CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Minutes of the Meeting of December 1, 2006 (Approved)

Members Present: Dana Edwards, Kris Erway, Karina Garbesi (Chair), Armando Gonzalez, Jose Lopez, Nancy Mangold, Sue Opp, Saied Motavalli, James Petrillo, Melany Spielman

Members Absent: Steve Ugbah

Visitors: Monique Cornelius, Bill Dines, Mark Karplus, Myoung-ja Kwon, Hank Reichman, Don Sawyer

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved with one change. The election of COBRA members to serve on the University Planning, Assessment, and Budget Committee was added as item 4. M/S (Opp/Spielman)

2. Approval of the Minutes of 11-17-06

The minutes were approved with no changes. M/S (Opp/Spielman)

3. Chair’s Report

Garbesi discussed the Interim COBRA report she presented to the Academic Senate on November 21. The Senate expressed appreciation for this report.

Garbesi then brought attention to the FIRMS (Financial Information Records Management System) data that has been posted by the Chancellor’s Office, which indicates expenditures by categories. This data is now posted on a web page, and COBRA can now begin to use it for benchmarking purposes. She spoke with Julia Norton of Institutional Research about the FIRMS data, and both are looking forward to examining the data. Erway noted that different campuses are not currently reporting data in the same way, but that there is a system-wide commitment for uniform reporting, which will be done retroactively for the past six years.

John Charles, Chief Information Officer, has been invited to address COBRA at the meeting on February 2.

Steve Ugbah expresses apologies to COBRA for not being able to attend Friday meetings this quarter due to teaching commitments.

4. COBRA representatives to UPABC

Garbesi asked COBRA members how they wanted to proceed with electing 5 faculty members to the UPABC Committee. Mangold supported the original COBRA intent of electing one member from each of the four Colleges and the Library. COBRA members expressed support by acclamation. Lopez asked if seniority on COBRA should be a factor in choosing members. It was decided that it would be taken into consideration, but that the
procedures would be kept flexible and not dictated in writing. After discussion of this issue, Motavalli suggested asking COBRA members if they wished to serve. After identifying the senior members and then determining willingness to serve, the following faculty were elected: Garbesi (COBRA Chair, CLASS), Mangold (CBE), Lopez (CEAS), Motavalli (CS) and Edwards (Library). Garbesi stated that any COBRA member will have the option for input to UPABC.

5. Finalize COBRA goals and priorities for 06/07; COBRA calendar

Garbesi began a discussion of the Potential Tasks for COBRA 06/07 list, and the need to prioritize and finalize the list. She stated that item 2 on the list (supplemental $2.8 M expenditures) should be deleted, since the President will provide a report to COBRA. Also, item 1 ($3M cuts in Academic Affairs) was deleted, as COBRA will receive information on this from the Deans. Item 3 (ICS report) was also removed as a potential task item since John Charles will be meeting with COBRA. Discussion then ensued over item 5 (Study of faculty salaries and discrepancies by gender and/or department and race). Several COBRA members felt that this is not an appropriate task for COBRA, and questioned why the Committee would spend valuable time on this issue. Other COBRA members felt that this issue is an important concern, and that perhaps the Faculty Diversity and Equity Committee would be the appropriate body to pursue it. Garbesi suggested asking FDEC to investigate this issue. A Motion for COBRA to officially request FDEC to investigate starting salaries for faculty on a University-wide basis to determine if there are discrepancies by category was placed on the table. Karplus asked if lecturers would be included. Garbesi stated that they should. Lopez felt that COBRA should indicate why we want FDEC to look into this. Opp supported the motion, but asked whether it should be made to EXCOM instead, since they are engaged in the campus climate study. A friendly amendment to request EXCOM to investigate this issue was included in the motion. This motion passed 5 to 4.

It was then decided to hold a vote on prioritizing the remaining items (4, 6-9) on the tasks list. After the votes were tallied, it was determined that the following items from the tasks list, ranked in order of priority, are: Item 9, Development of standards for faculty participation in instructional budgeting/reporting; Item 4, Enrollment Services budget; Item 6, Study of institutional debt; Item 7, enterprise auxiliary budgets; and Item 8, Analysis of the new reporting system.

5. Next Meeting

The next COBRA meeting will be held on January 19 due to the Quarter Break schedule.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Edwards, Secretary