Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee

April 16, 2009

Arts and Sciences Conference Room

The Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee (SPBS) meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair Bill Strong. The following committee members were present: Dr. Kerry Gatlin, Ms. Tera Kirkman, Mr. Mark Linder, Dr. Anna Lott, Dr. Alan Medders, Ms. Sandra Poole, Dr. Steve Smith, Dr. Brenda Webb and Dr. Garry Warren. Absentees were: Mr. Raley Green, Ms. Martha Hickman, Mr. David Shields, and Ms. Lynn Underwood. Visitors were: President William Cale, Dr. Andrew Luna, and Ms. Donna Tipps.

Dr. Medders made the motion to approve the minutes of February 19 with one change. Dr. Brenda Webb will be added as an attendee of the February 19 meeting. Dr. Lott seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The agenda and the minutes for the April 2 meeting were approved as an information item due to no quorum for that meeting.

New Business

President Cale addressed the committee concerning the new state budget. He informed the committee that the state legislature is currently addressing the budget and that Governor Riley is recommending a 2.93% reduction in every university budget in the state. This would be an $820,125 reduction for UNA. He also informed the committee that UNA would receive 2.23 million for the next two years from the stimulus fund that was approved by the State of Alabama and the federal government. President Cale would like to develop: (1) a tuition increase scenario where the University would be whole when the University no longer has the stimulus funding (fixed costs increases will need to be known every year), and (2) repair the prorated budget. He distributed a handout entitled “Estimated Additional Tuition Revenue for 2009/10.” He pointed out that an increase of $10 per credit hour (a 6.5% increase) for the next two years would generate 1.56 million which would provide excess revenue for the third year. His goal is to keep tuition increases under 10%.

President Cale distributed a second handout entitled “Fixed Cost Increases and Other Requests for FY 2009/10.” He noted that fixed cost increases effects the budget every year and that a total of 1.927 million is requested for FY 2009-2010. He also noted that it is important to build back the essential budget which had short term cuts and elimination of budgets which could be detrimental to UNA at a later date if not addressed. President Cale will review and trim down fixed costs increases and requests partially or totally and will bring back to the committee. Dr. Smith requested that if an urgent need is not on the list to let him know as soon as possible. The committee discussed various requests on the lists. Dr. Webb requested that Phase II of staff salary increases remain a priority, and she voiced concern for maintaining data bases for the library. Dr. Gatlin expressed concern to keep tuition increases as low as possible to prevent a decline in enrollment. President Cale’s goals are to keep faculty and staff employed and to keep the budget intact. After discussion, the committee gave a general consensus of approval to President’s Cale’s proposal.

Mr. Linder will bring his requests to the committee at the next meeting.

Old Business

Dr. Strong distributed a letter of support from Dr. David McCullough, Chair of the Department of Music and Theatre, for Dr. Lloyd Jones’ requests for an increase in band scholarships which the committee had requested. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to defer the band scholarship requests due to budgetary restraints for the coming fiscal year. Dr. Strong will inform Dr. Jones of the committee’s decision for planning purposes for Dr. Jones.

Other

Dr. Smith noted that SACS accreditation is approaching and that a form is needed to close loops for documentation purposes for SACS. It was decided that Chair Strong will inform the vice president of an area whether or not an item or items was approved by form and an attachment of the request. The vice president will then inform their areas whether or not their request has been funded. Dr. Smith will come back to the committee with a form to use.

The committee discussed Congressman Parker Griffith’s visit to campus. He and other business leaders of the community toured Floyd Science Building. They discussed ideas for possible funding. President Cale commended Congressman Griffith for his interest.

Dr. Strong will inform the committee of the next meeting date at a later time.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Westmoreland