President’s Report

Faculty Senate

April 28, 2011

**Budget**—proposed uses of budget resources have been reviewed by the University Planning and Budget Advisory Committee, and will be discussed by that group next week. To provide a context for the current environment, our 8.9% reduction in state support amounts to a decline of more than $2.1 million dollars (we now have the same level of state support we had in 2006). The increases in tuition and fees amount to $161 a semester (regrettably), but will generate approximately $1.9 million dollars. While we make efforts at reducing costs while maintaining the highest possible learning environment, some costs must be addressed—health and liability insurance, maintenance and operations, promotions and reclassifications. We will continue to update the campus community on this electronically as campus conversations continue.

**Planning**—Dr. Crafton has led the internal efforts in this area, which I publicly applaud. One read on progress is the recognition of our academic efforts seeking ways to match rigor, relevance and relationships in all of our activities—and finding literally hundreds of essays across multiple disciplines on the relationships among these concepts, it is clear that some measure of our unique excellence may be found here. I must confess that I have found the work of Clayton Christensen on changing the DNA of higher education capturing some of my own thinking about how we might use planning to define excellence on our own terms. <http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=40357>

**Thanks**—this has been a challenging semester—losing a week at the start. I thank each of you for fostering learning under these challenging circumstances.