

**Faculty Liaison Meeting
Academic Affairs Meeting
February 11, 2009**

Attended –D. Belcher, L. Burris, J. Cain, J. Dowdy, N. Kelker, A. Lutz, M. Martin, H.S. Means, K. Rushlow, K. Smith, S. Taylor, L. Warise

Excused -

Absent – M. Balachandran, B. Haskew, C. Higgins,

Also attended – D. Miller, K. Gebert

I. Comments from Provost Gebert.

A. Budget discussion –

1. Academic Affairs has not yet made known their perspective on these different options. Focus on mission and issues may invoke changes in recommendations and potential management issues. We think we can make serious progress on budget problems through efficient class management; such as...
 - a) One thing we can do this fall is work through the full-time temp personnel. We can not renew these people. We will hire back as needed through the summer and be set in August.
 - b) We then manage the enrollment issues later than usually. We use the 4% increase to hire temps at the last minute. We will work on the last customs numbers and try to plan accordingly.
 - c) Retention rates and graduation rates are improving.
 - d) We will be applying summer enrollment criteria to fall classes.
 - e) Make sure we offer the core courses in the major.
2. The rainy day funds will probably not come through for education; the stimulus funds do not look like the educational building funds will come through. Enrollment increases are a good potential; TBR removed the cap for hours but TBR is altering that (UT Martin requested a 24% tuition increase to cover their changes). Benefits increases are holding.
3. Carnegie status is also critical to making our status more stable. If we don't fund the PhD s through cuts how do we fund them? A. What about MSPS not fulfilling its potential due to minimal compromise.
4. There is a general sense that the tail is wagging the dog in the hope that the graduate program will be successful. There appear to be sacred cows that are not acknowledged.
5. There is a looming morale crisis and the faculty have not necessarily bought into the need to maintain the PhD programs for the classification. We do not have a clear sense of the strategic positioning. Furthermore we are allowing an emergency to be used to push us in a direction that we do not need to go. Q. How can we deal with morale? A. Pay some attention to how administration evaluates discussion. Display data and resources and articles backing decision. How programs will be growing and build external funding should be shared. Note: we have political entre but lack of knowledge.
6. What is the timetable on duplicate programs? A. THEC would fill that role if it ever were necessary.
7. Summer school so far – nationally summer school is declining for economic and other reasons. Online programs tend to go quickly. Faculty salary in depts. with

high salary make difficulties in certain areas. We let way too many low enrollment classes go last year in summer.

8. Carnegie outreach and partnership status

II. Adjournment