

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET
Meeting of February 4, 2010

Present: Chair Brent Haddad, JJ Garcia-Luna, Gildas Hamel, Lori Kletzer, Piero Madau, Marc Mangel, Cindy Pease-Alvarez, Warren Sack, Gene Switkes, Rob Wilson, GSA Rep Kevin Shlaufman, and Mary-Beth Harhen

Absent: SUA Reps Jennifer De La Torre and Jerroyd Moore

Guests: Humanities Dean Georges Van Den Abbeele

Member's Items

Senate Chair Kletzer reported that some principal officers have requested a copy of CPB's recommendation for their unit. CPB determined that due to the lack of time, the committee would prefer to schedule consultations with the principal officers of administrative support units after the budget submission are complete.

CPB member Hamel reported that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) is putting together a report as the basis for a Senate discussion of the Narrative Evaluation System at the next senate meeting.

Unit Reviews – Graduate Division and Office of Research

The committee discussed the additional materials made available to CPB. The CPB Office of Research lead will draft a letter with CPB's questions. CPB does not have any additional questions for the Graduate Division.

Unit Reviews – Business and Administrative Services

CPB discussed the Business and Administrative Services (BAS) budget reduction submission. The unit leads with draft a letter with CPB's questions, and request a unit organizational chart.

Unit Reviews – Student Affairs

The Student Affairs unit lead provided an overview of the budget reduction submission. CPB developed a number of questions for the unit. The unit review leader will draft a letter and circulate it to the committee for review.

Pre Consultation and Unit Review – Humanities Task Force on Reconstitution Report

CPB would like to ask the dean about his next steps. CPB noted the report does not seem actionable. Almost all the proposals will take years to implement. CPB is curious about which division/departments produce the most degrees for the least amount of money. It seems to CPB that Humanities has been optimized to produce classes and degrees for a small amount of money. CPB would like to query the dean about the cost of an undergraduate degree, and how many degrees the division produces.

CPB discussed the task force recommendations seem to do counter the dean's stated intention to stabilize the Language program and the committee expressed concerned about the intellectual justification of the proposal. Overall the committee feels the report, if implemented, extends beyond Humanities, has effects on the curriculum of other divisions and can't be implemented alone. CPB then developed a set of questions for the dean including: How many FTE would the dean need to stabilize languages and maintain the current portfolio? And what is the dean considering for languages? What is the dean's opinion of the proposal for consolidations across departments and divisions? What are the complexities involved with moving the writing program into the colleges? Would the dean want that?

Consultation with Dean Van Den Abbeele

CPB began by asking the dean about stabilizing the Language Program. Dean Van Dean Abbeele stated that with the current budget shortfall languages is the only thing with liquidity left in the division. Writing is somewhat guaranteed because of requirements, but in languages lecturers can be laid off since there is no curricular mandate. The dean went on to say if languages has to be cut one could choose to cut depth or breadth. The dean feels it is crucial to move to a place where language instruction is stabilized by involvement of ladder rank faculty and a strong curriculum. The dean would like to move some of the languages program to a vertical curriculum, which there are resources for. The dean has asked a group to consider the idea and used Spanish becoming a major as an example.

CPB asked the dean about reconstituting smaller programs. Dean Van Dean Abbeele would like to maintain degree programs. The dean said there is an inequity problem in the division about access to graduate students for faculty. There is also the issue of FTE return due to the budget cuts, but there may be enough faculty retirements that some of the FTE will go back to the small departments. The dean said the question is how to rebalance in a way that makes more sense. The big threat is if no positions can be returned, there already have been catastrophic FTE losses in certain departments. Dean Van Dean Abbeele also said there needs to be complete understanding that this is not a disestablishment of units or mergers. There may be staffing changes, including creating a staffing center. The division has to maintain degree programs, but department affiliations may not remain the same.

Dean Van Dean Abbeele said the Writing Program is currently a hybrid, often lecturers are getting paid differently in the unit for teaching the same class. There has been discussion with the VPDUE about creating an administrative umbrella for stable funding. The real issue is that the Writing Program should be housed in one place since it is a unique service unit to the campus.

Finally CPB asked the dean about consolidations. Dean Van Dean Abbeele said the campus already essentially has a college of letters and sciences, and should acknowledge it. The acknowledgement would significantly change the professional school discussion. The dean also said that while you could eliminate division deans, assistant deans would not be eliminated in the consolidation of divisions.