

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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Office of the Academic Senate
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September 26, 2012

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

Members Absent: D. Bukofzer (excused), R. Maldonado (excused)

Visitors: Jim Schmidke

The meeting was called to order by Chair Constable at 3:36 p.m. in Thomas 117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the minutes of 12 September 2012 with the removal of a typographical error.

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

3. Communications and Announcements

A. Parham questioned the ability of a program to close enrollment for the 2012-2013 academic year. It was noted by D. Nef that a program could close enrollment, but only if it affected all applicants, a program is not permitted to close enrollment to a particular subset of applicants.

Chair Constable noted that the future (starting 2013-2014) intent to charge Schools and Colleges for parking during special events (e.g., musical performances, plays, rodeo events, etc.) had been raised during conversations with other faculty. It was requested to assess the history of this policy.

D. Nef sent out a series of spreadsheets illustrating (i) the distribution of class sections among the 27 different course CS# in each of the Schools and Colleges; and (ii) the section enrollment patterns for each CS# course.

4. New Business
None.

5. Discussion of the budget model.

Discussion regarding the budget model centered on the concept of developing enrollment limits for courses, both high and low, that would be linked to the course's CS# and course funding through the model. The intent of the low enrollment limit is to permit courses of a given CS# to operate at an enrollment less than maximum enrollment and still be fully funded. The rationale for this

change being that many courses do not reach maximum enrollment but still have sufficient enrollment to warrant complete funding to support student advancement through their programs. However, should course enrollment fall below this minimal enrollment level, the course would receive no funding through the model. This situation would encourage close examination of lower enrollment courses to ensure adequate enrollment to receive funding. The intent of the high enrollment limit is to allow a course to exceed its maximal enrollment by a specific amount and receive additional funds through the model to support these additional students. The rational being that should a course be able to accept additional students with a minimal impact on the mode of instruction then the course should receive additional funding. However, should enrollment be too high, the learning environment may be compromised and excessive enrollment will penalized with a reduction in funding.

The net effect of imposing low limits will allow an undersubscribed course to fully operate as long as it is not egregiously below its designated full enrollment capacity as designated by its CS#. The net effect of imposing high limits is to encourage courses to be just oversubscribed to maximize the ability of the University to meet the course demands of the students.

The discussion addressed several implications of course enrollment limits and mechanisms to both encourage positive enrollment management and dissuade negative enrollment management. Also discussed were current allowable enrollment as determined by course CS# and the fact that some courses employing different CS# are likely taught similarly; and mechanisms to create different course limits in graduate and undergraduate courses although they may employ an identical CS# mode of instruction.

A brief, but potentially significant, aspect of the discussion addressed the growing role of online courses and the appropriate mechanism to fund online courses through the budget model.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05p.m.

Agenda for Wednesday 3 October 2012:

1. Approval of minutes of 26 September 2012.
2. Approval of agenda for 3 October 2012.
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. New Business.
5. Continued discussion on the budget model details including Schools with highly divergent course costs and online programs.