Members Present: Kevin Baer, Chris Blackburn, Tom DeNardin, Mark Doherty, Jessica Dolecheck, Janet Haedicke, Anna Hill, Sushma Krishnamurthy, Bill McCown, Chris Michaelides, Eric Paní, Michael Parker, Donna Rhorer, Stephen Richters, Azime Saydam, Lon Smith, Bruce Walker, Neil White

Members Absent: Florencetta Gibson, Charles Jastram, Stan Williamson

Guests: Julia Barnhill

The meeting was called to order on April 21, 2010 at 3:00 PM in the LIBR 622.

The committee was informed of the responses given by the executive staff committee and the Dean’s after they were presented with the proposed option to address net budget reductions (encourage departments to create and implement online degree programs where viable).

A discussion ensued where committee members expressed concerns and ideas related to the proposed option, as well as the necessity for an alternative plan in the event that the proposed option does not produce the desired results.

The committee considered and passed the following motion to present to the Colleges:

The committee believes that a variety of methods will be necessary to address the apparent budget reductions forecast for the next two years. One of these methods should be the recruitment of additional students into programs that can be delivered largely through distance education methods but allowing for focused on-campus instruction and/or activities. The benefits accrued from this approach will be increased revenues from the additional students enrolled in such programs and reduced expenses from a reduction in some on-campus resources such as full-time personnel. The committee recommends, therefore, that the academic deans work with their department heads, school directors, and program coordinators to determine what programs can adopt this model and estimate the accompanying financial needs and effects. The committee further recommends that the resources of Academic Affairs be marshaled to support this effort.

Vote: approved unanimously

The agenda for the next committee meeting was discussed. The committee will be charged to identify an alternative plan in the event the initial recommendation does not produce the desired results.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Barnhill
Special Projects Coordinator
April 22, 2010