Minutes

Planning and Finance Committee

January 25, 2017

Meeting call to order at 6:01

Senators Present: Aguilar, Bates, Brauer, Crowley, Hoit, Ingersoll, Lacy, Lin, Marx, Rafalovitz, Schlatter, Shurhay, Smitley, Winger

Absent: Judson, Schimmel, Nagorski

Guest: Interim Provost Jan Murphy

Marx starts the meeting by speaking about forming a subcommittee for doing the surveys.

* Concern brought up about another survey that will be taking place in early February so, we do not want our survey to conflict with the other.
* This survey that is taking place will come back to the senate once completed and that is how it will relate back to our committee.

Provost Murphy begins to talk about priorities and new program development

* “Educating Illinois is the strategic plan of the University and is a plan that we continue to come back to”.
* President will be working on forming a committee to find a new provost.
* A big priority that is being looked at is enrollment.
* The undergraduate and graduate enrollment will be down this upcoming year.
* Quality of students is very important for this university.
* Losing students to out of state schools
  + What is something that we can do to keep our enrollment where we want it?
  + Within 5 years, we want to be at at least 5% international students.
  + Graduate programs are also being looked at, for instance, online graduate opportunities.
  + Ideas need to come from students and departments on how to improve looking forward.

Marx brings up how he talked to Provost Murphy on the possibility of doing an engineering program.

* How do you start an engineering program?
  + A committee has been formed to ask whether there is sufficient interest in starting the program. A meeting is scheduled for February 10th.
  + Indiana University at Bloomington is currently working to build an engineering program but they are starting with small-scale items.  They began the process in 2015.

Q to Provost Murphy:

What about retention? Is there a discussion about how we are retaining students?

* “There is not much conversation about retention as much as enrollment because we actually have a great retention rate”.
* Our academic advisors are key to keeping students on track.
* We also have the visor center, support centers, the counseling services, and more.

Q: Do the students know there are all these resources?

A: Yes, students know that there are all these resources from their advisors and from preview.

Provost Murphy asks about ideas or opinions about distance learning and online learning

Rafalovitz talks about how online classes can really be beneficial for students that English may be their second language. Having an online class that gives a student the opportunity to read something as many times as he or she needs rather than hearing a professor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58