Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee

March 18, 2008

Bibb Graves Board Room

The Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee (SPBS) meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Chair Anna Lott. Chair Lott welcomed the committee and distributed a Sign-In Roster (Attachment 1). The following committee members were present: Dr. Kerry Gatlin, Dr. Alan Medders, Ms. Sandra Poole, Mr. David Shields, Dr. Steve Smith, Dr. Bill Strong, Ms. Brenda Webb, and Dr. Garry Warren. Absentees were: Ms. Tera Kirkman, Mr. Mark Linder, Mr. Kyle Mangum, Ms. Phyllis McGuire, and Ms. Lynn Underwood. Visitors were: Dr. Priscilla Holland, Dr. Andrew Luna and Ms. Donna Tipps.

Dr. Gatlin made the motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Two changes will be made to the February 19 minutes. Noting these changes, Mr. Shields made the motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Strong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Chair Lott reported to the committee that she had met with the Institutional Effectiveness Committee as a part of the collaborative effort for the two committees to work together. She noted that a report from the General Education Committee to the institution was given to the Institutional Effectiveness Committee at the meeting concerning assessment. It was noted that funding for the assessment system would come from Dr. Warren’s area. This was an information item for the committee.

Dr. Smith distributed a handout (Attachment 2) that was prepared for and presented to the Board. The handout listed estimated billable hours for undergraduate hours, graduate hours, and non-resident hours to predict a tuition increase for 2008-2009. He noted that there would be a minimum increase of $10 per hour. He also noted to the committee that the College of Business graduate program funds has been taken out of the budget for 2008-2009. These funds have helped to fund the Banner program which will be paid off in the near future. The Board had approved $7.9 million for Banner. These were information items for the committee.

Chair Lott was informed by Brenda Baker that the board room is going to be remodeled and a new meeting room will be needed. Several site locations were suggested. Chair Lott will inform the committee of the new location at a later date for the next meeting.

Dr. Medders distributed to the committee for consideration a job description proposal for a Director of Endowed Scholarships (Attachment 3). He noted that this is a critical position needed to manage endowed funds better and encourage more gifts to the University. This individual would work closely with Advancement, Business Affairs, Athletics, Financial Aid, Admissions, and Enrollment Management. Salary for this position will be in the $35,000-$40,000 range. He requests that the position be approved to start immediately and also be approved for the University’s budget next year. Dr. Medders will be able to fund the position from his area’s funds until the position is part of the University budget. This will be a permanent position. Dr. Strong noted that this would be a positive move forward. A motion was made by Dr. Gatlin to support the position for approval. Mr. Shields seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Ms. Webb inquired about the economics of the State of Alabama. Dr. Smith informed the committee that the University could receive a $3.7 million cut due to proration. He noted that the University is at the bottom for funding. Dr. Smith is looking at all areas of the budget to be prepared for proration.

Chair Lott inquired about the international program. Dr. Warren informed the committee that major changes are being made to the program. Currently, the University has approximately 1,300 international students. He noted that the University does not have the resources to support these students. The accreditation program calls for 15 students per instructor, and the University has 22/23 students per instructor. The program will begin to concentrate on quality intellectual students and students financially able to pay. Recruiting will now focus on other areas such as the Hispanic and European markets. Dr. Warren thanked Mr. Shields and his staff for their help with the program. Ms. Webb commended Dr. Warren for the positive change in mission for the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Westmoreland