

Strategic Planning Committee Minutes December 2, 2004

In attendance: Bob Cashner, Bobby Dupont, Jim Meza, Joe King, Rick Barton, Edit Bourgeois, Ed Johnson, Sharon Mader and Donna Burroughs.

Bobby Dupont opened the meeting by with comments from Sharon Mader on how the library could be included in the academic excellence planning process. Dr. Mader stated each librarian is assigned to specific colleges and departments to ensure the appropriate research materials are available for new programs. She distributed a list of certain publications as an example of the types of publications which ranged from \$1,000 to \$80,000. Dr. Mader requested that Deans work with her as they develop their academic plans so that the library has adequate resources and research materials for new programs. After a brief discussion, Rick Barton directed that as Deans revise/update their plans each new plan should address library needs and meet with Dr. Mader. Dr. Mader also reminded the committee of other needs should as staffing and overall funding to which Bobby Dupont responded would be addressed as a separate budget issue.

Bobby Dupont discussed the committee's goals for 2005 which will be expanded to also evaluate/address the areas of the Earl K. Long Library and the University Computer Center as well as review revised academic excellence plans. Rick Barton reminded the committee of their charge to advise the Executive Committee on areas other than academic excellence such as the support areas.

A general discussion ensued about the 2005 Board of Regents admissions standards and the impact those new standards will have on the general fund balance. The new requirements will result in an expected loss of \$1.2 million which could require a 3% budget reduction. Other committee members inquired if a further reduction would be needed and would it be across the board. Edit Bourgeois inquired if only academic units would be affected to which Rick Barton reminded committee members that several administrative positions as well as significant budget reductions in the support staff area were implemented last summer. Dr. Dupont ended the discussion by stating the issue will be discussed further in a future Dean's Council meeting but that simply cutting supply budgets will not address the core problem. Joe King suggested that admissions staff continue to meet with admissions counselors of the area high schools to ensure that incoming freshman can meet with new standards.