Faculty Senate Resource and Policy Allocation Council

RPA Agenda: March 22, 2007  8:00AM Provost Conference room

(1) **Items from the Provost**

Our first item of business will be to examine any items which the provost wishes to bring to the RPA’s attention, to discuss with us, or to ask us (or one of our committees) to look into.

(2) **Budget preparation for 2007-8 year**

The time when the legislature finalized the funding level for next year’s budget is rapidly approaching. We should take this time (the next 2 months) to review the proposals that are in place and to discuss what options are being considered for different funding levels. One place to begin would be to review the plans made by the colleges for a possible 1 – 2% reversion. It would be good to put these plans in perspective of the actual budgets for the past 2-3 years. Are the proposed reversions part o a long-term plan for change or are they a one-time thing? If the elimination of tenure track faculty lines are being considered, what other types of changes were contemplated, and why was it decided that eliminating tenure track faculty was the best option?

(3) **Proprietary research policy**

The BP proposal has highlighted the fact that corporate / industrial research is likely to become a larger factor at ISU. ISU needs a policy dealing with the many issues surrounding how such research is to be done. Some aspects of this should be prepared / reviewed by this council, and our Research committee seems like a good group to take up this issue. Can we discuss and agree on a charge to the committee in this area? Cooperation with other councils needs to be a part of this.

(4) **Review of academic budgets**

Under the new budget model the RPA is charged with reviewing the “academic budget” of the university and making recommendations to the Provost. We need to establish the process that we will use to accomplish this. One this is very clear, each member of the RPA will have to have a role in the process if it is going to get done.

I would like us to discuss two ideas at this meeting. One is to consider how the work is to be divided among the RPA members, and the second is to discuss the scope of the review.

To start the discussion I will suggest an idea I presented early in the budget model development process. THE RPA has a member from each college, perhaps that member could be responsible for preparing an analysis of their college budget to present to RPA for discussion and review. Interdepartmental units and centers and institutes could be dealt with by subcommittees / working groups of members. Thus each RPA member would deal directly with their college budget and with some interdepartmental budget analysis.

For each budget we are to review we need to establish our goals, our procedure of review and the time frame for the review.
Faculty Senate Resource and Policy Allocation Council

College budgets:
   Goal
   Procedure
   Time frame

Interdepartmental programs
   Goal
   Procedure
   Time frame

Centers and Institutes
   Goal
   Procedure
   Time frame