RPA MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time/Location: 04 October 2007 Meeting; 8:00-9:00 AM; 1550 Beardshear
Attending: Mike Owen (CALS), Travis Sapp (Bus), Margaret Torrie (CHS), Ricardo Rosenbusch (CVM), Arnold Van Der Valk (LAS), John Jackman (Engr), Chris Martin (Design), Sedahlia Crase, Betsy Hoffman, Ellen Rasmussen, Gregory Palermo

1. Approved Agenda for 10/04/07.


3. Provost's Items
a) FY09 tuition rate increase submitted to the Board of Regents. Provost Hoffman distributed ISU request to the Regents for tuition increases for FY 09. These matched prior discussions at RPA regarding being at or below the low side of HEPI projections. Approx. 3.2% for in-state; 2.5% out-of-state.

b) Preliminary planning parameters. UBAC worksheet from 9-21 distributed. This included a worksheet that indicated 1% increases to enable planning. For General University faculty and staff: 1% in salary + salary driven benefits + health insurance is $2.7M.

   • B. Hoffman reported that UBAC is engaged in very preliminary discussions of planning for FY09. One item being considered is salary distribution. One proposal includes a 2% distribution for salary increases from a pool anticipated to be 3%. The 1% being withheld would be for equity/market/retention/spousal accommodation.

   • G. Palermo pointed out that by the time the dean’s took their share less than 2% would reach faculty; and for faculty performing at level, that would be only a 0.6% increase, the rest being distributed for merit adjustment. Holding back 1/3 of a 3% pool seems to be a bit extreme. The provost acknowledged “hearing the message,” and noted that the concepts under discussion are in a preliminary stage during which various scenarios are being considered.

   • B. Hoffman indicated the regents would be seeking a supplementary salary increase for faculty as was done for FY 08. Planning to date has been conservative – does not include that potential source.

c) Faculty salaries for FY08. The provost distributed UBAC slides summarizing FY 08 salary allocations; also available on President’s Council site.

d) Any comments on items discussed at last RMM-LTT meeting. Two areas where we are working on policies will need new data bases as we go into the future.

   • Timeline for tuition capture – potentially multiple distributions during the year; also, working on how to account for tuition and SCH’s for short courses offered mid or late semester.

   • Tuition, SCH income and expenses distributions and allocations for jointly administered and listed courses; courses taught by departments that are jointly administered by more than one college, examples: Econ; Soc.

e) Other initiatives/alerts

   • “Voluntary System of Accountability.” ISU is considering joining AASCU & other NASULGC universities in voluntary university-wide student learning outcomes assessment program. The secretary of education has been pushing this – administration is critical of the job universities, particularly public universities have been doing. Implications are that participation and performance will/may be linked to future access to federal aid. D. Holger investigating. Here is the web address for the program: <http://www.nasulgc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=280&srcid=183>
4. College implementation of Guiding Principles
Full description of the issue was included in minutes of 9/27, distributed prior to meeting. Provost indicates that yes, there are differences in quality and pace of implementing the guidelines at the collegiate level. Has been “pushing the deans pretty hard” on doing this. Some have separate budget advisory committees; some have increased cabinet representation; others not far along. G. Palermo indicated RPA believes the best place to ensure compliance is at the EVP-P level – this was a condition to the Senate approval of the RMM. Palermo offered to prepare a succinct memorandum on the obligation for the deans to comply.

[Subsequent to the meeting, G. Palermo drafted a background paper that showed the history of the guidelines from president Geoffroy’s Nov. 2006 e-mail, to the Senate resolution of January 2007, to the BMRC report of May 2007 which quoted the guidelines verbatim and indicated the EVP-P responsibility for them.]

5. RPA review of budget/strategic initiatives proposals
Revised schedule showing RPA reviews was distributed prior to meeting. Discussion centered on RPA review as advisory body to provost on academic matters prior to reports and proposals going to UBAC. Provost Hoffman indicated schedules would be tight; does not know if it will be possible in all cases. Will continue to discuss at next meeting with the provost.

6. Next meeting:

Thursday, October 18, 107 LoM, 8-9:00 AM

7. Fall Schedule
   All meetings are scheduled for one hour: 8:00 – 9:00 AM. Meetings with the provost will be in Beardshear 1550; the other meetings will be in Lab of Mechanics 107
   - Oct 18 NEXT MEETING
     - Nov 1(w/ provost)
     - Nov 15
     - Nov 29 (w/ provost)
     - Dec 13 (exam week)

Please forward comments and corrections to G. Palermo

Minutes prepared on behalf of the Council by G. Palermo, chair.