**Faculty Senate Minutes from 9/10/12**

Dr. Loftin was a guest speaker and spoke for over an hour. He repeated some of the items covered at convocation including reaffirming the 2020 goals. He then spoke of the Council of Deans and his request for the Council to select key areas that would represent Grand Challenges and would propel the University forward. He asked the Deans to provide specific steps (actions). The deans identified 6 areas that transcend departmental and college boundaries. The first 2 will be of top priority.

Grand Challenges:

1. One Health
2. Energy of the future
3. Strengthen democracy
4. Economic development
5. Educating leaders
6. I didn’t catch #6 (sorry)

Dr. Loftin then announced he was able to acquire $16 million of one-time funds that he plans to use for the following purposes:

Attract and retain top faculty

Equipment and building renovations

This $16 million would not address faculty space or salaries. However, he has designated $6 million of recurring funds for new faculty salaries and graduate student support.

These funds are from outsourcing of the bookstore, dining, custodial work, etc. and from the sale of cokes, etc.

The new paradigm for dining services is that the company pays TAMU for the privilege of being here. The contractors are paid for services rendered. Barnes and Noble will be in charge of the bookstore.

The $6 million of recurring funds will be divided as follows:

$4.5 million to new faculty salaries of outstanding, senior people

1.5 million to graduate student support

Remainder spent on facilities.

Dr. Loftin has asked CBE to evaluate how we can best utilize our current buildings. Those buildings that can be renovated/”refitted” to provide useful space will move up the list for funding.

The HSC merger has gone through and will be finalized in January. The HSC is planning a new building on the Bryan campus. Now it will focus on One Health. 4 deans to be effected: CVM, Agriculture, Life Sciences and Engineering.

$100 million is available for attracting established faculty to TAMU and providing new faculty with renovated space.

There were many questions from the floor with the following answers:

Dr. Loftin agreed faculty salary compression is problematic. He commented that good starting salaries are not sustained with annual raises. He offered no solution.

Inquiries about the funds – He reminded the faculty senate that in May 2012, the Board of Regents agreed to fold student fees into one fund, which he manages.

Dr. Loftin felt the $100 million was necessary for new faculty equipment and space renovations.

Someone asked about the minute details the Board of Regents concern themselves with – Dr. Loftin recommended that the history of TAMU be examined as the regents, since the 1800’s, have taken an active role in TAMU management, including minute details. He said we needed to understand TAMU history and that right now we are hampered by the economics of the country. The University has suffered due to loss of state funds and a decline in grant dollars. Nationwide, other universities are facing similar challenges with funding. State governments are unable to provide resources and there is national opposition to increasing tuition. Our only avenue is to explore efficiencies of operation and a focus on long-term private capital. As an example: Until recently, dining services spent 36% of their budget on food. With outsourcing, only 25% of the revenue stream is for food purchases.

Someone asked where he could go to find the details on the outsourcing, in particular in custodial services. Dr. Loftin said they are public documents and that he is forming a committee to evaluate how well the contractors are meeting their obligations.

One of the reasons for the Grand Challenges in the capital campaign – He can say TAMU is solving important problems.

A senator asked about how the no department/college lines would work. Who would do P&T? Who would evaluate the faculty? Dr. Loftin admitted it is a problem and that he must have buy-in from the department heads and deans.

The next discussion was on on-line education at a reduced cost. The president’s response is that there are 30 MS degrees on line at TAMU but still thinks being on a campus provides a broader education. He admits that in years to come we will carefully grow our on line degrees in concert with other mechanisms. He did not think this was an issue for TAMU at this time since the majority of the students are a traditional 18-22 years old and the number of applicants increase every year. When we see a decline in numbers and increased learning on line with reduced cost, we will go in that direction.

Speaker Stallone then took over further discussed the HSC merger. Dr. Nancy Dickey will move into a Sr. Vice President position. The 5 Deans of the College of Medicine will remain as deans, increasing the number of deans at TAMU by 5.

SACS accreditation will require rework with the merger of the HSC.

Law School is moving more slowly.

Core curriculum revisions: upper division courses are to be part of the core. Problem is the 43 credit hours. The faculty senate voted to eliminate 1 hour of Kinesiology from the core – Coordinating Board is not happy. Expectations of the new core program were to decrease graduation requirements. Degrees >120 hours must drop 1 hour; if <120 hours, must add 1 hour. Right now 25% of TAMU degrees are >120 hours.

Speaker Stallone then had the July 9 minutes approved.

New senators were sworn in and the floor was opened to new business.

Parking Committee: money was collected to increase parking on campus by the building of 2 additional parking garages. Various studies and documentation of where the garages should be located (based on data) were completed. The 2 locations that were identified to be most deficient in parking include Northside Dorms and the Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center. The committee now is receiving pressure to change the sites to include a parking garage and space for RVs by Kyle Field.

The Faculty Senate was asked to speak to their constituents concerning this. So- let me know if you have a strong feeling either way and I will pass it on.

Thanks. Judith M. Ball, Faculty Senate Carcass leader for CVM.