Minutes

Planning and Finance Committee Meeting

March 8, 2017

Meeting Called to order: 6:04

Senators Present: Aguilar, Bates, Brauer, Crowley, Hoit, Ingersoll, Marx, Nagorski, Schlatter, Shurhay, Winger,

Senators Absent: Jedson, Lacy, Lin, Rafalovitz, Schimmel

Senator Marx: “If you remember we talked about how students should be able to choose their own program, so I had a meeting with Interim Provost Murphy”.

* Talked about multidisciplinary teaching, research, and service
* Interdisciplinary studies: Must have a 3.0 GPA and you are able to create your own degree.
* European studies
* African American studies
* Environmental Studies
* Gender Studies
* Water Studies
* Ex: Bio-Physics degree

Q: Did they discuss pre-professional advisement?

Answer from Marx: “Yes, they have an advisor who can help students along the way.”

* Rare that an 18 year old could design their own program
* IDS should be managed by the Honors Program instead of the UCollege. Right now only one person manages IDS.

Q: Is there oversight approval?

A: Oh yes, there is first a process of approval and then advisors still keep track of these students

* We should start to promote Interdisciplinary studies so more students are aware and can retain even more students than we already do.

Engineering exploring committee (Faculty from CAST and CAS, and Deans)

* has generated a lot of interest in examining the possibilities.
* Starting to gather data to see what resources are needed for the majors.
* Space is a problem and there is some problems with certain courses, for example, Chem 140.
	+ A possible solution is creating a new course
	+ People are creative to find solutions to any problems that arise
* Members of that committee plan to go to universities that have already created these engineering degrees to see what hurdles they have had to face and how they overcame it.

Removing Financial from the IPR

* All were in favor

Senator Marx brought up a question that was sent to him about moving faculty caucus or committee meetings so that less time is spent on Wednesday nights.

* Committees response:
* Senator Ingersoll “There may be a lack of students because when we run for SGA we set aside our Wednesdays from 6-9. In addition, we have our General Assembly meetings every other Wednesday so that would contradict as well”.
* Senator Marx: What will probably end up happening is the faculty caucus is moved.
* Growing graduate programs
	+ Administration is very interested to expanding the grad programs
	+ It would be great to have more grad programs but it would be very expensive
	+ It is important to first make sure the grad programs that we have now are strong and efficient
	+ A lot of GA departments are looking at the money available and it doesn’t look like it will grow anytime soon
* Idea of having adult education programs
	+ For people in the committee who just want to take some classes
	+ Evening classes

Meeting adjourned at 7:00