FISCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT
Minutes of May 8, 2013

Members Attending: Pam Barr, Steve Kaminshine (for Peggy Wilmoth present via phone), Risa Palm, Jerry Rackliffe, George Rainbolt (for P.C. Tai), Lesley Reid, Don Reitzes, Jowanna Tillman, Mary Beth Walker, Jim Weyhenmeyer, Andrew Whyte

Others Attending: Paul Alberto, Irene Duhaime, Michael Eriksen, William Long, Carmen Newton, Tim Renick, Tammy Sugarman, Edgar Torbert

The minutes of April 17, 2013, were approved.

Dr. Palm welcomed Dr. Rainbolt and Mr. Whyte to FACP for 2013-14 as the newly elected heads of the University Senate Committee on Planning & Development and the Student Government Association, respectively.

FY2014 Budget Allocations

Dr. Palm suggested two options for completing the task of allocating approximately $1.7 million in new funding: (1) discuss at this meeting and then vote at a follow-up meeting and (2) discuss at this meeting for up to one hour and then vote at this meeting. Consensus was to proceed with the second option.

FACP representatives from the Deans Group, University Senate Committee on Budget, University Senate Executive Committee, University Senate Committee on Planning & Development, Staff Council, and Student Government Association as well as other members of FACP and other attendees presented ideas on allocating the new funds from their respective committees or units.

Dr. Rackliffe reminded that the availability of the new funds was dependent on meeting FY2014 enrollment goals, including 300 additional paying undergraduate students and 100 additional paying graduate students. The goal of 300 undergraduate students was deemed certain. The goal of 100 graduate students was deemed more problematic.

Consensus was quickly reached to proceed as follows:

(1) To recommend immediate allocation of $560,000 for the purpose of holding charges to graduate assistants for health insurance at the same rate as FY2013 in spite of the premium increase from the insurer;
(2) To recommend allocation, when availability of funds is known, of the balance of the $1.7 million in new funding for the purpose of boosting faculty and staff morale;
(3) To recommend the faculty and staff morale allocations to college or vice presidential level units be in the amount of $250 per faculty or staff member;
(4) To recommend that the decision process for the subsequent allocations to subunits and then to individuals or groups within the subunits, as appropriate, be as transparent as possible;
(5) To recommend that special attention be given to communicating to graduate students, faculty, and staff the appreciative intent and the benefits of these allocation packages.

Dr. Rackliffe stated that a portion of the anticipated share for the Finance & Administration Division would fund the $75,000 pilot staff training and development program proposed by the Staff Council. This program would be available to all staff across the university.

It was agreed that there should be flexibility for unit heads (vice presidents, deans, department chairs, program directors, etc.) in allocating or expending these funds. In some cases the funds would be allocated across-the-board for individual faculty or staff members to expend on professional expenses such as travel or equipment. In other cases, the unit would make a decision to invest all or some of the funds for unit-wide purposes such as conference room A-V equipment, instructional technology or other items benefitting an entire unit.

It was agreed that FACP would revisit the $1.7 million one-time allocation for FY2014 for allocation as continuing funds in FY2015 in the context of the University Strategic Plan and unit strategic plans arising from the University Strategic Plan.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved September 4, 2013