RPA Agenda: Nov. 16, 2006  8:00AM 107 LOM

Susan will not be meeting with us.

(1) Items from the Provost
   Any items that the provost wishes to bring to our attention.

(2) BMRIC Report.

We have had time to review the report from BMRIC.  We need to begin preparing our recommendation to the Senate.  The basic question is, do we recommend approval, rejection, or acceptance with modifications?  I think that there are a series of questions we need to discuss:

1. The recommendations of the report.  Do we agree with them?  Do we have suggestions for changes?

2. What will implementing this model cost?
   Costs include the need to hire additional staff as well as the time that faculty and administrators.  Will the savings from this model will exceed the costs?  How much are we willing to pay for the benefits this model brings?

3. What needs to be done to protect academic quality?
   The Senate needs to address issues of curricular quality, and prepare mechanisms to review proposed course changes in light of budget implications.
   The RPA needs to prepare to review the academic budget to address questions such as how can we prevent colleges from sacrificing quality for short term budget gain (decreasing tenure track faculty and hiring lecturers).  RPA will also continue to be involved in academic planning and policy formation.

4. What recommendations should we make about college budget planning organization?

5. Other points?  I have invited the RPA members to examine the report and come up with other points.  Now is the time to bring them forward.

(3) Ongoing items
   We have an ongoing item concerning the library budget.