

Notes from Meeting with President Burrage on 9-25-2018

President Burrage:

- We have around \$4,500,000-\$5,000,000 more in the bank this year than last year.
- A better estimate of year-over-year cash will be available on 9/30, as this is traditionally when we have the large majority of our money from students paid in (also a good predictor of Spring).
- Expenses due to Academic Partnerships is up, as is the revenue.
- We replaced about 16 faculty this year, with 3-4 new lines added. Replacement faculty tend to be cheaper than those they replace due to lower ranks.
- Enrollment is current 4483 students, including 600 new freshman (compared to about 470 last year). The new freshman numbers are encouraging as higher numbers increase enrollments not just in this year but future years.
- Transfer students are down, which mostly matches enrollment declines at the 2-year feeder institutions.
- We are not sure why the freshman enrollment is up (good numbers from Bryan and Grayson counties).

Ensuing discussion: We should survey the freshman directly about what their college options were and why they chose us. Some of the faculty present can handle the survey and the analysis.

VP Clark:

- Overall clean bill of health from HLC (which is rare).
- There are recommendations for changes to two programs (MSNAL and MSECD [?Early Childhood Development?]).
- Reports are filed on those two programs, hoping for no site visit.
- Other programs are OK.

President Burrage:

- Lots of news stories about OU lately (about perceived inefficiencies).
- There are concerns that those stories play into expectations in the Legislature.
- There are concerns that people will conflate the OU news stories with regionals (which are under a very different budget and incentive structure, etc.).

President Burrage:

- The Executive team has been working on a strategic plan.
- This is the opposite direction of previous planning (Executive team to campus, as opposed to Advisory Committees to Executive team).
- President wants faculty input on preliminary results when they are ready.

Compensation Discussion

- Presentation of proposal (two pronged-approach - one-time restoration of lost salary increases, change to annual increases from linear steps to inflation-related percentage steps).

- President Burrage thinks these are reasonable ideas (faculty comment - the only issue in the Senate debate was that they were too reasonable). The question will be how to pay for it.
- President Burrage thinks such increases might be better done in January after we have a better idea of where the University financials are (as previous raises in a much earlier era caused financial problems when enrollment dropped).
- VP Clark asked about the reasoning behind the restriction of the annual adjustments to carded portion of salaries (response: the “off card” portion often comes from endowments or other piles of money, or from negotiations at time of hire which can be renegotiated in the future).
- Dr. Moretti added that the annual adjustments are not intended to be thought of as something to be done if a pot of money is available, but more of a fixed cost that is a component of determining the overall budget and tuition.