

Minutes from SPC 8 May 2009

Members Present: William Vencill, Lonnie Brown, Ron Walcott, Marsha Black, Irwin Bernstein, Betty Jean Craige, Jorge Atilas, Ron Cevero, Eric Mueller, Sarah Spence, Philp Greenspan, Barbara White, Jim Pretegard, Steve Dempsey, Florence King, Shannon Scott, Ann Crowther, Jan Barham, Holley Schramski, Frank Crumley, Tom Jackson

Meeting convened 1:05 PM

Provost Mace charged the committee after introductions. He covered the deadlines required for the committee and asked the committee to look at budgetary and political climate for the university in the next ten years. He mentioned that the next strategic plan could look like the current one or may be something very different. However, it was stressed that it contain measurable benchmarks to chart progress.

William Vencill welcomed the committee once again and covered some logistical issues such as the faculty survey that was sent out on 4 May 2009, the development of a web-site for the committee, timelines and opportunities to seek campus input. The committee agreed to meet once a month over the summer. He passed out handouts of the recommendation sections of the Task Force on General Education and Student Learning, Graduate Education, Research, and Water Use for the committee as well as a hard copy of a slide presentation that he presented showing University of Georgia data on student, research, endowments, faculty, and environmental issues for the past 10 years and plots of UGA progress against our peer and aspirational institutions. After the slide presentation, the floor was opened for discussion.

Areas that were covered:

Questions about how we are to proceed and future meetings.

Questions about a presentation on the state of Georgia in relation to demographics. At our next meeting, a presentation will be made concerning the economic and demographics of the state of Georgia and what impact or opportunities this presents for the University of Georgia.

Questions about seeking staff and student input over the summer. We will survey staff and students as well to seek input on the front end of the process.

Committee members pointed out we needed to be bold and see where UGA could uniquely fit in the next years; we did not need to be another UNC or UVA.

What is unique about UGA and how can we leverage that over the next ten years to better serve students and the state.

How can UGA help the state and be more relevant to various constituencies?

Public Health was mentioned. K-12 Education was mentioned.

Questions were asked about what UGA was doing in relation to continuing education. It was mentioned that a committee had been formed to look at distance education issues at the University of Georgia.

Some questioned whether common metrics were only for promotion of the university.

It was mentioned that we needed to be realistic about goals; specifically that we cannot aspire to be in the top five of any category but we need to improve any given metric by a certain percentage or amount.

A lot of discussion was held about faculty retention and student retention. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Maybe high retention is not good if we keep less than productive students or faculty.

Committee members asked about the humanities and to emphasize that research was about more than grant dollars.

Comments were made about the importance of technology investments and sustainability as well as infrastructure needs.

What 3-5 areas of focus should the new strategic plan contain?

Meeting convened 2:40 PM