PRESENT: D. Dewar, E. Eisenbraun, R. Hoyt, A. Byon, S. Phillips, J. Delano, S. Birge, T. Bessette, I. Murakami, D. Wagner

GUESTS: none

MINUTES: Minutes from February 27, 2008 unanimously approved as written

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT
No report was given

CHAIR’S REPORT
Dr. Hoyt reported that a special meeting of the Senate Executive Council was held on March 13th to present budget information. Dr. Delano added that the meeting included a detailed accounting of budget challenges. There was much interactive discussion and transparency.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Suspension of MAPAP Program
A proposal to suspend the Master of Public Affairs and Policy program due to its similarities to the existing Master of Public Administration program was brought to a vote and received unanimous approval to move forward to the Senate Executive Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Freshman Year Experience (FYE) Committee
Dr. Dewar presented a proposed program that offered three different levels of investment in order to improve the Freshman year experience and improve retention rates:

   • Minimal Model – learning objectives involve cultivating greater participation in existing Great Danes Beginning Welcome Weekend; continued or enhanced exposure to athletics pursuits, Residential Life programs and organizations and clubs; and the FYE course, a three credit course that is infused within the existing General Education Courses. Initial investment estimated at $205k
   
   • Intermediate Model – components include the items in option #1, along with developing Living Learning Communities, where a cohort of students to live together and be assigned to the same academic advisor, modeled on the current structure of the Honors College. The framework will include 6 credits with a 3 credit dedicated FYE course and a three credit course that the cohort takes from general offerings. Startup cost estimated at $265k
   
   • Maximum Model – in this scenario, the 3 credit FYE course would be replaced by living-learning communities, would offer a $2,000 incentive to participating faculty members, estimated at $340k

Dr. Delano remarked that the task force benchmarked many institutions, and identified five critical
components to the program:

1. Academic integrity – program must be challenging and substantive
2. Requires institutional commitment at all levels
3. Infuse strategies and skills for living and learning within the FYE courses
4. Participation – linkage between Academic and Student Affairs
5. Continuous assessment

Dr. Dewar requested that additional comments be forwarded to her or Wayne Locust.

2. Budget 101

Dr. Phillips presented a review of the current budget situation and how our various funding sources work, our deficit situation and the impact of various budget cut scenarios. She stressed that the budget is still a work in progress. Also discussed were the graduate student support process and our funding options. Dr. Phillips showed how the principles established by the Budget Advisory Group will be applied to designing an allocation strategy.

Motion was made to adjourn at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Stern