March 9, 2011 Faculty Senate Agenda
3:30 pm Willow River Room, University Center.

Call to Order:
Seating of Substitutes:
Approval of Minutes March 2, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting

Reports:
Chair’s Report
Vice Chair’s Report
Other Reports

Unfinished Business:
Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (James Madsen, Chair) to appoint Gretchen Link (4th Division) to chair the ad hoc committee on constitutional reform. Action was postponed at 12-1-2010 meeting

New Business:

1. Discussion of the Chancellor’s Guiding Principles and Assumptions for Possible 2011-2013 Base Budget Reduction (attached)

Miscellaneous New Business:

Adjournment

Starting Point for Discussions at the March 9, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting

By now you are aware that the Governor has proposed a 2011-13 biennial budget that would result in an unprecedented and punishing 11% GPR cut for UWRF. I have repeatedly stressed to our legislators, the Chancellor, Board of Regents, and UW System President Reilly that River Falls cannot absorb these cuts without significantly reducing the level of service we offer to the students and community. If we focus on continuing to serve the same number of students with reduced resources, other contributions UWRF makes to the intellectual and economic health of the state and the campus must suffer.

There are other significant items in the 2011-13 budget bill that will directly affect UWRF including the spinning-off of UW-Madison, and a 25% cut in the support for UW System. These are on top of the proposals to rescind the right to collectively bargain, eliminate the 5.8% state payment toward our retirement fund, the permanent loss of the 2% pay increase we were previously scheduled to receive, and a potential doubling of the
cost of health insurance, all of which are either in the Governor’s proposed budget or his repair bill. I have emphasized that these cumulative cuts will contribute to ongoing difficulties recruiting and retaining quality faculty and staff. These cuts, if implemented, should be honestly presented to the WI taxpayers as a direct and permanent reduction in higher education funding—which they are.

While the budget is not a done deal, it is prudent to prepare in the likely event that the cuts to higher education make it through to the final budget. Changes of this magnitude will require personnel and program cuts—both academic and non-academic. The Chancellor has put forth guiding principles, assumptions, and priorities that the administration will follow for implementing base budget reductions. These are copied below.

A guiding document for Wednesday’s Faculty Senate meeting, The Role of Faculty Senate in ensuring UWRF will continue to be viable and relevant, follows the Chancellor’s plan. It is meant as a starting point for discussion. Additions, deletions, corrections, and clarifications are welcome.

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Chancellor’s Guiding Principles and Assumptions for Possible 2011-2013 Base Budget Reduction

Guiding Principles for Budget Reallocation and Reductions:
- Budget reductions and reallocations will be strategic, not “across the board.”
- The highest priority will be protecting and enhancing our core mission of student learning, engagement and success.
- A comprehensive view of university resources will be utilized, decisions will be informed by information and analysis, and the long-term impacts of decisions will be considered.
- There will be strong communication, and meaningful opportunity for consultation and broad input from the campus community.

Budget Reduction and Reallocation Assumptions
1. Across the board reductions are not strategic, and will not position the university for excellence in the future.
2. We must purposefully choose to do less in some areas, or to eliminate some functions or programs. We recognize, and make it clear to others, that this will lessen the experience of our students and our ability to serve the State in significant ways.
3. Decisions will be informed by our current strategic plan, the outcomes of the academic program prioritization process, the administrative review process, data from assessment tools including the National Survey of Student Engagement, emerging priorities including the campaign and the Falcon Promise (recently approved differential tuition), and information gathered through the ongoing master planning process.
4. If layoffs and/or a reduction in workforce are necessary, actions will be carried out in a supportive and respectful manner.
5. We will simultaneously make strategic investments (see below), including high priorities identified through the 2011-2012 budget process and initiatives that have potential to generate new revenue.

6. The Provost and Deans will work with the faculty, fully respecting shared governance, to seek cost reductions and new revenue opportunities, while maintaining academic integrity and a focus on student success.

7. We will aggressively identify opportunities to shift GPR funded activities to PR funding (personnel, S&E, prorate HRS payments and campus department service costs) and identify potential uses for auxiliary revenues and reserve funds.

8. We will reduce and streamline administrative functions, services and other support activities without compromising basic operations and support of the academic mission.

9. We will identify opportunities for regional collaboration (e.g. with other UW institutions and the technical colleges) to realize cost-savings and efficiency.

10. During this process, we will seek and be open to new and innovative ideas from our faculty, staff, students, and others.

**Priorities for Strategic Investment**

- Academic Programs (faculty, direct support) identified in the top 20% through the academic program prioritization process.
- Direct fundraising and campaign support.
- $100,000 annual faculty adjustment fund.
- Funding of academic staff and faculty promotion/re-titling program.
- Strategic Plan/Falcon Promise Priorities: International Programs/Global Learning, Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, and Enhanced Learning Spaces.
- Direct (strategic) student recruitment.

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The Role of Faculty Senate in ensuring UWRF will continue to be viable and relevant (DRAFT).

1) Determine whether additional priorities should be included on the list for strategic investment.

2) Examine and respond to budget reduction and reallocation assumptions.
   a. Reductions and reallocations will be strategic, and “not across the board”.
      i. The outcomes of Program Prioritization process will be the primary data for assessing academic programs.
      ii. Faculty Senate commits to developing a process to initiate the program reductions identified by Program Prioritization.
      iii. If new metrics are introduced to assess academic programs, Faculty Senate must approve them and all programs must be given an opportunity to respond.
   b. The Faculty Welfare and Personnel Committee will report back on options for redefining expectations for retention and promotion in areas such as research and scholarly activity, advising, and service in view of likely increased teaching responsibilities.
   c. Faculty Senate will commit to reduce and streamline faculty governance functions without compromising the rights and responsibilities granted in Chapter 36 of state statutes.
      i. How do faculty stay informed and meaningfully participate in decisions that may need to be made outside the academic year?
   d. Other possible topics…
      i. Should the current strategic plan drive campus decisions through next year or should the new plan be developed sooner? If so, how will that look?
      ii. General Education priorities and requirements—the implications for budget and academic rigor.
      iii. Ideas to foster innovation.