October 8, 2009

Report by the Speaker of the Faculty Senate

The Senate met in executive session on October 7, 2009, to discuss the interim report of the Faculty Merger Review Committee (FMRC), August 28, 2009, and the final report of the Subcommittee on Academic Matters (SAM), September 7, 2009. Minutes are not maintained of executive sessions. FMRC, chaired by Professor Don Morrison, was formed through a Rice faculty resolution approved by faculty-wide vote in spring 2009. FMRC consists entirely of Rice faculty. An FMRC subcommittee, chaired by Professor John Boles, established under the previous Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) process, provided a report on Rice-BCM collaborative opportunities. SAM is a subcommittee of the Rice – BCM Steering Committee, established by the Presidents of the two institutions. SAM consists of both Rice and BCM members, with Rice and BCM co-chairs. The SAM report incorporates reports from its Research and Education subcommittees.

The Senate heard presentations by one Rice member each of SAM, its Research subcommittee, its Education subcommittee, and the Boles (collaboration) subcommittee of FMRC. The Senate expresses its appreciation to the presenters. The Senate had access to the FMRC interim report, the Boles subcommittee report, and SAM report (including its two subcommittee reports). The Senate then had a general discussion of the reports.

The Senate adopted three resolutions:

1. The Senate expresses its thanks to all members of the FMRC for their efforts to date. The Senate is particularly grateful to Professor Donald Morrison for chairing the FMRC. The Senate also expresses its thanks to all other Rice community individuals who participated in various merger study committees / subcommittees.
2. The Senate accepts the findings of the FMRC interim report of August 2009.
3. The Senate resolves to publish the FMRC interim report of August 2009, removing it from confidential status (excluding one or more appendices, which contain confidential material).

The Senate then asked the FMRC to undertake certain additional inquiries and report further.

In accordance with the third resolution adopted by the Senate, the Speaker is providing on the Senate website public access to the FMRC interim report of August 28, 2009. The SAM report (including its two subcommittee reports) and the Boles subcommittee report will also be provided at the Senate website for convenience of public access.