

Faculty Senate Meeting December 6, 2005

Remarks from Jim Smith, Provost

My remarks at today's Senate meeting are summarized here in writing for the sake of time and your possible questions:

1. Strategic Planning: By the time of my remarks, Chancellor Ballard will have shared with you his perspectives on this topic. As a close at hand observer of our planning process since its re-inception in 1987, I believe the broadening of the process and the invocation of parallel thought processes across departments, schools, colleges, and divisions is remarkably encouraging. Strategic planning in a University setting is difficult because of the many and varied valid tasks and goals a mature university encapsulates and, hopefully, advances. As a SACS visitor on five campuses in the 1990s and an observer of four such visits here (1970, 1980, 1990, 2000), I believe we have the best opportunity now to develop a plan that maximizes both everyone's opportunity and the likelihood that we will arrive at a product about which we can be passionate. I salute Henry Peel and all of you who have expressed interest and decided to become involved. Onward and upward!

2. Day Care and Fixed term Appointments: The Senate has gone on record some time ago about and reiterated interest in both of these topics most recently. I am currently framing task forces on each topic. Regarding day care, Nan Lee in the College of Human Ecology has prepared a plan and registered it with the administration in 2003-04. This plan will be part of the task force deliberation and the priority-weight of the task force report will have to be determined by consultation with the faculty on priorities in general, possibly within and perhaps outside the formal strategic planning process. The chancellor has accepted the Senate's November resolution on fixed term appointments and the task force that I form on this topic will be broad-based and inclusive and will consider all the good reports that have been done to date. I hope to have some task force reports on both of these areas by the end of the Spring Semester, 2006.

3. Transparent Processes and Process Improvements: I continue to be impressed with successes with the attitudes and spirit of openness and transparency that Chancellor Ballard has instructed us to pursue. Processes will improve and I believe we should have as a goal in the next 2-5 years that we become a national model for budget and resource allocation transparency *We can do this.*

4. Faculty Position Allocations and the Distribution of Operating Dollars: I have shared the October 25 Academic Affairs position allocation memorandum widely and I continue to discuss the rationales with deans and others. The continued availability of enrollment increase monies is of course a function of continuing enrollment increases. We will be making enrollment projections for GA in December and a great deal turns on how well we do this projection. I trust that deans are discussing these matters with the departments and schools within their units.

5. The Joyner Library (ALS) Director Search Process: Elections under App. L of the faculty representatives occurred last Friday and this week I am working on the appointments of the chair and the 3 remaining appointments that are at my discretion. I am also discussing the best manner of involvement of the Laupus Health Sciences Library in this search process. I have indicated that one of my appointments will come from the Faculty Senate Libraries Committee. ALS Faculty elected were: Lisa Barricella, Bryna Coonin, Linda Teel, Carolyn Willis, Beth Winstead, and Maury York. Congratulations to these persons for receiving the confidence of their colleagues.

Thanks for all you do for our students and for the University. Happy Holidays to you and yours!