Minutes of Regular Meeting  September 13th, 2010
Meeting

Regular meeting of the full senate,
3:15 PM, Kendall Cram Room, Lavin-Bernick Center

Presiding: The chair, President Cowen.

Attendance:

Ex Officio: S. Cowen, M. Davies, T. Lorino, Y. Jones, G Chavez, C. Cipriano, J. Wiese

Deans: A. DeNisi, L. Query, R. Marksbury, C. Haber, P. Buekens, N. Altiero,

A. B. Freeman School of Business: M Sujan, J. McFarland

Newcomb-Tulane College: None

Architecture: None

Continuing Studies: L, Green, K. McLennan

Law: R. Scalise, J. Carriere

Liberal Arts: M. Yun, H. Howard, T. Cole, M. Rothenberg, J. Verano, M Thompson

Medicine: H. Anderson, L. Morici, D. Muschatt, S. Landry, A. Betancourt,

Public Health and Tropical Medicine: H. Long, S. Hassig, J. Lefante

Science and Engineering: P. Colombo, C. Walker

Social Work: L. Pearlmutter, M Lewis

Student Senators: L. Aronson, P Venkataraman, D. Capek, N. Maples,

Staff Senators: S. Barrera,

Senators at Large: M. Kahn, D. Kehoe


Minutes:

The minutes of the May 3rd, 2010 meeting were approved without amendments.

Elections:

Martin Davies reported that Larry Byers, Vijay John, Marc Kahn, Denis Kehoe, Leann Myers, Jane Ruscher, Jeff Tasker, and Torbjorn Tornqvist were elected as Senators-at-Large during the Executive Senate Meeting.

Martin Davies, on behalf of the Executive Senate, nominated Hugh Long and Catherine Hancock to the President’s Faculty Advisory Committee. Both were elected by the Senate.

President’s report

There were more than 44,000 applications, making Tulane’s application pool one of the highest in the United States.

Enrollment exceeded expectations: 1,600 students were expected, while
1,633 were actually enrolled. Despite the higher than expected enrollment, housing and adequate sections were arranged for all 1,633 students.

The newly enrolled class is tied for the Tulane all-time high in SAT scores and students ranking in the top 10% of their graduating classes. Sixty-two percent are women; with enrollees coming from a broad geographic distribution. Chosen majors were evenly distributed across the schools.

President Cowen noted that for the fall of 2011, the target size of the matriculating class will be reduced from 1,600 to 1,400 to avoid diluting the experience of the students, and to ensure an even higher standard of quality.

It was reported that student retention increased again. The retention rate increased from 90.7% last year to 91.6% this year. This means graduation rates will increase.

A question was asked regarding what has contributed to retention. President Cowen noted that more time on campus and the community engagement component have been central to increasing student retention.

Enrollment in all of the professional and graduate schools continues to be strong. Medicine is at an all time high, and the PhD programs are increasing in size. The only school smaller than previous was the School of Law (by choice).

A question was raised regarding the size of the PhD programs pre- and post-Katrina. We have a target of 800 doctoral candidates.

In broad strokes, the Sciences and Health Sciences remain steady in comparison to pre-Katrina numbers, while the liberal arts programs still remain decreased due to closed programs.

A question was asked regarding free applications and whether this helps with the application numbers or not. President Cowen noted that this was unlikely to have a significant effect; the 44,000 applications are unique to Tulane, independent from the Common Application.

President Cowen reviewed the Institution Priorities for the Year. Details on the Institutional Priorities are available on the Senate Wiki Site via President Cowen’s presentation.

**Bucket 1: Academics.**

President Cowen reviewed the four primary priorities in Academics.

1. Successfully complete the SACS review. The SACS site visit is scheduled for the spring of 2011.
2. Solidify and enhance the platform for the medical school.
3. Implement Phase III of the doctoral program growth strategy. Increase the number of students in doctoral education to 850 by 2012.
4. Revise *Project 2020*. This project will double the amount of research funding to $300 million dollars. As we close out 2010, we are at an all time high
in research, but some of these grants will expired in the next two years.

**Bucket 2: Human Capital**

1. Search for a new Dean of the A.B. Freeman School of Business. Professor Denisi will be stepping down at the end of the year. This search is ongoing.
2. Establish the Endowed Sacks Chair in Social Innovation. The provost’s office will be leading this search.
3. Appoint five funded professorships in Social Innovation. These professorships will run through the provost’s office.
4. President Cowen noted that the hiring freeze is over, and as of Sept 1st, we are now in a period stabilization.
5. Continue to build the University Relations/Development and Administrative services Functions. There will be two million dollars a year commitment for University Relations. Anne Banjos will be leading the initiative regarding Administrative Services.
6. Monitor and adjust faculty and staff compensation levels. We have been through two rounds of review; the provost’s office will continue to study this. Where there are pockets, they will be addressed.

