**Planning and Finance Committee Minutes**

**January 20, 2016**

*Call to Order*

*Roll:* Absent- Committee Members Joyce and Schlatter

 Barbara Schlatter is being replaced this semester by Brent Beggs from Kinesiology and

Recreation.

*Approval of the minutes from December 2, 2015.*

 The committee thanked Senator Winger for his work as Committee Chair during fall 2015.

 As a committee, we recommend what we believe should be priorities for the university in the

annual Institutional Priorities Report. We have been asked by Provost Krejeci to attempt to align

these priorities with the goals and strategies outlined in Educating Illinois.

 We have also been asked to review the university policies for sustainability and fundraising.

 A motion carried to form two subcommittees to work independently on these documents and

report back to the Planning and Finance Committee. The volunteers for the subcommittees are

listed below:

**Sustainability Policy Subcommittee:** Brauer, Feiz, Lin, Schaab, Smitley, Soeldner,

**Fundraising Policy Subcommittee:** Browder, Ellerton, Goldstein, Jawahar

***General Overview of the Structure, Function, and Logistics of the Institutional Priorities***

***Report:***

 Based on the timeline from last year’s committee, we set the goal to close our business on the

above listed priorities and the Institutional Priorities Report by early March. This will allow us to

bring them as information items on April 6th, so that they may be voted upon by the current senate

on April 20th, our final meeting.

 We previously have needed additional meeting time to complete the report. This could be

accomplished by creating additional meeting times as necessary, or by meeting earlier than 6:00

P.M.

 We determined it to be preferable to meet earlier on Wednesday evening rather than attempting to

find another suitable time. After our next meeting, we will decide whether or not to meet earlier

for the following committee meeting.

 Committee members were asked to read Educating Illinois and consider which elements

committee members might like to see focused upon in the Institutional Priorities Report.

 Reports from the Vice Presidents show that they are working hard to meet these goals and

strategy.

 A possible function of our report could be to add concrete actions to some of the abstract and

flexible goals listed in Educating Illinois.

 A concern of our committee should be ensuring that we do not simply repeat the strategic plan,

Educating Illinois. Pulling out elements from the plan for special attention could be of value, and

it can be difficult for offices to respond to our report when it is unaligned with the other reports to

which they must respond. However, it is important that our document focus on the future of the

institution when possible and differentiate itself from the strategic plan.

 A new structure centered on a few points seemed to be favored over the traditional list of many

goals.

 From our previous report, nothing was inconsistent with Educating Illinois. This type of

compliance with the document is a possible way to consider the strategic plan without mirroring

it.

 We should take care to start with our priorities and match them to Educating Illinois, as opposed

to allowing Educating Illinois to dictate our priorities.

***Brief Planning and Finance Committee Background:***

 The committee was formed 15 to 20 years ago in order to obtain faculty, staff, and student input

on the direction the university should take, as well as to establish a better working relationship

between the administration and these groups. An element of the committee was consideration of

how the budget allocated resources and where the committee thought resources should be

allocated to uphold our values during challenging times. The committee reflected a desire to

better achieve the potential of the university. This task has recently become more challenging, as

we have made significant progress toward many of the initial goals of the committee. It is

becoming more important to focus our priorities and ask how we can continue to hit our

trajectories ten years from now, when our environment will be quite different.

 Another important feature of the committee is the response we get to the report issued from the

previous year. Its consideration allows us to more productively align the points in the next report.

 The Planning and Finance Committee serves an important function as another set of eyes looking

at university issues from different perspectives.

 We have also been known to ask the administration for additional feedback when we have

received answers that were overly broad or general.

 In line with our committee’s purpose of suggesting priorities for the future of the university, our

presentations from the fall featured good information but lacked constructive dialogue about the

future of our institution.

 The first meeting of the committee next fall will likely be dedicated to determining which parties

to meet with and what the content of those meeting should be. It may be necessary to dedicate

more time to reflecting on the meetings and discussing how they can impact the university’s

future.

***Thoughts on the response to last year’s Institutional Priorities Report:***

 We should mention the ongoing priority of funding technology that works, funding infrastructure,

and funding staff.

 Focus on transparency through difficult times. When communication is clear, everyone is more

understanding. When communication is unclear there is greater resentment

 We live in an era in which technology is becoming all consuming. In the future, we will no

longer be able to have a system for many years without replacing or updating it. This is going to

continue to be an issue, and we need to fund technology accordingly.

 We need better communications between people making technology choices and the people using

those technologies so both parties understand the wants and constraints of the other.

 We need to find ways to convince the general population of the value of state institutions of

higher education and convey what the absence of these institutions would mean for communities.

 The statistic that about 80% of graduates of state institutions find employment in the state is a

useful one.

 We need to encourage the administration to help forge a strong argument for our existence. This

could help support our document and make it less adversarial.

 For the next meeting, please review last year’s report and its response in order to help our small

groups be as productive as possible next time.



*Adjournment*