Provost’s Council
Minutes, October 29, 2008

Present: Sandra Westbrooks, Debrah Jefferson, Robin Benny, Romi Lowe, Sylvia Gist, Anitra Ward, Delores Lipscomb, Justin Akujieze, David Slatkin, Samir Miari, Rachel Lindsey, Lawrence McCrank, Richard Milo, Joe Balogun, Cecilia Bowie

1. Minutes from October 22, 2008 approved.
2. Enrollment Update: There are no increases or decreases.
3. Expectations and Sub Goals: The work of the 21st Century Academic Planning Committee on nine expectations was shared with the council. Council members were asked to respond, and to write out suggestions for changes on forms that were provided.
   a. Expectation One: There were questions about the connection between the expectation, “Work with campus constituents to build on the academic strengths and accomplishments of the University and to keep the University moving in a positive direction” and the sub-goals, specifically the centralization of event planning and the capture and publicizing of events. Dr. Balogun explained that the suggestion was to address customer service issues and the campus run-around.
   b. Expectation Two: There was general agreement that persons responsible for implementing goals should list the Bursar, Cashier, and Financial Aid.
   c. Expectation Three: A concern was voiced about the addition of administrative units. Dr. McCrank suggested that administrative units should decrease by means of merging. He suggested that IT and LIS should be consolidated as an example. A concern was raised about who will run graduation in May 2008. A question is whether or not it will be shifted to Dr. Howard Johnson’s area.
   d. Expectation Four: A lively discussion centered on budget and enrollment links. Dr. McCrank observed that there has been no systematic study of how many students are needed to support each individual program. Responding to the suggestion that departments be held responsible for recruitment and retention, Dr. Lindsey pointed out that many departments in CAS have little or no commodities money; under the circumstances, it is difficult for individual departments to do marketing. Further, it would be difficult for these departments to serve more students. Also, will programs that successfully recruit and enroll an increasing number of students gain a commensurate increase in the department budget? Dr. Jefferson reminded council members that the IBHE is requiring program-by-program enrollment and retention data. It was observed that sub-goals IV and V emphasize job preparation rather than a university education that includes a solid background in liberal arts and sciences.
   e. Expectation Five: Little substantive comment was offered.
   f. Expectation Six: Sub-goal IV raised the question of how additional staff members were to be compensated. Dr. Milo pointed out that the Foundation staff must raise enough funds to cover their own salaries – what would be the incentive to raise the large sums necessary to support the university. Dr. Balogun noted that the point of the goal is to
provide more support for faculty writing grants. A discussion followed about the inability of the current Office of Sponsored Programs to adequately provide the services faculty need to be more successful in writing grants.

g. Expectation Nine: It was generally agreed that more support is needed in order to recruit and support graduate students. More Graduate Assistantship positions are needed. Dr. Lindsey pointed out that there is a gap in graduate education at CSU because graduate students are not allowed to teach under current university policy. Dr. Jefferson suggested that it might be possible to develop a policy that would allow graduate students to teach some courses. Discussion then centered on the role of the Division of Graduate and Professional Studies. It was agreed that the role is not clear. One issue is who actually grants graduate degrees—departments or the Division of Graduate and Professional Studies? Dr. Westbrooks noted that there need to be policies in place that set forth the University requirements for a graduate degree, e.g. theses, comprehensive examinations or other requirements common to other institutions. General consensus was that university-wide policies should be developed and established that specify the minimum number of hours required and other criteria for the awarding of graduate degrees.