budget proposal has recommendations that affect many state entities who interact with the University, so we are working to learn whether there are other potential impacts that we need to consider. I will keep you informed as we know more on the budget as it moves through the legislature and towards approval.*