**Bucket 3: Development**

1. The goal is to raise at least $65 million in total private support this year, including 12 million in unrestricted funds. $60 million was raised last year. Increase the total number of University donors to greater than 17,000.
2. Prepare to launch a campaign for Tulane Empowers, which will embody all of our community activities for the whole university. There will be a hard launch in the next 90 days with a goal of $100 million in fundraising.
3. A campaign for Athletics is forthcoming though the details are still being discussed at this time.
4. President Cowen addressed rumors regarding a new football stadium. The University has come to the conclusion that the Superdome is not a viable option for the long-term. We are looking at possibilities on-campus and off-campus. Hopefully, a decision will be made by the end of the fiscal year. President Cowen noted that the University would only build a new stadium if external funds are used to do so.

**Bucket 4: Capital Projects**

1. Complete renovations of the Dinwiddie and Richardson buildings. It was noted that the
Richardson building is now re-opened.
2. Construction has started on the new residency hall on Willow. The goal is to complete construction of the Residential Hall II in time for the fall of 2011.
3. Complete the design for the new basketball/volleyball facility, and begin construction no later than January of 2011.
4. The University is currently looking at options for construction of a new Residential College III.
5. Complete the JBJ lab space renovation ($16 million in renovations). The NIH-funded infrastructure renovations are happening now ($10 million). The goal is to obtain NIH approval to enable further construction bidding no later than June of 2011.
6. Complete construction of the Research Building at the Primate Center
7. President Cowen noted that all together, there is about $85 million in building right now.

Charlie McMahon has been tasked with designing this IT strategy, and it will likely be $50-100 million commitment.

Bucket 6: Community
1. Continue to implement the Tulane Empowers strategic program
2. Begin to implement the plan for the Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching.
3. Continue to broaden and deepen community efforts in public education, health delivery, public service, social innovation and the physical redevelopment of New Orleans.
4. Mobilize resources to address the short and long-term impact of the Gulf oil spill on the region, and the implication for the United States.

At the conclusion of the report, a question was raised regarding Graduate Student Housing. President Cowen noted that the University hopes to develop the old Rosen building for space up to 550 graduate/married housing students.

Bucket 5: Financial
1. The goal is to meet cash flow and statement of operations projections.
2. Prepare to migrate back to a decentralized management center model in 2012
3. Develop a multiple year investment strategy to enhance the University's information technology capabilities.

A question was raised regarding the skywalks between buildings on the downtown campus, It was noted that currently there is no access to walkways downtown. There was not a definitive resolution to the question
A question was raised regarding expanding the campus to either side of Calhoun or Broadway. President Cowen noted that we are always looking for strategic purchases. The limiting factor is usually no in acquisition, but instead in what we are allowed to do with it.

President Cowen noted that Katrina still has an effect on our U.S. News & World Report rankings. Because the graduation rates/retention rates persist for up to six years, the rankings/metrics without Katrina would have taken us to 38 from 42. The Katrina effect will likely remain with Tulane University for the next two years.

President Cowen noted that the season for Honorary Degree nominations is upon us, and if Senators have nominations, they should be directed to Ben McNamara (School of Medicine), Anne Banjos, or Martin Davis.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**Committee Reports**

A Report from the COMMITTEE ON FACULTY AND STAFF BENEFITS was presented. Full details on this report are available on the Tulane University Senate Wiki.

The University claims increased by 20% in the past year. Most of the increase was in Big Claims (65% increase in 100k or above).

When we went to market (United’s response was to increase premiums by 25%. The benefit plan was taken to market, with reviews by other vendors. Etna wanted a 48% increase; Coventry wanted a 28% increase, Ultimately, a contract was negotiated with United.

United’s health insurance premiums will increase by 10% for employees earning less than $65,000 and by 13.5% for those earning $65,000 or more. This was due to exceptionally large claims last year. The University pays approximately half of the actual premium and is absorbing approximately half of the increase (and a larger fraction of the lower-income bracket).

President Cowen noted that the environment is that costs are going up everywhere. All creative efforts are being entertained to prevent these increases from occurring each year.

A Report from the COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH was presented by Laura Levy. Full details on this report are available on the Tulane University Senate Wiki.

**New Business**

1. A first reading was heard regarding a proposed amendment to Bylaw 3, juxtaposing the composition of each committee with each committee’s description.

A question was raised regarding the language in Section M of Bylaw III. It was noted that this language does not reflect the amendments of April 2009.
Dr. Wiese noted that the current language was a product of what he had received, but he would pull the minutes from the April meeting and make the necessary adjustments on the Wiki.

2. A motion was made to make the actual adjustment in the number of Senators per school, as defined by each School’s faculty size, as noted in the Bylaws. The motion was made to increase immediately the number of Senators from 4 to 5 for the School of Science and Engineering, and from 3 to 4 for the School of Public Health. The motion further requested a reduction of 2 to 1 Senators for the School of Continuing Studies, effective at the end of this academic year.

Senator Long raised a procedural question regarding how to bring an amendment to Part III of the Faculty Handbook. He noted that the School of Public Health anticipates bringing some substantive issues to FTFR regarding faculty appointments. The question was with respect to whether this should go to FTFR directly, or should it go to Senate first. The answer was that either is appropriate by the Constitution.

Adjournment

Having no additional new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Jeff Wiese, MD
Secretary, Tulane University Senate

Secretary’s Note: All written reports mentioned in the minutes, together with the full text of approved Handbook revisions and other policy changes, are available on the Tulane University Senate Wiki located at: tulanesenate.pbworks.com