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Kathleen Comerford

Georgia Southern University

Michelle Haberland

Georgia Southern University

Rob Yarbrough

Georgia Southern University

Scott Beck

Georgia Southern University

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"Research university" status

Submitted by Kathleen Comerford

11/6/2013

Question:

Does the University still aspire to status as a research university?

Rationale:

According to CLASS Dean Curtis Ricker at a meeting on 11/5/13, the proposed 5% cuts currently being discussed may result in significant cuts to faculty lines and an increase in class size and teaching load, and will probably put an end to the recently restored educational leave policy. If this is true, the ability of faculty to engage in research will be severely reduced. This will have an impact on every aspect of faculty professional life, and we should discuss tenure and promotion criteria as a result.

SUBMITTED BY:

Michelle Haberland

Robert Yarbrough

Scott Beck

Response:

11/10/2013: The SEC has approved.

Dr. Keel's Response: 11/15/2013: It is not possible to accurately address this RFI without first identifying what is meant by a "research university". Regardless, Georgia Southern needs to continue to increase its research, creative and scholarship activities in order to carry out its developing economic development role in the region as well as our obligation to provide our students with state-of-the-art educational opportunities.

Budget cuts will obviously impact the university and may result in increased teaching loads for some faculty. However, without yet knowing how each college proposes to meet these cuts, it is not possible to comment on what the potential impact these cuts

will have on research, or any other function of the university. Regardless of the need for budget cuts, we will need to strategically analyze areas of research strengths now and in the future and identify means to support these areas.

College Deans, working with their respective chairs and faculty, should assess on an ongoing basis the current teaching loads of faculty to determine if, in cases of reduced load, a proportionate increase in scholarship and/or service has been accomplished. If not, teaching loads will need to be readjusted. This process should be carried out regardless of whether we are undergoing budget cuts or not.

MINUTES: 11/20/2013:

6.4. Research University Status (President Keel)

Robert Costomiris, Senate Moderator and Chair, Senate Executive Committee: The fourth one 6.4 was the research university status. Whether the question, and the question was does the university still aspire to the status of a research university, given, again, given by the budget cuts that we've been asked to make and the President also responded to that on the 15th of November. And again you may read that for yourselves and ask your questions of Dr. Keel after he speaks or if you can hold them that long.

Okay