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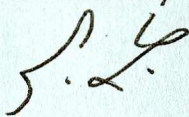
Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty and Staff of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Vol. 15 No. 6

June 4, 1984

MEMO TO: The University Community

FROM: Earl Lazerson 

SUBJECT: Interim Response: LRPC Recommendations Phases I and II

The purpose of this interim report is to respond to the general recommendations made in the LRPC report Phases I and II. I will be submitting a detailed response with regard to each program early in the fall quarter. Following receipt of Phase III of the LRPC report, I will respond to it at the beginning of the winter quarter.

I. Response to LRPC Phase I

1. The background material for Phase I is a useful rationale for the work of the committee. In future years, it should take into account any revisions made in our mission statement as a result of the current Self Study and the needs assessment being conducted in Academic Affairs, together with other such materials pertinent to mission.
2. The criteria used in Phase I - centrality, regional need, quality, enrollment, and cost, appear to me to be both pertinent and defensible. There has been a great deal of comment on the criteria, but an examination of indicators used by both the Ad Hoc Undergraduate Programs Committee and the Graduate Council indicates a large measure of concurrence with regard to the criteria used. The questions that arise are in regard to the weights assigned to the various criteria and that is, of course, a judgmental issue. In my view, there is not extreme variation in the way that the criteria have been applied. Presumably as the process continues, there will be refinements in this area.
3. Categories for fiscal recommendations. I am in general agreement with the categories and the manner in which they are to be implemented, in particular their progressive application over time.
4. The evaluation process. The process appears to be a reasonable one. Clearly there are ways in which it can be improved with regard to uniformity of formats for the submission of data, the timeliness of data, and interpretation of data elements. I look forward to discussion with the UPBC as to how such matters may be improved, particularly the adequacy and currency of the data base.
5. As I have indicated, I will address the specific program recommendations in detail in the fall quarter report.

(over)

6. Policy recommendations. I am in full accord with both the goals and strategies that have been recommended in Phase I. In particular, the need to maintain budget flexibility in personnel lines, the need to aid faculty and staff affected by the implementation of the long range plan, the need to underscore and the need to enhance in every possible way our retention program, and the need to encourage and to make accessible University programs to part time students, adult learners, and other nontraditional categories of students. Finally, I agree with the concluding comments of the Phase I report with regard to the need for a re-examination of all Arts and Science programs following the implementation of the new general education program. Phase I has provided us with a solid foundation for continuing efforts. I am confident that the process and its recommendations will materially benefit the future course of the University.

II. Response to LRPC Phase II

1. I find the background information with regard to the non-instructional units and the process therein outlined acceptable.
2. The statement on the analysis of non-instructional units fairly delineates the work of the committee. The value of the Phase II report would be considerably enhanced if there were more detailed reasons presented for each program with regard to the categories of essentiality, relative cost, user satisfaction, and need satisfaction. This is an aspect of the process that in my view needs to be worked on. The criteria used are pertinent and defensible.
3. Unit recommendations. I will respond in detail to the unit recommendations at the same time that I present detailed responses on the academic programs at the beginning of the fall quarter.
4. I accept the general recommendations with the following understandings. The analysis of non-instructional units comparing activities and functions, costs, sources of funding, and number of employees with similar units at other state universities will be a major task over which we only partially have control by virtue of the willingness or lack thereof of other institutions to share such data. I would add to this recommendation that the non-instructional units be urged to put forward whatever relative criteria they have available that would be useful for consideration in the review process. The suggestion that each unit conduct a periodic analysis of the level of satisfaction of the users of its services is a reasonable idea. It may be that we have internal expertise within the University that could be utilized to design instruments that would provide the requisite information. I am in full agreement with the final general recommendation that a unit or activity that comes into existence supported by non-state funding should have no expectation of state funding if the external funding expires.

I commend the LRPC and the UPBC for their aid in the planning process.