Comments on Academic Center for Excellence
By Priorities and Planning Council

The Priorities and Planning Council discussed the planned professional development center (Academic Center for Excellence) with guests Morey, Nakamura and Gelfand. Highlights of the discussion include the following:

- The Center should replace CELT and coordinate with ORSP.
- The difference between CELT and the new Center is the expansion of supporting personnel and coordination to possibly add areas like advisement, disability, diversity, and dealing with any problem faculty might have. It is not to develop a new layer of bureaucracy or add tasks to the already overworked faculty.
- The role of the Center should be defined as one of mentoring and facilitating faculty ambitions rather than serving in a remediation role.
- The Council feels that a major accomplishment of the proposal would be to help move new faculty toward tenure, and help with retention of faculty.
- There is a need for a nearly full-time Director of the Center with adequate support staff (half-time associate director and a half-time administrative assistant).
- It should be established that the Center reports to the Provost.
- The marketing of the Center to administrators and development personnel was discussed (e.g., looking for existing models of such a center and providing a concise summary of the proposal with a budget at the end to augment the larger more elaborate document.)
- When the library is remodeled, there should be expanded space for the new Center and ORSP should be relocated to be next to it.

Following our extensive discussion of the proposed Center for Academic Excellence, the Council offers the following recommendation:

Given the Institutional goals articulated by the Provost, particularly:
1. Globalizing the Curriculum and
2. Diversifying the faculty and student body:
We see intensified Professional Development to be an institutional priority for which we need to plan. We therefore support the proposal of the task force and recommend that it be fully funded.