

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET
Meeting of February 16, 2012

Present: Lynn Westerkamp, *Chair*, Robert Boltje, Andy Szasz, Daniel Friedman, Susan Gillman, David Draper, Patty Gallagher, David Helmbold, Sriram Shastry, Deanna Shemek, Jessica Greenstreet, SUA, Valerie Poyner, GSA, Matthew Mednick, Committee Analyst, Mary-Beth Harhen, Senate Director

Absent: Joe Konopelski

Guests: (none)

1. Members Items

Minutes of February 2, 2012 were approved as written.

CPB Chair Westerkamp reported on a meeting of Principal Officers at which the EVC laid out scenarios for possible campus budget cuts ranging from \$4.5M to \$18M. The scenarios took into account various assumptions such as tuition increases, UCRS contribution from the state, Rebenching and the state tax initiative.

SUA representative Greenstreet reported on the results of the student elections. SUA met with the Chair of the Student Fee Advisory Committee, who has interest in miscellaneous course fees which have been previously discussed at CPB.

Senate Chair Gillman reported that the Academic Assembly voted to conduct a system wide ballot on a Memorial to the Regents urging them to advocate for increased state revenues for UC.

2. Recruitment Requests

CPB reviewed the divisional requests for faculty recruitment authorizations in order to prepare for consultations with each of the divisional deans. In addition to questions specific to each division, CPB identified some overarching issues raised by the requests; the variability of decanal consultation with department faculty; if the current salary upgrade formula still works given the current financial climate; differential ability of divisions to meet the central matching threshold for start up and prioritization of requests should next year's budget include substantial cuts.

3. Review of UC Observatories

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the External Review Report of UCO Lick, responses to the report from UCORP, UCPB, CCGA, Academic Council Officers, and the UCSC administration. CPB also reviewed documents that were referenced in the External Review Report responses: the UC Astronomy Task Force Report (2011), UCOP Preliminary Summary of the External Review of UCO (with appendices), and the UCO Self Study (2011). CPB notes that the responses are universally positive. It is evident that the MRU structure

works well for UCO and reviewers and responders want the MRU to continue. CPB focused its review on three areas; governance, faculty and facilities.

CPB concurs with recommendations to enhance the UCO Advisory Board and create a governing board for UCO. The UCO organization is very complex, and a board that works on broad strategic planning could be beneficial. But CPB cautions against changing the authority of the UCO Director since under the current model, UCO has achieved excellence. CPB noted that all the Professor Astronomers are funded primarily by UCO and are on the UCSC campus; and they are dedicated primarily to facility and instrumentation maintenance and development and to research that benefits the whole MRU. Since this was organized decades ago, it may be time to re-evaluate the funding model. If the funding for these positions is to be reduced, it should be phased in gradually since UCSC (like many campuses) would not be readily able to absorb the total cost of these salaries. CPB noted that in the survey, the Mt Hamilton Observatory did not appear to currently be an important research facility. A case could be made to shift MRU funding to higher priorities like the Thirty Meter Telescope.

4. Sub-committee Check in

Due to lack of time, this agenda item was not addressed.

5. FTE Transfers – Social Sciences

CPB reviewed two transfer requests initiated by the Dean of Social Sciences and deferred recommendations until the negotiation of MOUs between the faculty concerned and the Dean were finalized.