President’s Report

Faculty Senate

September 21, 2015

* **Board of Regents** took several actions with implications for CSU at its meeting last week. One concerned an update report on the Georgia Film Academy. Dr. Demmitt will be leading discussions connecting our existing film and media work with the broader system initiative. We will continue to focus our continuing education program focused on certification for workers on sets, and our emerging degree program within the College of Arts and Sciences. The road map for next actions continues to emerge, and we will share that information with campus as it becomes available. The Board also approved a budget request for state funding. The regular appropriations were limited by Office of Planning and Budget Directions (OPB) to formula funding (based on annual credit hour production) cost increases (such as insurance and retirement benefits) and Maintenance and Operations increases from an increase in system square footage. The capital budget from the system included requests for Major Repairs and Renovation (MRR) and new construction proposals, including CSU’s $13.1 million for renovation of the academic core. The university’s approaches will be developed through open meetings and the Planning and Budget Advisory committee.
* **Budget discussion clarity**  If you have not done so previously, please consider sharing with colleagues earlier reports about the causes of declines in earlier university enrollments and thus a significant decrease in our claim to state formula funding—dramatic reductions in summer enrollments over the last 2-3 years, declines in first time full time and new student enrollments (other than graduate and dues enrollment students) last year, a decline last year in retention rates first to second year, and an increase in graduation rates (leaving fewer returning students). The positive results this fall (and widely reported in the public domain) for new students, for first to second year retention, for dual enrollment students , for returning students back because of need-based completion scholarships, and for graduate students, comes close to, but does not entirely replace, the earlier declines. It will be at least a year before our claim on state formula funding will return to earlier growth periods. We will share with this group in the near future an update report from our enrollment management colleagues.
* **Staff Council** There will be in the next several weeks a called meeting for the university staff. While staff has been invited to attend the fall and spring general faculty meetings, the by-laws of staff council encourage a separate meeting. This also comports with our efforts to act under the belief that organizations cannot communicate too much.
* **Strategic planning steering committee** Meeting is scheduled, and summaries of discussions are to be posted, and open meetings will begin to be scheduled. In spite of onetime costs for a consultant, the importance of managing an inclusive and well scheduled is critical to the success of this essential process.
* **Lakeview Discovery and Science Center** was dedicated September 17, with much appreciation to the exceptional work of academic/faculty, and facilities leaders. If you have not had a chance to visit to space, I would encourage you to take a look—the use by students already of open spaces as well as the lab space use by colleagues makes it easy to be excited about the environment of learning created by space and the work of faculty, staff and students.
* **Celebration of Top Workplace** appeared to be a success with several 100 colleagues coming at one time or another for food, fellowship, and door prizes. Several of our colleagues appeared quite competitive in playing movie trivia—my smart phone kept being disconnected.
* **Thanks and happy to address questions**