

Minutes*

Faculty Consultative Committee
Thursday, October 27, 2005
1:15 – 3:00
220 Skok Hall

Present: Jean Bauer (chair), Gary Balas, Nancy Carpenter, Barbara Elliott, Dan Feeney, Morris Kleiner, Kathleen Krichbaum, Scott Lanyon, Judith Martin, Richard McCormick, Steven Ruggles, John Sullivan, Jennifer Windsor

Absent: Megan Gunnar, Mary Jo Kane, Marvin Marshak, Fred Morrison, Terry Roe, Martin Sampson

Guests: President Robert Bruininks, Senior Vice President and Provost E. Thomas Sullivan, Executive Associate Vice President Al Sullivan

Other: none

[In these minutes: Intellectual future and strategic planning]

The Committee met with President Bruininks, Provost Sullivan, and Executive Associate Vice President Sullivan for 90 minutes and had a wide-ranging discussion.

-- The Committee urged that as the strategic positioning effort proceeds, there be a clear statement to all who may be paying attention that the goal of being one of the top three public research universities in the world does not mean the University is abandoning or downplaying its responsibilities in education and outreach. Some, it was said, are concerned that the definition of "research university" is narrow enough that it will preclude continuing commitment to teaching and outreach. It was also noted that by making such a statement, in concert with the strategic positioning effort, the University is also indicating the things that will be measured. (Provost Sullivan noted that he had published in the Minnesota Daily on October 13 an article on this subject titled "The Value of Teaching in a Research University" <http://www.mndaily.com/articles/2005/10/13/65583>).

-- Committee members emphasized that implementation of a new budget model must not serve as a barrier to interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach, and encouraged the administration to find ways to encourage such research, teaching, and outreach.

-- The Committee reviewed a very preliminary outline of the goals of the "metrics and measurement" task force and discussed with Dr. (Al) Sullivan, the task force chair, various elements of the charge to the task force. Committee members accepted the general approach that had first been mentioned at the Faculty Consultative Committee retreat in September: use of the University of Florida study plus. The Florida study contains nationally-accepted metrics for research universities; the "plus" will consist of other measures the University selects to track its performance in other activities related to its mission besides research.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota

* These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.