Committee: Budget and Priority  
Prepared By: Langmeyer  
Date: May 9, 2012

Faculty Members at the Meeting:
Langmeyer, Said, Vamadeva, Gilligan, Hodges  
And from planning, Tillman, Bauer  
And Vice President for Finance, Plummer

Topics Discussed:
The focus of this meeting was an accounting for the building and financing for the Sheakley Athletic Center, a.k.a., “the bubble”. We had received a report from Mr. Ambach and Mr. Plummer that was clear and direct and we appreciate that. As we explored the funding of the Sheakley Athletics Center and the phases of approval and costs and rationale for the practice fields with viewing stands and press box/concession stands we naturally drifted to other issues of planning and funding.

Our concerns start with finding out that about $5 Million to build the viewing stands and press box/clubhouse/coaches viewing area is being “financed” by taking game guarantees from football to pay for these marginally useful facilities. That $5 Million could have reduced the need for increased student fees and general funds to get transferred to Athletics to reduce the size of Athletics’ operating deficits. It would have reduced the size of the “thresholds” by several percentage points.

A more detailed report will be produced but the following reflect the themes of our meeting and the report:

Using other people’s money to pay for marginally valuable activities and capital expenditures. What does it mean when a unit “takes responsibility” for covering costs?

Overly optimistic or delusional planning that burdens resources in the future (debt service, maintenance, operating costs).

Increased use of non-mandatory funds transfers to cover or mask deficits. (athletics, RecCenter) and the consequences on those who do the covering.

Financial restraint for most but not for all.

Reviewing the failure of our monitoring and planning process given some really big boo-boos.

Action Items:  
List item and attach supporting document if action requires such background

Presentation to Faculty Senate, Thursday May 10, 2012

Describe action needed on items above (discussion and input, vote, etc):  
By Whom:
___ By Faculty Senate  
___ By Cabinet  
___ Others (List-)

Next Meeting Date?