Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee

May 22, 2008

Arts & Sciences Conference Room

The Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee (SPBS) meeting was called to order at 8:15 am by Chair Anna Lott. The following committee members were present: Dr. Kerry Gatlin, Ms. Phyllis McGuire, Dr. Alan Medders, Ms. Sandra Poole, Mr. David Shields, Dr. Steve Smith, Ms. Lynn Underwood, and Ms. Brenda Webb Absentees were: Ms. Tera Kirkman, Mr. Mark Linder, Mr. Kyle Mangum, Dr. Bill Strong, and Dr. Garry Warren. Visitors were: Dr. Priscilla Holland, Ms. Becky Taylor, and Ms. Donna Tipps.

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

It was decided to postpone approval of the March 18 and May 12 minutes until the next meeting.

New Business

Mr. Shields presented fixed cost increases requests for the Division of Student Affairs to the committee. He distributed a handout (Attachment 1) which listed three requests in priority order.

1. Request for $18,850/year for three years ($56,550 total) for a School Cast Emergency Alert System.
2. Request for $22,100 for Public Safety budget shortfall (14,500 for shortfall, remaining funds for Public Safety at University programs and events).
3. Request for $20,000 per year for three years ($60,000 total) for free faculty and staff usage of the Student Recreation Center.

Mr. Shields noted that the School Cast Emergency Alert System is a complete off-site system with six call centers in the U.S. All campus employees would be put in the system automatically. Start-up date for the system would be June 2008. Mr. Shields considers this position an immediate funding need. It would be a permanent fixed cost for the University. He noted that the three year contract price is locked.

After discussion, Dr. Gatlin made a motion to approve the School Cast Emergency Alert System request and to put the remaining two requests on the fixed cost list for later approval. Ms. McGuire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Medders had no additional fixed cost requests for his area.

Dr. Smith distributed a handout (Attachment 2) titled “Fiscal Year 2008-09 Fixed Cost and Other Requests” to the committee. This list includes all fixed cost requests brought forward from the vice presidents and their areas. He noted that an addition had been made to the list in Mr. Linder’s area. A request for $5,000 for an increase in insurance premiums for athletes has been added. Dr. Smith reviewed the list with the committee. This was an information item for the committee. Dr. Smith will send out last year’s requests to the committee for their review in case items from last year’s list needs to be added to the current list of requests.

Dr. Smith also distributed a fixed cost list (Attachment 3) that has already been approved by the committee. The committee reviewed the list. It was noted that the College of Business accreditation funds totaling $370,000 needs to be added to the list. Dr. Smith also noted that insurance increases are not totaled in yet on the list. A total of $1,370,529 of fixed cost increases for Fiscal Year 2008-09 has been approved. This was an information item for the committee.

Dr. Smith informed the committee that the legislature did not pass the education budget and that a special session has been called. Amount of proration for the University will not be known until the budget is passed.

Dr. Smith distributed a handout (Attachment 4) listing possible tuition increases. Dr. Smith noted that tuition increases will not be decided until the legislature passes the education budget. He also distributed an Alabama Commission on Higher Education 2006-07 – 2007-08 Annual Tuition and Required Fees for Alabama Public Senior Institutions handout (Attachment 5). Both handouts were information items for the committee.

There was no old business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Westmoreland