

Fiscal Policies Committee
Discussion on Recommendations for Provost Neuman
1/15/10 1pm
BTW 1188 - Dean's Conference Room

Fiscal Policies Committee:	Nian-Sheng Huang	Priscilla Liang
	Jesse Elliott (not present)	Claudio Paiva
	Liz King (co-chair)	
	Kaia Tollefson	
	Kristen LaBonte (co-chair)	

Also Invited:	Renny Christopher (not present)
	Judi Le
	Kris Muller

MINUTES

1. Approve minutes from 12/08/09.
 - a. Approved unanimously

2. Indirect cost recovery and faculty equipment allocations
 - a. We are in full support of this and need to meet again to further discuss. Kaia will ask Senate Exec. if we can review requests or if we need to change to our charge.

3. Draft Recommendations to Provost Neuman
 - a. Follows

To: Dawn Neuman, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Fiscal Policies Committee—Elliott, Jesse; Huang, Nian-Sheng; King, Liz (co-chair); LaBonte, Kristen (co-chair); Liang, Priscilla; Paiva, Claudio; Tollefson, Kaia

Subject: Comments and Recommendations on the Budget

Date: 15 Jan. 2010

Due to our current budget situation and the many uncertainties that we must face, the committee deemed it useful to submit to you a list of preliminary comments and recommendations based on the university mission statement and the 2007 WASC Institutional Effectiveness Report. Section III of the Report (Major Findings and Recommendations) was of particular relevance which stated—

1. Support for and role of centers on campus.
2. Sustainability of faculty energy and participation.
3. Sustainability of campus values and mission.
4. Protection of campus spirit of innovation and experimentation.

Members of the Fiscal Policies Committee note their appreciation for the hard work, procedural transparency, and considerable accomplishments achieved by administration in these very difficult budgetary times.

Our comments and recommendations focus on three areas—(1) What to protect, (2) How to improve efficiencies, and (3) How to explore potential opportunities.

(1) What to protect

In the present environment of budgetary constraint, Academic Affairs should protect funding for class instructions, for faculty development and research, for university building and continued innovation.

-- Priorities should be serving students and their instructional need in small class sizes.

-- Priorities should also include activities and structures that preserve the essence of CSUCI. Among those discussed by the committee are faculty development and research fund, the mission centers (keeping in line with the recommendation of center directors), UNIV 498 and the library.

-- Attention should be given the strengthening of currently existing programs. Last year there was a push back of not-yet-existing programs which should continue, i.e., no implementation of new programs until the budget situation changes.

-- Tenure-track faculty lines (even though the money may have been spent) should be preserved and should be filled as soon as any new budget would allow.

-- When the current budget crisis ends, programs should be able to roll-over and continue to use prior year's funds, which allows for long-term fiscal planning at the program level and increases overall efficiency.

--The FPC should review the Fund Balance Policy and year-end program budget reports.

-- The FPC recognizes the difficulty in creating a general fund allocation for books during the current budget crisis, and recommends continued support from a variety of funding sources for the library's book budget.

(2) How to improve efficiencies

Savings, reducing inefficiencies, and cutting down waste are equally important. Finding areas to reduce both visible and invisible inefficiencies can help in no small ways building a sustainable working environment.

-- The campus should continue to explore joint faculty appointments across disciplines.

-- Encourage car/van pool programs across the university. Not only do they contribute to the goals of building a green campus, but they allow faculty to work during travel to and from campus.

(3) How to explore potential opportunities

The committee agrees that finding alternative revenues for Academic Affairs is more important than ever. We should focus more on how to raise new funds than on where to cut budgets.

--We have a special share of the local market in that we are the only public four-year institution in this area. We should present ourselves as a part of the community (e.g. get CSUCI performing arts out in the community and continue to present our campus with the community through the CSUCI art gallery and programs such as presenting Muhammad Yunus in Thousand Oaks)

--As our campus is granted Hispanic-Serving Institution designation, we should be aggressively seeking funding opportunities to support leadership and other programs in Ventura County. We should continue and intensify, if necessary, local outreach with middle school students, particularly in schools serving under-represented populations.

-- We support summer school programs which bring CERF funds to campus and assist students to finish their degrees on time.

-- We should continue to pursue opportunities for endowed chairs and other kinds of endowments, ensuring that donors support the CSUCI mission and administrators.

-- We should coordinate efforts to attract and recruit international students (e.g. College prep, summer school, and degree programs).

--Perform a cost/benefit analysis on the following:

- a. Expand Extended Education programs
- b. Explore revenue increases on operations
- c. Increase international student recruitment, especially in the summer. We could offer something like a three month course with a certificate, college prep, and enrichment program.
- d. Focused scholarship fundraising efforts specifically for Bangladeshi students, building on our connection with the Grameen Foundation
- e. Hosting visitor scholars/professors who are funded by other institutions
- f. Explore fundraising for campus tied in with Yunus' new relationship with us

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The above comments and recommendations were made insofar as the budget situation was presented to the committee, which may revise and update them when needed.