APPROVED

Minutes of Collegial Assembly of December 10, 2008

Dean Dai called the assembly to order at 2:50 pm

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of September 24, 2008 were approved.

Dean’s Report
Dean Dai reported that the state appropriation to Temple has been reduced by 4.5%, and may be reduced by 6.6%. The university anticipates the 6.6% cut. To meet this, all academic units have been asked to cut 1.6% in addition to a restriction on travel and a hiring freeze. In CST, the reduction goal amounts to $450,000, to be achieved through reductions in expenditures for instructional laboratories, communications, travel, and temporary workers. Faculty searches will continue as originally planned.

Among the college’s goals to achieve this year are:
- Creation of new degree programs, including PhD/MBA and PhD/MIT, undergraduate degrees associated with the Tunteach program, a Master’s in IST, and a Master’s in Medical Physics
- A program to allow all Honors students to do research
- Implementation of career services in the Dean’s Office to provide information and assistance to CST students
- An internship program for CST students
- Study-abroad opportunities for CST students

Vice Dean Palladino is leading an effort to streamline the college’s administration to improve the handling of stock rooms, purchasing and clerical processes, and grants administration, to provide better service in response to the rapid growth of research. Some functions of the Dean’s office staff are moving to Suite 400, Carnell Hall; the faculty affairs and business functions will remain in Barton Hall for the time being. Renovations to Barton, Beury, and Wachman Halls and the BiolLife Sciences building are continuing. A landscaping project is under way to beautify the grounds around Beury and Biolife. Site selection is under way for the new science building, for which $50 million has been allocated by Temple; the costs will be greater.

The university’s academic strategic plan was recently approved by the Board of Trustees. The plan establishes research as a central focus. CST will be instrumental in the creation of dual Baccalaureate/Master’s programs, in which students earn the baccalaureate degree from their home institutions, and the Master’s degree from Temple; 8 students are currently enrolled this year, the first year for these programs.

Special Reports
Dean Dai introduced Anthony Wagner, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico, to address the assembly on the university’s financial situation and the strategic plan.

Mr. Wagner summarized a report recently made to the Board of Trustees on Temple’s financial situation. Temple ranks about in the middle of universities on Moody’s ranking of investment-grade bonds, while the Temple Health System ranks just above junk-bond rating. Penn and Pitt ranks higher in part because of greater unrestricted net assets and more diversified revenue, including more research, greater endowment, and higher tuition. The credit crisis and recession may cause difficulties for universities: greater difficulty in borrowing funds for operation and improvement, fewer students able to afford tuition, less availability of student loans. Temple’s appropriation from the state has not kept pace with costs, losing $32.9 million in buying power since 2002. To meet the coming challenges while keeping our historical commitment to affordable education, Temple will undertake rigorous management of spending, by eliminating waste, controlling costs, and encouraging innovation; will seek additional revenue streams through fund-raising and new and expanded programs; and will implement the objectives of strategic planning.

Provost Staiano-Coico announced that the strategic plan was endorsed yesterday by the Board of Trustees. The strategic plan addresses the challenges of changing demographics, increasing competition, changing enrollment trends, and waning economic support. It preserves commitment to core values such as access to academic excellence for underrepresented students, athletes, and adult learners; partnership with our neighborhood and community; sustainability; generation of knowledge through research innovation and entrepreneurship. Key thematic phrases of the strategic plan include access to excellence; top research university; urban metro-engaged university; university with global reach; destination Temple; transformation. On the subject of research, the Provost note that Temple has under-invested, is missing necessary core facilities, needs to replace faculty as retirements increase, and needs to support graduate programs.

Dean Dai, on behalf of the assembly, thanked Provost Staiano-Coico and Vice President Wagner for their presentation, and thanked them for the support they have shown to the College.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by R.J.