CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY EAST BAY

Committee on Budget and Resource Allocation (COBRA)

Approved Minutes of meeting December 2, 2005

**Members Present:** Sam Basu, Dana Edwards, Kris Erway, Karina Garbesi, Armando Gonzales, Bonnie Ho, Jose Lopez, Nancy Mangold, Sue Opp

**Members Absent:** James Forsher, Saeid Motavalli

**Guests Present:** Bob Brauer, Bill Dinehart, Myoung-ja Lee Kwon, Sonjia Redmond, Norma Rees, Don Sawyer, David Travis

1. **Approval of Agenda**
   Agenda modified to indicate that Sonjia Redmond, VP Student Affairs, will be making a report about her division today, not Jim Kelly and Bob Burt. Dr. Redmond’s report was moved to number 3 on the agenda.

2. **Approval of Minutes (e-mailed by Motavalli previously)**
   Minutes amended to read at 10th comment by Opp: We should use caution in bringing in new hires to make sure we have adequate support we can offer them when they come here.
   M/S/A (Basu/Opp) as amended.

3. **Report from VP Student Affairs Redmond.**
   Dr. Redmond discussed the Office of Student Affairs brochure which is issued every 2 years. She indicated that a focus on their core values, made possible by having a strong Strategic Plan, has enabled them to deal with budget cuts. The needs of students continue to increase despite a nearly 25% budget cut in Student Affairs. Student Affairs has been reduced more (in % of budget) than other units. These cuts have caused added stress on staff, have resulted in long wait lists for students to get services, and have had other negative effects. Some budget items, such as aspects of SDRC and the Police Department, are Federal and/or State mandated services and thus may not be cut.
   Garbesi asked how costs have changed in Student Affairs over time. David Travis said he will provide information about these changes over time, and will include such things as payroll/benefits changes and unfunded mandates.
   Basu asked how our situation compares to other CSU campuses. Redmond indicated that we are in particularly bad shape because our enrollment is low.
   Rees indicated that campuses with enrollment growth get more money every year plus have more budgetary flexibility to deal with unfunded mandates. Thus, comparisons to other Universities may not be useful because they have different circumstances.
   Redmond discussed budget requests within the Student Affairs units. She indicated that Student Affairs has tried to be more efficient in how they use their
money, including such things as collaborating more with Academic Affairs, working with Enrollment Services to support UAC (University Advisement Center), etc.

Ho asked Redmond to indicate what areas of Student Affairs were most related to increasing enrollment numbers. Redmond replied that Summer Bridge was important because it involved outreach to schools.

Discussion of the potential effects and needs that would occur with more students living on campus, and what effects more dorms might have on enrollment. Sawyer thought that campus housing would improve recruiting for athletics. Rees reminded us that 25 students would be joining the ALP from Saudi Arabia and living in campus housing in spring, with more Saudi Arabian students to come later.

4. Report of the President

Year-to-year comparisons in budget allocations handouts were presented by Garbesi and Erway. Discussions about the similarities and differences between these documents occurred. All agreed that data are very valuable. Faculty need to be able to see transparency in the budget to understand just how little non-salary budget money there actually is. Lopez mentioned that we may need to realize that hiring more faculty may not be the best use of our money right now, that maybe hiring fewer TT faculty is necessary now until the budget picture improves.

5. Report of the Chair – none (apart from the year-to-year comparison handouts)

6. Ongoing Work – improving financial data reporting

Erway reported from the last CRUMBS meeting that CLASS has distributed money to Departments, moving to a more decentralized system. Not all colleges were represented at the CRUMBS meeting.

7. Next meeting: January 6, 2005 – Reports from Jim Kelly, Provost, VP Academic Affairs and from Bob Burt, VP University Advancement

Respectfully submitted by S. Opp, Secretary