Committee members in attendance: David Foster (outgoing chair), Robert D’Amico, Rori Bloom, Whitney Sanford, Michael Martinez, Susan Gillespie. Guest: Uma Sethuram, CLAS Budget Director.

1. Foster called the meeting to order at 4:02 and initiated a round of introductions among the committee members.

2. Foster called for nominations for a new committee chair, as his one-year term was ending and members normally serve only one year as chair. He briefly described the duties of chair and indicated that the chair typically was drawn from among members in their second or third year. Gillespie nominated Martinez as chair, seconded by Bloom. Martinez agreed to serve as chair and was affirmed by acclamation, taking over chair duties from Foster.

3. Sethuram was introduced and handed to each member a one-page overview of the FY 2012 budget for CLAS. Brief remarks were made about it, focusing on the projected shortfall for this fiscal year of $1,650,650.00. This was followed by Q&A among the committee members to clarify what the numbers mean and to discuss the structural issues behind this deficit (projected to be greater for FY 2013) and potential means for covering the projected deficit this year and into the future. There were extended discussions of the benefits and costs of on-line teaching and how auxiliary units are “taxes” for overhead.

4. A summary of issues was articulated at the end of the meeting:
   a. the current deficit this year cannot be covered by attrition or other means, and the deficit will be even greater next year. What are other options?
   b. IDCs are already committed this year and should not be seen as a way to cover the shortfall
   c. the issue of how auxiliary units are “taxed” by RCM needs to be clarified
   d. the issue of how RCM is calibrated for SCH needs to be clarified with suggestions for changing the formulae so as not to overly penalize CLAS
   e. the structural problems of implementing such suggested changes as increasing enrollments, online courses, and MA students need to be laid out and evaluated
   f. should suggested changes to raise revenue or decrease costs be made at the level of the division (social science, natural science, humanities), or the college as a whole?
   g. we need more information on cost/benefit ratios of online courses and online graduate programs. What are examples of how this has successfully been done?

5. The committee suggested a future meeting with the Dean be arranged in order to get his views on these issues.

6. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Gillespie
September 14, 2011