FINANCIAL PLANNING TASK FORCE
October 27, 1998
1:00 p.m.

Present: Reneau, Rea, Thomas, Hall, Reagan, Edmiston, Elmore, Simms, McConathy
Absent: Hilgenkamp, Drewett

Minutes

The Financial Planning Task Force minutes of October 1, 1998, were approved as submitted on an Elmore/McConathy motion/second and unanimous vote.

Committee Reports, Strategic Plan

President Reneau introduced four committee/subcommittee reports that were mandated by the Strategic Plan. Discussion ensued regarding the meaning of approval by this Task Force. Dr. McConathy who served as vice chair of the Strategic Planning Committee explained that the Strategic Plan contains three phases - 1) production of reports, 2) acceptance of reports, 3) action based on recommendations from the reports and other factors.

President Reneau explained that the reports had already been presented to the University Computing Policy and Planning Council and had been accepted as submitted by that group. A copy of their minutes had been distributed with the agenda of this meeting.

The first reports discussed were from KSD #4 regarding the development and integration of advanced technology in areas of University life.

The first report discussed was from the subcommittee charged with addressing how computing services are already handled at Tech. A Halls/Simms motion/second to accept the report as submitted received unanimous approval.

The second report discussed was from the subcommittee charged addressing how computing services are handled at other universities. President Reneau reported that Dr. Mel Corley, Chair of the Campus Computing Services Coordinating Committee, had summarized this committee’s findings as follows: 1) They were surprised and pleased to find that we were not doing badly. We equal or are not far behind those schools studied, 2) Most schools studied had someone in charge of the entire university computing services, 3) None of the schools studied had a well-defined technical planning procedure, 4) Some schools who had spent a lot more than we have seemed to have less to show. Dean Shirley Reagan commented that the report refers to Mississippi State University in some places and the University of Mississippi in other places. The minutes also refer to the University of Mississippi. A Rea/Elmore motion/second to accept the report with the clarification of whether Mississippi State University or the University of Mississippi is correct and so noted received unanimous approval.
The third report discussed was from the subcommittee proposing a future direction for an information technology infrastructure. They began their report by reiterating steps that had already been taken toward an infrastructure. It was noted that several of the committee’s recommendations would be met with the completion of the SCT project that is underway. Electronic reserves are already in the Library. Tech has been certified as a distance learning site and courses are being offered this quarter. Faculty development monies have been awarded to develop innovative distance learning courses. Approval has been granted for an Instructional Technician position in the Faculty Development area. A Reagan/Edmiston motion/second to accept the report as submitted received unanimous approval.

President Reneau said he felt the most pressing need was to provide some sort of “help station” to faculty and staff. This station would provide them with information on where to go for assistance with specific problems and would provide timely service with computing problems. We have discussed this and are reviewing some options.

KSD #6 - Experiential Education Program

This Task Force was appointed to identify model paid and unpaid experiential education programs at other universities in order to use them as benchmarks to be developed at Tech. In year two they were to make recommendations regarding our program at Tech. The committee’s report covered both reports.

The Council of Academic Deans had reviewed the report in its entirety and accepted it with the following change:

Rather than naming an Academic Coordinator for each college, the Deans recommended retraining program faculty already identified to work with specific programs. Then the dean would appoint one individual to serve as the college member to the Council for Experiential Education Programs. That individual would be a liaison with the Council and faculty and programs in the college.

They also recommended that Ms. Leona Ford be asked to chair the Council for Experiential Education Programs (CEEP) to be comprised of one representative from each college, Enrollment Management Division, and Career Center.

The Task Force agreed with these recommended changes.

Dean Reagan said that experiential education is becoming more and more important to job placement and that at some point we may need to appropriate money for this area. She also
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commended the Career Center for their efforts in working closely with each college.

A Rea/Reagan motion/second to accept this report as submitted received unanimous approval.

1998-99 Budgeting for Key Strategic Directions

President Reneau reminded the Task Force that at their April 1998 meeting they had voted to accept the following KSD’s as budgeting priorities for 1998-99:

- recruiting, retention, graduation rates
- integrating advanced technology
- infrastructure to encourage and support research efforts
- faculty, staff, administrator development

These priorities were given emphases during the budgeting process. An analysis of expenditures and/or budgeted amount for each was distributed. These amounts came from all sources: operating budget, private funds, Student Technology Fee, and special funding from the State. Total funding budgeted for each KSD was as follows:

- KSD #1 - recruiting, retention, graduations rates - $406,394
- KSD #4 - integrating advanced technology - $1,405,605
- KSD #5 - infrastructure to encourage research efforts - $505,994
- KSD #2 - faculty, staff, administrator development - $300,762

President Reneau asked if anyone had any additions to this list to notify him before he placed the item on the Administrative and Planning Council agenda.

Vice President Hall indicated that $30,000 could be added under KSD #1. The Foundation contributed $30,000 for CD roms for recruitment of students.

Meeting adjourned, 1:32 p.m.