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Attachment B-3  
Faculty Senate Agenda  
August 24, 2011



July 18, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Anthony G. Sheppard  
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Alexander Gonzalez  
President

SUBJECT: Senate Recommendations Regarding Academic Affairs Resource Allocation Policy  
(FS 10-71/Ex.) and 2012-13 Academic Year Calendar (FS 11-49/APC/Ex.)

FS 10-71/Ex.

As I noted in an earlier communication regarding FS 10-71/Ex., and given the recommendation's longer-term importance and implications, I asked the Provost to analyze the document in question thoroughly and to suggest whatever revisions he deemed important. His suggestions were extensive. Two are of particular importance:

1. The Provost has argued that the recommended policy does not reflect sufficiently what our University considers its core -- quality instruction and attention to our students' progress to graduation. Having read the recommended policy myself, I tend to agree. Indeed, under the terms suggested within the originally recommended policy, it is conceivable that programs within departments with less than satisfactory teaching, assessment, or advising efforts could find their way into the first quartile of ranked programs. The Provost's recommended (weighted) remedy addresses this issue.
2. The Provost has argued that the portion of the recommended policy that included the "Library, Learning Skills, and other [unspecified] special academic Centers" among "programs" to be assigned to quartiles should be deleted. He believes that virtually none of the criteria at issue pertains directly to the "non-degree granting units" in question, thus necessitating creation of new specialized criteria (and their specified value in the sense of comparability of the unit to programs offering majors, minors, and certificates) by which to assign, rather artificially, various elements of those units' responsibilities and business to specific quartiles. He also believes that faculty members serving on the Senate Select Committee, i.e., implementation committee, would lack the expertise necessary to evaluate most elements of non-

degree granting units' responsibilities and business, in the sense that most faculty members possess at least some sense of the elements and dynamics of truly academic programs. Units not represented on the Senate Select Committee charged with recommending quartile assignments rightly would feel disadvantaged. This would be especially problematic were members of the Senate Select Committee asked to refrain from discussion of programs housed in their home departments (which, in the interest of fairness, would seem necessarily to be the case). I agree with the Provost.

The Provost will deliver to you electronic copies of the proposed revisions of the current document in marked and clean copies. I am of the belief that the Provost's recommendations make FS 10-71/Ex. a better and more workable policy. However, given the amount of work put into the recommendation by members of the Senate (while also recognizing that the same work took nearly two years to complete), I am sending his (now my) proposed changes to you in the hope that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee can facilitate a quick Senate response to them. I would like the response by no later than mid-September. I will consider seriously the Senate's input into this matter so that ultimate official campus policy is enacted in the spirit of true consultation.

FS 11-49/APC/Ex.

I have studied and accepted the Senate's recommendation regarding the Academic Calendar: 2012-13. I appreciate APC's and the Senate's pledge to consider in the coming year alternate calendar proposals from the administration regarding the 2013-14 academic calendar. It is important to recognize that the calendar must meet the needs of many organizational elements of the University.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to continued productive work with the Faculty Senate in the coming year.

AG/leo

c. Provost Joseph F. Sheley  
Vice President David Wagner