The membership of the committee was as follows:

Edward Ayers, President, Chair  
Steve Bisese, Vice President for Student Development, ex officio  
Joanne Ciulla- School of Leadership Studies  
Beth Crawford - Psychology  
Jim Davis - Mathematics  
John Douglass, Acting Dean, Law School, ex officio  
Allison DuVal, student  
Della Fenster - Mathematics  
Jorge Haddock, Dean, Business School, ex officio  
Jeffrey Hanna, student  
Azizah al-Hibri - Law  
Joe Kent, Interim Provost, ex officio  
Craig Kinsley - Psychology  
Carol Lancaster - Business  
Kathy Monday, Vice President for Information Services, ex officio  
James Narduzzi, Dean, School of Continuing Studies, ex officio  
Rick Neal, Boatwright Library  
Andy Newcomb, Dean, School of Arts & Sciences, ex officio  
Sandra Peart, Dean, School of Leadership Studies, ex officio  
Herb Peterson, Vice President for Business and Finance/Treasurer, ex officio  
Jenni Sauer, Controller, ex officio  
Lori Schuyler, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, ex officio  
Betsy Curtler, Associate Vice President, Foundation, Corporate and Government Relations, ex officio

The Planning and Priorities Committee met three times during the fall semester of the 2007-08 academic year. The regular work of the committee included a review and discussion of the University's budget and the receipt of a report of the Subcommittee on Program Improvements, chaired by Dr. Lancaster.

The committee voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees an overall increase for undergraduate tuition, room and board of 5 percent. That figure is constituted by a 3.3 percent increase in tuition and a 13.9 percent increase in room and board (or $450 for room and $550 for board). The committee also recommended to the Board a 5 percent increase in tuition for the law school. The rate increases offset inflation, rising utility costs, benefits costs, library needs, and certain program improvements and also provide funds for financial aid.

In addition, the committee voted in support of a 4% increase to the compensation pool to be distributed in salary increases to staff and faculty based on merit.
Dr. Lancaster presented the Program Improvements report to the committee. The subcommittee received a total of $4,175,240 in program improvement requests including requests for $688,951 in one-time program improvements and requests for $3,486,289 in continuing program improvements. The budget for continuing support beginning in fiscal year 2008-09 was $500,000 and the budget for one-time improvements was $450,000. Based on the merits of the proposals before the committee, the Program Improvements Committee recommended to the president that he support a slate of recommended expenditures in the amount of $450,000 for one-time projects, and $634,557 for continuing program improvements. Among the programs approved were renovations in two law school classrooms, the creation of two new faculty lines (one in the Robins School and one in Arts & Sciences), as well as six new staff positions (in Law School Admissions, Student Development, the Center for Civic Engagement, and Information Services).

Based on the committee’s thorough review and evaluation, which included careful assessment to determine which requests might be postponed, funded through other means, or funded at reduced amounts, the President supported the recommendations of the Program Improvements committee for both the one-time programs and the continuing program improvements.

Thanks are extended to Beth Crawford, Jim Davis, Craig Kinsley who rotate off the committee this year and to Allison DuVal who graduates in May, for their time, talents and service to the Planning and Priorities Committee.

4-8-08