President’s report to the Senate

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Interim President

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Let me share a few thoughts with the senate, noting that some of this material will be included and perhaps extended at the Open Campus Meeting on January 13. I apologize for not being able to attend the meeting today in person, as Dr. Crafton and I are attending a meeting of the Board of Regents.

* Happy New Year—while the cold has been a bit of a challenge to all of us, we hope that you have had a chance to rest during the winter holidays, and start back to our shared efforts to support learning for our students, faculty and staff, as well as for our community
* Kick off announcements will be made in the next week to ten days inviting campus participation in strategic planning, strategic enrollment management, branding and assessment of current communications, facilities master planning. For these to be successful, we will need campus participation, and thus the assistance of the Senate (together with the staff and administrative councils, as well as the SGA) will be quite important.
* Materials shared with other universities this month to highlight some key elements of our university. More will be done in this regard as our branding, marketing, and communication continue to be developed.
* Budget Planning for FY 2011—we will be posting to the web site some additional budget information needed to building the 2011 budget—outside of tuition revenue opportunities, the funds from state budget allocation may prove challenging (more than a 13% decline in state revenues to date, even as the December drop was significantly lower than the reductions in revenues from the previous two months)
* Thanks for all you do, as well as thanks in advance for your participation in shared efforts to chart future directions for Clayton State University.
* There was a valuable commentary by Augustana College(Ill) President Steven C. Bahls found in the January 15, 2010 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education He remarks that in this incredible difficult economic time, we need now more than ever to be engaged in the work of the university. “We are not bringing the opinion of professional contrarians into the fold; we are bringing our best minds and strongest resources to bear in our decision making during the most challenging time for higher education since World War II.” We look forward to meeting these challenges in the coming months with the presumption of collaboration which many of us have found so valuable.