September 3, 2013

This was the committee’s first meeting of the 2013-2014 academic year. The meeting mostly consisted of planning for upcoming meetings. Chad Stephens, elected chair from spring, will continue as chair for this year.

October 1, 2013

The committee met with Charles Enicks (CIO) and Michael Casdorph (Associate Vice President, Academic & Research Technology Services) to discuss the current state of affairs for IT. M. Casdorph presented a powerpoint overview of ITS. A very thorough discussion followed, focusing on, but not limited to, the following topics: Issues with D2L/Echo360 and other instructional technology, ITS support/staffing on the Summerville campus, Help Desk staffing and related issues, wireless access around campus, communication between faculty and ITS (ITS will add someone from the Faculty Senate to the ITS Advisory Committee. After the meeting, M Casdorph supplied a thorough summary of his notes from the meeting, including action items, offering to follow-up with the committee after 90 days.

October 29, 2013

The committee met with Michelle Neely (Manager of Retail Operations) and Karl Munschy (Director of Auxiliary Services) about Auxiliary Services and the Bookstores. The student book rental policy was discussed. Members on the committee expressed concerns about the book ordering process and the need for better communication with faculty. The committee recommended that the bookstore set up a website geared towards faculty to give the information about book ordering, rentals, ordering of lab coats, regalia etc. This was another productive meeting which helped establish communication between auxiliary services and the BAITUR committee. After the meeting, Mr. Munschy informed the committee that more information was posted on the bookstore website for faculty.

November 19, 2013

The committee met with Mr. Tony Wagner (CBO). Mr. Wagner made a brief presentation about his background prior to coming to GRU in August 2013 as CFO at Penn State and Temple University. He emphasized the importance of moving towards decentralization of the budget and the need for faculty involvement in this process. The committee asked numerous questions, and Mr. Wagner was very open to discussion. The committee felt this meeting was very productive in establishing a working relationship with Mr. Wagner.

January 28, 2014

The committee met with Dr. Brenda Seago (Director of Libraries, and also a member of the BAITUR Committee) to discuss the library budget. Dr. Seago gave a presentation which primarily focused on the acquisition of new materials for the library now that we are a
March 4, 2014

The committee met with Dr. Clay Trover (Enterprise Director for Supply Chain) to discuss mail delivery to the various campuses. After an extensive overview of the mail delivery process, Dr. Trover took questions from the committee. Concern over slow mail delivery to the Summerville campus became a topic of discussion. Dr. Trover indicated that he would look into this issue. This was a productive meeting, and, based on subsequent feedback from committee members, the mail delivery to Summerville campus has since been improved. At this meeting, the committee also agreed to present two formal recommendations regarding the library budget to the Faculty Senate for consideration. Those recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation #1: a funding formula should be developed to incrementally increase funding for library collections (perhaps percentage of F & A) in order for funding levels to reach the mean of academic and health science libraries’ spending for collections in 5-7 years. [Note: The mean amount of funding/expenditures for academic libraries is determined by the Association of College and Research Libraries and for health sciences libraries by the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries.]

Recommendation #2: renovation of both Reese and Greenblatt Libraries should be included in the new University Master plan and be scheduled for completion within the next 5 years.

April 1, 2014

The committee met with the Campus Planning representatives, including Mr. Phil Howard (VP of Facilities) and consultants from Smith Goup JJR. The consultants gave a short Powerpoint presentation and then fielded questions from the committee. There was substantial concern from the committee about involvement of faculty in the process, as well as the need for development of realistic, focused, short term plans, rather than just longer term, non-specific “visionary” plans. There was also concern about the limited number of academic administrators on the campus planning committee (for example, the director of libraries is not apparently on that committee). This was the last meeting of the committee for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Stephens
Chair, BAITUR Committee (2013-2014)