Present: Robert Erffmeyer, Gloria Fennell, Andrea Gapko, Susan Harrison, Robert Hollon, Robert Hooper, Rose Jadack, Vicki Lord Larson, Steven Majstorovic, Connie Russell, Linda Spaeth, Todd Stephens, Steve Tallant, Karen Welch, Jean Wilcox

Absent: Scott Robertson

Guests: Linda Carpenter, Donald Christian, Andrew Phillips, Katherine Rhoades, Andrew Soll

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 5:02 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 in Schofield Hall, Room 202.

1. Minutes of May 3, 2005 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum – No Items

3. Discussion of draft Position Description for Chancellor Position – Search and Screen Committee Chair Hooper
   • Chancellor Search and Screen Committee to review fast-track timeline at meeting tomorrow – hoping to delay announcement of new chancellor to February Board of Regents meeting
   • Allows time for faculty/staff and shared governance input during process
   • For institution, this will be most important process for years to come
   • Responses to comments and questions from floor
   • Academic credentials not listed to allow committee flexibility to decide rather than spelling out
     • Does say academic credentials and accomplishments that will secure respect of academic community
   • Will put prominent link to documents on website to enhance candidates’ understanding of unique concepts of shared governance and academic staff
   • Will remove word clinical from advanced nursing practice phrase
   • Committee to look at all phrasing for clarity, including statewide Extension and transfer colleges
   • Although position description critical, not most important component for campus community input – committee intends to hold open forums on screening process and criteria in fall
   • To forward five names to system, any of which we would be happy to see serve as chancellor

   • Documents distributed covering process, context, and specifics of where three divisions taking budget cuts
   • Less than equal share taken from Academic Affairs, more from Chancellor’s Office and Business and Student Services
   • Summary of budget forum comments included with identifiers deleted
   • Wonderful ideas for further exploration and thought – items not used for budget reductions to be looked at carefully for possibilities in future
   • Although struggled with question of whether to make cuts as painless as possible or as painful as possible to be visible – decided to make it as painless as possible using following strategies
     1) Consider not filling current vacancies – either eliminate position or not fill for time being
     2) Look for willingness to take voluntary reduction of FTE
     3) Consolidate programs and staff
     4) Move positions in 102-line to alternative funding sources
   • As interim chancellor did not want to seem wishy-washy, but did not want to tie permanent chancellor’s hands
     • Also $600,000 utility bill waiting in wings
     • Worried about layoffs – about those who leave, but also worry about those left behind
• Responses to questions and comments from committee
  • Implementation varies from July to September – eliminating positions as retirements occur
  • All base cuts go into effect on July 1st; one-time cuts implemented over course of year
  • Although may look like business as usual, people will be losing jobs and going home
    • Academic Affairs reducing two jobs – one layoff and one involuntary transfer
    • Business and Student Services also to have one layoff
    • Affecting 8-10 academic staff and 4-5 classified staff
    • Outside message will be that reductions will impact support services like advising, counseling,
      affirmative action, facilities planning and management
    • Will squeeze instructional staff by eating up faculty time, reducing time available for students
  • By May of 2006, detailed report will be submitted to system with narrative indicating reductions will hurt
    people and hurt service to students
  • Looking at all programs to determine priorities, even those not mentioned by anyone
  • Can find priorities by determining which vacated positions are filled and which are not
    • Faculty and some administrative positions being filled – trying to keep people in trenches and
      eliminate administrators
  • Took 12.9 FTE to get ultimate reductions – hanging onto some FTE to preserve flexibility despite reduction in
    savings from fringe benefits
  • Documents distributed here to be disseminated campus-wide via email this afternoon
    • Some flexibility remains for major concerns
    • After time for campus reaction, will put out press release – paper may or may not choose to take up story
  • Unless continued budget process deviates substantially from governor’s proposed budget, will not require
    additional meeting with Executive Committee
    • Will inform committee of any changes as necessary – something like Representative Kreibich’s 3% tuition
      proposal requiring an additional $1.5 million reduction, which currently doesn’t appear to have support
  • Appreciate input and all information – apologize for morale lost in process

5. Miscellaneous Business – None

6. Announcements – None

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

Wanda Schulner
Secretary of the University Senate