AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT (AHCSO)
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010
CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 905-09

MINUTES

1. Reports from Key Standing Councils and Committees (Program & Budget Council, Academic Priorities Council and Rules Committee - and others if they wish to report) on Budget and Strategic Initiatives

Academic Priorities Council reported that it has been dealing mostly with regular business items except for some discussion regarding rules around college merger proposals. APC is trying to assess where it fits in regarding merger actions by looking at what has been done in the past. These are preparatory questions, but the expectation is when proposals come forward the mergers will be a fait accompli. The APC also has been given the authority to make recommendations to the Rules Committee regarding the budget. The Provost has been talking about dual reporting—departments will report to two funding/authority sources, but faculty lines will be in one college or another. Computer Science and Polymer Science moving to Engineering is not a widely supported idea in those departments. Joel and Bob created a large merger committee (with subcommittees). The APC should consider asking these deans to share a copy of their merger committee report. The cost of mergers is the biggest question at this point. Hostile and friendly mergers should be looked at closely. Some departments (e.g., Legal Studies) are being pushed around for perhaps a very small or negligible amount of cost saving. Also, some department moves may negatively affect their culture and performance. The Faculty Senate has a primary responsibility over academic matters and should see its oversight of the merger process as in its mission. How do we share in the decision-making process? Marilyn recommended that we look at calling a forum on the merger process before April 6th.

Rules Committee has been talking about meeting with the Dean of the Commonwealth Honors College on matters related to the College’s plans. VC Malone gave a presentation on research and Marilyn has asked him to present it at next Thursday’s Faculty Senate meeting. Look out for his report. The Rules Committee has a meeting about online learning today and is another focus area. Quality is an academic concern at the departmental level, but student verification of work is still a key larger concern. Marilyn asked that this committee get involved with the classroom issue. We will get in touch with Ludmilla Pavlova and express AHCSO’s interest in the Learning Space Program Planning. Finally, Marilyn mentioned Gen Ed work, IE plans, etc. She also shared news about the Section E add-on regarding the interim administrative leadership.

Program & Budget Council – no one present, no report.

Budget Planning Task Force has set itself aside at this point…too many unknowns.
2. **Report from the Provost's Office on Budget and Strategic Initiatives**

Bryan shared copies of the “Impact of Changes in State Appropriation as of Governor’s Budget 1/27/10” ppt presentation slides. Randy indicated the ideal timeline from here is the Governor will sign a budget by April 1. Facilities are part of a big discussion. The Three Incentives—in/out of state teaching, terminal/5-year masters, continuing ed rate structure—are being worked on to figure out how to present how these will be measured.

3. **Prioritize agenda for remainder of the semester**

Randy—in preparing for when big cuts come due, how do we make the case for planning how to preserve our academic core? Marilyn wants to ask the Budget Planning Task Force to look at this question. We have the privilege to define our VALUES and then make the budget numbers support this. Bryan—Revenue maximization will always push itself to the front; Randy—but what else is there to compete with that value-determination approach?

Discussion: Relationship building between the Faculty Senate and the Administration (ditto for MSP) is a pressing concern. The relationship is broken and it needs to be fixed.

Conclusion: AHCSO should pursue this. Invite Provost to meet with us. Work to develop a meeting with him that includes member of the APC.

4. **Other suggestions are welcome**

Randy asked that we help get people out to the Joint Committee on Ways & Means FY2011 budget hearings on education and local aid on 2/22/10 in the CC auditorium and he shared the ppt he will present to the legislators.

5. **Adjournment**

*Please send corrections to these minutes to Amilcar Shabazz shabazz@afroam.umass.edu*

* *** Please do NOT quote from this draft ***