Strategic Planning Committee
Minutes

March 2, 2006
161 Belk Building
3:00 p.m.

Present: Jim DeConinck, Sharon Jacques, Newt Smith, Melissa Wargo, AJ Grube, Duane Dunlap, Kyle Carter, Raymond Barclay, Bill Haggard, Beth Lofquist, Jeanine Newman

I. Discussion of Feedback

The committee reviewed feedback from individuals on campus. As a result of the discussion, the vision statement and the mission statement were revised to read as follows:

Vision Statement

Western Carolina University will be a national model for student learning and engagement that supports regional development through its academic programs, public service and scholarship.

Mission Statement

Western Carolina University is a premier regional comprehensive university with nationally and internationally recognized faculty dedicated to student learning. A constituent member of the University of North Carolina, the university offers courses in the arts, sciences, technologies, humanities, and professions through degree programs at the bachelor’s, master’s, education specialist and doctoral levels. Western offers the advantages of a large university while maintaining its small college atmosphere. The university’s teacher-scholar model creates engaged learning opportunities that incorporate research and service through residential experiences and distance education options. Western Carolina University is uniquely positioned to focus its educational programs, research and creative activities, and cultural opportunities toward improving individual lives and enhancing economic and community development in the region, state and nation.

In addition, a section entitled “Guiding Principles” was added to the document. It reads as follows:

Western Carolina University’s Strategic Planning Committee has undertaken the charge of developing a mission, vision and set of strategic directions that are guided by the university’s commitment to:

• Accountable and open processes that are participatory and inclusive of voices from all stakeholder populations.

• Excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service with a special emphasis on the development of interdisciplinary, applied and experiential learning programs.

• Diversity and the facilitation of a global understanding that becomes manifest in proactive faculty, staff, and student recruitment and retention, academic and co-curricular planning.
• An understanding that the futures of the University and the region are intimately bound together in a reality that necessitates a proactive approach to partnering with the public and private sectors to address the intellectual, social, cultural and workforce needs of our communities.

• The importance of developing effective and accountable administrative structures that improve communication, integrate facilities and academic planning, align budgets with strategic priorities, and enhance the use of technology and information management.

II. AJ will attend the March Faculty Senate meeting to get the Senate’s input on the revised document.

III. The committee agreed not to schedule its next meeting at this time. AJ will communicate the Faculty Senate’s feedback to the committee via e-mail. If needed, the committee will reconvene.