

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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February 29, 2012

Members Present: J. Constable, P. Newell, J. Parks, A. Parham, D. Nef, R. Sanchez

Members Absent:

Visitors: Dean R. Harper, Sal Rana

The meeting was called to order by Chair Constable at 3:34 p.m. in Thomas 117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2012.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda with the following modifications (i) to move agenda item 5 to the item 3 position to make the most of Dean Harper's time; and (ii) to add an agenda item 6 to continue a discussion of the Committee's meeting with President Welty.
3. Discussion of the Online MBA program with Dean R. Harper and Sal Rana

Concern was raised in that the potential costs to the library had not been appropriately accounted for as it would be necessary to provide the same resources to online students as face-to-face students. It was noted that there was a 15% General Fund reimbursement that could cover unanticipated library costs, however, actual library costs were uncertain. It was requested that a memo be obtained from the library indicating that implementation of the program would result in no additional costs to the Library.

A question was asked regarding the willingness of Craig School faculty to teach in a special program that offered a lower compensation rate than the normal instructional duties. Currently, the Craig School offers two other special programs (The Accelerated Bachelors program and the Executive MBA program) and there is no shortage of faculty willing to teach these programs. In fact care is taken by faculty to ensure that additional compensation for additional compensated activities remains below the 25% of salary as mandated.

Uncertainty was raised concerning the potential for the proposed online MBA program to reduce enrollment in either the Executive MBA or the face-to-face MBA programs. As the online MBA audience is individuals with limited management experience, while the Executive MBA targets individuals with management

experience the two programs are not expected to compete for students. Additionally, the online MBA has a greater cost than the face-to-face program again suggesting limited potential for movement of students between programs.

MSC to write a memo to Dean R. Harper indicating that following the receipt of a memo from the Dean of the Library indicating that there will be no additional costs to the library associated with the formation of the online MBA program the program will be recommended for approval.

4. Communications and Announcements

Chair Constable will be making a budget presentation to the faculty Senate on March 5. The presentation will address the basics of the University budget and the budget model.

Chair Constable will continue to seek to arrange a time with Dr. O. Benavides to discuss the operation of the Cal State On-Line program.

5. New Business

The Committee was informed by Chair Constable of the creation of a multi-committee (University Budget Committee; the Graduate Committee chaired by Dr. M. Wilson, and the Academic Policy and Planning Committee chaired by Dr. J. Mullooly) by Dr. M. Caldwell to examine the implementation of the budget task force recommendations using the existing consultative structure of the senate. Additional duties of the three committees centered on the examination of Level A and Level B funding coupled with discussion of long-range changes in University structure to minimize costs.

Chair Constable will collate the responses from the Deans regarding potential budget model inputs and forward the responses to the other members of the Committee.

6. The Committee returned to the discussion of the budget matters introduced by President Welty.

Discussion centered on the broader matter of the reduction in the University budget and the limited familiarity of the situation by UBC members. Further discussion addressed the perceived breakdown of effective two-way communication of the budget situation between the administration and the faculty.

MSC for Chair Constable to write a memo to the President indicating that our limited knowledge of the exact details of the current budget limited our ability to propose meaningful options since the UBC meeting of 22 February.

However, the Committee supports efforts by both administration and faculty to enhance information flow and strengthen their working relationship.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

Agenda for Wednesday 7 March

1. Approval of minutes of 29 February 2012.
2. Approval of agenda for 7 March 2012.
3. Communications and Announcements.
 Report on the meeting with Drs. Marilyn Wilson and James Mullooly.
4. New Business.
5. Discussion of the Dean's responses to the request from the UBC for information about their budgeting process.