Present: Carl Walsh (Chair), Ólóf Einarsdóttir (ex officio), Kimberly Lau (ex officio), Doug Bonett, Matthew Clapham, Cormac Flanagan, Jonathan Kahana, Tracy Larrabee, Nirvikar Singh, Maxine Jimenez (Undergrad Rep), Matthew Mednick (Senate Director), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Elizabeth Abrams, Jie Qing, Dan Oliver (Graduate Rep).

Members Items
Senate Chair Einarsdóttir provided an update on the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting of November 14, 2017. She reported on topics of discussion, which included a consultation with Vice Chancellor of Business and Administrative Services Latham.

Members were reminded that the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) forum takes place today, which will provide an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the process.

Mid-Cycle Report: Mathematics
With member Qing recused, the committee reviewed the mid-cycle report for the Mathematics departments and discussed committee recommendation on length of external review cycle. The committee concurred with the VPAA recommended cycle of six years, although it also noted that a six year cycle would not be ideal if the VPAA lead summit for the mathematical sciences and assessment of student satisfaction in online and face to face calculus courses moves forward as planned this year. In that case, CPB would be comfortable with a seven or eight year review cycle to allow for implementation of changes resulting from the summit and planned data collection on the effectiveness of online and face to face math courses to occur before initiating the next review cycle.

CPB additionally noted that it would request that moving forward, the VPAA provide brief justification for recommendations on the length of review cycles for all external reviews in the transmittal letters for future mid-cycle reports, as this would inform the Senate’s deliberations.

Consultation: Social Sciences Dean
The consultation was cancelled.

Mid-Cycle Report: Electrical Engineering
The committee reviewed the mid-cycle report for the Electrical Engineering Department. Noting recent significant changes in the department since the last review (new faculty, changes to undergraduate curriculum), the committee concurred with the VPAA’s recommendation for an eight year review cycle, which will enable the next review to better evaluate the effectiveness of recent changes and not overlap with the ongoing BSOE reshaping project.

Proposal to Establish M.S. in Science Communication
The committee reviewed the proposal to establish an M.S. degree in Science Communication. The program is intended to replace the current Science Communication Graduate Academic Certificate. Members praised the current certificate program for its high quality, noting that the Science Communication Director and PBSci Dean deserve considerable credit for nurturing this nationally regarded program. Members had very few additional questions, but did discuss whether the program might be appropriate as a self-supporting (SSGPDP) or professional degree supplemental tuition (PDST) program.
Three Year (Interim) Report: Sustainability Minor
CPB reviewed the interim report on Rachel Carson College’s Sustainability Studies Minor. Members noted that the minor has attracted a significant number of students, and the curriculum has been revised to deal with some problems that were identified after the minor was first launched. CPB focused on the resources necessary to support the minor and its potential growth. Members shared VPDUE Hughey’s concerns that the potential popularity of the program may stretch its financial resources, and recommended that when the minor is next reviewed, it will be important to assess the balance between enrollments and the financial resources available for the program.

Faculty FTE Summaries
The committee briefly discussed the faculty recruitment report and faculty resources presentation, provided annually by Vice Chancellor for Planning and Budget Delaney. VCPB Delaney provided these materials, on which she plans to consult with the committee (during winter quarter).

2018-19 FTE Call
Members reviewed the CP/EVC’s 2018-19 FTE call and discussed the content of the call and timeline for committee review of faculty FTE recruitment requests during winter quarter.

Assessing Rebenching
Members engaged in a discussion about possible campus assessment of the rebenching process.

Planning: November 30 Meeting
The committee briefly discussed planned items for its next meeting.