General Faculty Meeting

11/29/11

Outline of President’s Remarks

* Holidays and change is in the air in Georgia—grateful that we have exceptional colleagues with whom we will share the season, end the semester, and remained focused on finding ways to foster learning for ourselves, our students, our staff and our community. Certainly these are challenging times for our students and their families—more than 80% of our students are on some form of financial aid, according the IPEDS data, and discussions at the state and Federal level about reductions in support make challenging time ever the more daunting—and so thanks for your support of them.
* Our apologies for the timing of this session, although it was clear that no ideal time was available as we approach the end of the semester. We did wish to avoid finals, and thus this time—as well as our appreciation for your indulgence.
* The National Survey on Student engagement results for 2011 have been released, and the link to the summary report will be sent out to campus today. <http://www.clayton.edu/president/natl-student-engagement.pdf> The data reflects your efforts—92% of our freshmen reported that we provide substantial support for academic success, in comparison to 79% of freshmen elsewhere in Georgia; 90% of our seniors reported that we emphasize studying and academic work, in contrast to 82% of seniors reporting elsewhere in Georgia. Certainly the report identifies some places where continued work is in order—but in the main reports student perceptions similar to those we hold and that led to our revised mission and values and goals.
* In discussing proposed changes in handbook language and personnel policies, I hope you will ask questions about the relationship such actions can potentially have for advancing strategic goals of the institution.
* We have received no new information about USG reorganization—and will share whatever news we receive. As shared earlier in Faculty Senate reports (on our web site) the time line originally reported for positions in October have been extended into the second semester.
* Clayton State is part of a first round of facilities utilization reviews for the university system—the template for the analysis is similar to that used by Sazaki in the development of our own facilities master plan completed last year—hopefully this will help us make continued cases for new facilities and our own effective use of space on campus.
* Thanks--