RPA MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time/Location: 15 November 2007 Meeting; 8:00-9:00 AM; 107 Lab of Mechanics
Attending: Travis Sapp (Bus), Margaret Torrie (CHS), Arnold Van Der Valk (LAS), Chris Martin (Design), John Jackman (Engr), Ricardo Rosenbusch (CVM), Mike Owen (CALS), Sedahlia Crase, Clark Ford, Gregory Palermo

1) Approved Agenda for 11/15/07.

2) Minutes of 11/01/07. To be revised and resubmitted. No action taken.

3) Guiding Principles collegiate process updates
   This needs to be on the agenda for our next meeting with the provost. The RPA understands that the provost has asked each college to document and submit its plans for implementing the Guiding Principles for budget development with faculty input.
   Updates:
   CALS: Senate Caucus will serve as dean’s sounding board – will be provided with an overview and dean will solicit feedback. The dean expects early and frequent discussions with the caucus on budget matters.
   CoB: College Cabinet minutes indicate the college will be developing a mechanism.
   CHS: Nothing appears to be happening in terms a process involving faculty.
   CoD: At the CoD faculty meeting, the dean announced that the budget committee appointed in 06-07 will be contacted to resume its work. Details of that effort have yet to be developed.
   CVM: The college has a budget committee with faculty on it. The agenda is generally set by the dean. They meet monthly and they report to a larger collegiate committee that addresses a full range of collegiate issues.
   LAS: The process in LAS is not clear – has not been developed. The Representative Assembly and the Senate Caucus are separate entities.
   Engr: No update.

4) Budget restatement and further questions
   The restatement confirms our current status and makes visible expense allocations. It does not address inequities, etc. It is not clear if there is enough in the process through RMF and IEF to effectively address historic problems of underfunding in some areas, to prevent administrative growth ‘creep’, to enable reduction in class size where appropriate (e.g., that is counter to raising SCH ‘productivity’), etc.

5) The guiding principles for RMF and IEF distribution
   Generally, these seem to be good starting points. However, they do not address decision-making process. It is important to restate that the various budget committees and UBAC, along with review by RPA (for academic impact) will be a part of the RMF & IEF process. This should be addressed with the provost.
   • Research Center formation seems to be beyond the purview of the faculty and is an administrative decision. How will centers be created and funded in the new model? What impact will new centers have on departments?
• How are short term issues (building start-up, utility rates, short term fluctuation in student enrollment) addressed in the context of long-term strategic ones (interdisciplinary research, rebuilding tenure and t-t faculty, etc.)?

6) 2009 Budget expectations
   RPA needs to develop a set of principles by which we will guide our review of the various elements of the 2009 budget.

7) Next meeting:
   Thursday, November 29, 1550 Beardshear, 8-9:00 AM

8) 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
   • Dec 13 (exam week)

Please forward comments and corrections to G. Palermo

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