Planning and Finance Committee Minutes October 11, 2017

Roll call:

Members Present: Wendy Bates, Tony Crowley, Susan Kalter, Alan Lacy, Samantha Lewis, Tracy Mainieri, Arthur Martinez, David Marx, Dimitrios Nikolaou, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Michael Rubio, Joe Standridge, Amanda Hendrix, Patricia Hoit, Jackson Pryhuber,

Members Absent: Zach Schaab

Meeting called to order at 6:01

Senator Marx began the meeting by reminding the committee that a good portion of the success of Illinois State has been due to the seriousness with which the university engages in planning and following through on those plans.

President Dietz then addressed the committee, saying, “Planning and attitude are the two things we are in control of. It is important to create a solid strategic plan to provide a roadmap and help shape our focus. Institutions are looking into new approaches for funding. Such as State Farm, which has invested about $3 million into our institution for the Cybersecurity Program.” Dietz went on to give a list of potential investments and/or focus points for the University:

* Engineering program
* Technology/social media
* Faculty/staff aging out of the institution (pension issues) – need to maintain quality
* Discount rates: scholarship/grants for merit, diversity, and need
* Fundraising to bring in more money
* Reaching out and recruiting the non-traditional, adult population
* Online education

**Senator Marx questioned: “we were recently rated a top public university nationally, what will it take for us to move up in the ranking?”**

President Dietz responded stating that so far, the only institution we’re in competition with in Illinois is Champaign-Urbana. Our next competitors are Mizzou, University of Iowa, and Iowa State. They are all research institutions and they are fundraising at much higher levels in their campaigns. UIUC is doing a $1 billion campaign. ISU is only in its second campaign in its history and it is only $150 million. The issue is that we’re up against heavy competition and to move up dramatically would cost some money to do that. President Dietz reminded us that being in the top 100 is pretty good because there are over 4000 public universities that we are competing with.

**Senator Jackson raised concerns regarding the current process to diversify faculty and staff and the incentives to attract professionals.**

President Dietz reminded the committee that hiring is decentralized. He went on to inform the committee of the idea of hiring a chief diversity officer, however the reactions/research is mixed regarding having that position and whether. President Dietz closed off by saying that “hiring a search firm is expensive, about $100,000 or more. It helps, but in the same token, we all have networks and should all be utilizing them.” The University is not using a search firm for the current search for a Provost.

**Senator Kalter questioned: What to do about space planning?**

President Dietz: We have a Master Plan that we will need to look at after the new *Educating Illinois* plan gets approved.

Both operating and capital budget requests will go in October. We need to do more to move the representatives in Springfield by helping them to understand the value of higher education for Illinois. The question that came back from a member of the Board of Trustees is the library. Do we really need $89 million for the library? Need resources and library personnel in the discipline who can help and guide. The needs of libraries have changed. We would need legislature or donors to step up and say we’re interested in funding not your number 1, but your number 2 or number 4.

Dr. Marx agreed that the number 2 item, a building for Mennonite College, should probably be the higher priority and indicated support for making that happen through public-private partnerships.

**Senator Jackson questioned: “how old is the master plan?”**

The Master Plan for 2010-2030 was completed in 2010.

**How do we improve job placement?**

Career services for students and alums has really been improving with the hiring of Pam Cooper. President Dietz suggests having a blend of career services, where different schools have their own and work mutually with ISU’s Career Services.

The meeting closed with touching on some of the positive things going on in Illinois in terms of education

* 3rd in the nation for students who transfer from community colleges and complete their degree
* Students graduate with less debt

Meeting adjourned at 6:56

**Additional Information:**

* The ISU Master Plan can be accessed at masterplan.illinoisstate.edu/
* For more information about Career Services, see their annual report at

careercenter.illinoisstate.edu/about/18- 3270%20Career%20Center%20Annual%20Report\_ADA.pdf