Planning and Finance Committee Minutes September 14, 2016

Members Present: Wendy Bates, Nikki Brauer, Patricia Hoit, Logan Ingersoll, Ken Lin, David Marx, Barbara Schlatter, Mike Shurhay, Debra Smitley, and Stewart Winger

Absentees: Sunil Chebolu, Daniel Heylin, Jim Jawahar, Susan Kalter, Daniel Munoz, and Idan Rafalovitz

Roll was taken as members arrived and a quorum was achieved.

Meeting called to order: 6:10 PM by committee chair David Marx

Senator Marx welcomed everyone and thanked them for their service.

The committee reviewed the description of the Planning and Finance Committee given in the Senate Blue Book. A discussion of the recent history of the committee and its focus on producing the annual Institutional Priorities Report (IPR) followed. Members of the committee have questioned the utility of the report, which has become a list of priorities that were aligned within the four major goal areas of *Educating Illinois* last year. Many of the priorities are retained from year to year. Some past priorities have already become institutionalized as enduring values or are already being worked on via *Educating Illinois*.

The focus of the Educating Illinois Task Force is to create a five-year plan to guide decision makers through planning and resource allocations with specific strategies that the University can advance in alignment with its vision and mission.

In considering the committee description, the committee should be working more closely with the administration to evaluate, analyze, and develop shorter term and longer term priorities.

In addition, the time table for previous IPRs hasn’t seemed reasonable. The Senate approves the IPR near the end of the Senate calendar. The President’s office is then asked to send the report to the Vice Presidents for their response. The responses require a great deal of time to assemble and are made back to the committee on or before November 15. The concern is that the priorities report may be emphasizing shorter term thinking toward having significant progress to advancing the priorities, and that is not the intent.

Senator Winger raised the issue of how the university could be more proactive in helping to promote the value of higher education to both the general public and to representatives in Springfield. This was discussed for a short time.

The committee also discussed the tasks assigned to the committee for the year, which include three policy items: 7.7.10 Fundraising, 1.14 Sustainability, and 4.1.7 Organizational Change.

The committee had formed subcommittees last year to examine the first two policies. Significant progress had been made, including a new draft of the Fundraising policy, which was sent to the committee in preparation for tonight’s meeting. Senator Marx asked the committee to be ready to complete discussion of these recommendations for the next meeting and, perhaps, have a vote.

Senator Smitley reported that the Sustainability subcommittee would soon have its recommendations.

The committee then discussed the Organizational Change policy, which is,

All pending significant organizational changes at the University will be communicated to the Academic Senate Executive Committee, which will determine if Senate participation is appropriate.

A motion was made by Senator Winger and seconded by Senator Brauer to approve the policy with no changes. After no further discussion, the committee unanimously passed the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

(approved 10/26/16)