

Members present: Jorge Atilas, Alison Alexander, Eric Mueller, Ralph Johnson, Tom Jackson, Ann Crowther, Jim Prestegard, Ron Cevero, Florence King, Rehan Khan, Danny Sniff, Lonnie Brown, Irwin Berstein, Kyle Tschepikow, Marsha Black, Philip Greenspan, William Vencill

Meeting commenced at 1:35 pm

The focus of the meeting was on the role of research at UGA in the next strategic plan and at UGA in the next few years.

The discussion began describing the importance of faculty to UGA research. In 1999, there were 1299 tenured faculty and 465 on tenure track with 1269 faculty not on the tenure track. In 2008, there were 1268 tenured faculty with 408 on the tenure track and 1635 faculty not on the tenure track. A discussion was held whether tenure track faculty were as important to the research effort as research EFT since many non-tenure track faculty conduct research. UGA had 460.93 Research EFT in FY 2002 and 497.59 (7.9% increase) in FY 08 while instructional EFT went from 855.62 in FY 02 to 917.59 in FY 08 (7.2% increase) and public service rose from 54.08 in FY 02 to 66.11 in FY 08 (22.2% increase).

There seems to be a lack of understanding by the public and the legislature on the research mission of UGA. UGA needs to do a better job of explaining the importance of research not only for the research itself but by how the research endeavor influences instruction and public service.

The group decided we should focus on research EFT rather than the tenure track status of those doing research. However, separate from the focus on research, there was a statement that the strategic plan should address the impact the loss of tenure track faculty will have on UGA.

What are the research goals of the next ten years that will justify funding research endeavors at UGA?

There was an expression that state appropriations are for instruction and any of that money used for research should be leveraged to bring in external funding.

The discussion then turned to the importance of graduate education to UGA and to the research component of the university. Graduate student numbers have not increased as much as other institutions. The goal should be for graduate students to comprise 25% of the total student population. For 2008-09, 23.8% of the student body were graduate students or professional students. If one focuses on graduate students only, they were 19% of the total.

There was general consensus that UGA was not competitive for graduate students in terms of assistantships. A question arose on how many national graduate student awards, UGA graduate students earned.

It was mentioned that UGA should provide international opportunities for graduate students as we have done for undergraduates. However, the focus should be on obtaining research training from abroad, not just cultural experiences.

UGA has the potential to increase graduate student numbers at the Gwinnett, Griffin, and Tifton campuses. Student numbers at these campuses are outside of the enrollment cap. Ron Cevero sent me a report on graduate programs on the Gwinnett campus that I will send as another attachment. Graduate enrollment could also be increased on the Athens campus if more graduate courses could be offered in the evenings.

A discussion was held on the differential in formula funding for graduate students and others at UGA. The formula funding for credit hours is a formula for the state legislature to fund the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents can distribute to USG institutions as they see fit. It is also not always fully funded. Having provided some of the disclaimers, credit hours are broken in to five groupings (Group 1: Law, Letters, Library Science, Psychology, and Social Sciences; Group 2: Business, Communications, Education, Home Economics, Mathematics, Public Affairs, and Interdisciplinary Studies; Group 3: Agriculture, Architecture, Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, Fine and Applied Arts, Foreign Languages, Health Professions, Physical Sciences, and Technologies; Group 4: Learning Support Systems; and Group 5: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine). Within each grouping formula funds per credit hour are distributed depending on undergraduate lower division, undergraduate upper division, and graduate and professional. For FY 2010, Group 5 should receive \$1,874 per credit hour; Group 4 would receive \$67 per credit hour; Group 3 would receive \$226 for lower division, \$273 for upper division, and \$1,064 per credit hour for graduate and professional; Group 2 would receive \$160 for lower division, \$181 for upper division, and \$506 per credit hour for graduate and professional courses; and Group 1 would receive \$137 for lower division, \$188 for upper division, and \$751 per credit hour for graduate and professional courses.

The university has an enrollment cap that includes undergraduate and graduate students, but does not include students at the Griffin, Gwinnett, and Tifton campuses. As a means to increase graduate enrollment, should the university look to exclude graduate students from the enrollment cap? Could offering more graduate courses in the evening for non-traditional students on the Athens campus increase graduate enrollment? The discussion then turned to factors limiting enrollment at UGA. Classroom utilization has increased since 2002, but is still lower than some other USG institutions. The limits to enrollment include: 1) housing since UGA requires freshman to live on campus, 2) teaching laboratories (Chemistry is the most critical and is currently >100% subscribed followed by biology; these

courses are required of all science students on campus and are a bottleneck to increasing enrollment in the sciences), 3) Human resources – faculty and staff to service extra students, and 4) research space for extra faculty.

A question was asked about the impact of undergraduate research at UGA (e.g. CURO program).

The discussion then turned to the overall goal of research at UGA. A description of existing research strengths were listed and areas to focus upon if UGA is to grow in its research stature. The overall goal of a research university should be to produce the next generation of creative thinkers.

The final discussion was on issues of faculty retention. These are: 1) competitive benefits packages, 2) competitive salaries, 3) developed program of spousal hiring, and 4) a university-wide sabbatical program.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.