

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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Office of the Academic Senate  
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November 9, 2011

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

Members Absent:

Visitors: W. Covino

The meeting was called to order by Chair Constable at 3:32 p.m. in Thomas 117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of November 2, 2011.

2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.

3. Communications and Announcements.

None.

4. New Business

None presented to the Committee.

Meeting structure was re-ordered to maximize time with Provost Covino

5. Discussion with Provost Covino regarding the report from the AABATF

- Conversation with Provost Covino initiated with a quick discussion of the AABATF report, and specifically the time line for closing the \$2 M budget shortfall identified – the budget shortfall must be closed by 1 July 2012. Subsequently, the discussion rapidly centered on the current budget model and the fact that changes in University funding results in a model that responds slowly to the rapidly fluctuating budget situation. It appears that as the needs of the University have changed since the development of the first budget model require changes and potentially the development of a new budget model.
- Discussion regarding the utility of the current budget model in the present financial situation suggest a more accurate result of the change in college re-organization could be estimated by running the model with the new college structure, however, because the model uses historical funding patterns that are unavailable for the new college structure, model results would be meaningless.

- Concerns regarding the current model identified by Provost Covino include (i) its inability to handle “down” budgets; (ii) it does not create incentives within or among colleges/schools to be efficient in resource use; (iii) there is a limited mechanism for the Provost to give funds to specific colleges/schools without upsetting the funding for the next academic year; (iv) currently colleges/schools simply get a block of funds to meet a pre-determined FTES; and (v) the model cannot be used as a planning tool by the Deans.

It was noted that the model used to have a rapid response aspect (the delta factor) that would allow funds to be allocated on an “as needed” basis by the Provost. This aspect generated considerable discussion and the incorporation of a similar mechanism would be an asset in a future model.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda for Wednesday 30 November 2011

1. Approval of minutes of 9 November 2011.
2. Approval of agenda for 30 November 2011.
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. New Business.
5. Discussion of budget model alternatives.