The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met in Room A, 18th Floor Patterson Office Tower at 9:30 a.m. on February 21. Keith Gannon called the meeting to order. The following members were in attendance: C. B. Akins, William Britton, Irina Voro, and Barbara Young.

Mr. Gannon distributed the minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting and asked for any corrections or additions. There being no changes, a motion was made by Barbara Young to accept the minutes as distributed and seconded by William Britton. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 1: Candidates for Degrees - Resolution requesting authorization for the President to confer upon each individual listed the degree to which he or she is entitled, upon certification by the university registrar that the individual has satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree which application has been made and as approved by the elected faculty of the University Senate and the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. The individuals completed the work leading toward the degrees for which application was made at the close of the 2011 Fall Semester. Due to administrative errors their names were not previously submitted. A motion was made by William Britton to approve the recommendation and seconded by Barbara Young. The motion was unanimously approved.

After many discussions last fall, Mr. Gannon developed a list of relevant topics important to Board members. The Academic Affairs Committee is the forum in which these items will be discussed. Since the list was presented in the general order of perceived priority, he requested that for future meetings we continue the informational updates as previously requested.

Provost Subbaswamy thanked Mr. Gannon for the opportunity to present scholarship and recruitment information to the committee. He stated that over the last two decades enrollment management has evolved into a science. Through the use of predictive analytics and recently implemented software, we too have moved in this direction. The University of Kentucky operates with five year overarching goals and each year we evaluate and then adjust our goals.

Attracting the best academically prepared students is very competitive. The University of Kentucky uses holistic admissions. Our admissions staff looks at every application, not just the ACT score or high school grade point average. Provost Subbaswamy distributed information on first year student enrollment from Fall 2006 through Fall 2011, financial assistance programs including scholarship and grant & loan information, and academic scholarship comparisons.
Provost Subbaswamy introduced Steven Barnett, Student Services Director and Jolynn Noe, Financial Aid Associate Director. Mr. Barnett stated that UK’s first priority is to maintain our place as the number one choice for Kentucky students to attain a higher education degree. Our recruitment office visits every Kentucky high school during the fall semester and many others in targeted areas. In addition, they attend a variety of college fairs throughout the state, county and region. Between August 2011 and December 2011 they attended over 600 recruitment events. Twelve Preview Nights are held throughout Kentucky so we can take all of our colleges and many other departments and programs from around campus to students in the state. Many students are invited to on-campus events, either for a specific program or for group tours through the Visitor Center.

Dr. Heidi Anderson, Interim Vice President for Research, Planning, and Effectiveness gave a brief overview of the University of Kentucky’s Program Review Process. SACS requires that “The institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation processes that (1) incorporate a systematic review of institutional missions, goals and outcomes; (2) result in continuing improvement in institutional quality; and (3) demonstrate the institution is effectively accomplishing its mission. The University’s policy governing the review of educational and administrative units is documented in GR IX and AR 1:4.

The periodic review of a unit provides an opportunity for a group of colleagues and the Provost to evaluate the unit’s current condition, progress toward unit and university goals, and future direction. Each unit is expected to have a planning process that includes annual evaluations that lead to continuous improvements. The broad-based periodic review, conducted normally about every six years, invites a look at the unit’s role in achievement of the university’s strategic plan and its overall effectiveness.

Mr. Gannon thanked everyone for their impressive presentations and for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Gannon
Academic Affairs Committee