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

Minutes of the Meeting of October 6, 2006 (Approved)

Members Present: Dana Edwards, Kris Erway, Karina Garbesi (Chair), Armando Gonzales, Jose Lopez, Nancy Mangold, Saeid Motavalli, Sue Opp, James Petrillo

Visitors: Mark Karplus, Mo Qayoumi, Don Sawyer, Hank Reichman

1. Approval of the Agenda

Garbesi welcomed all individuals present to the first COBRA meeting of the academic year. She asked that Agenda items 2 (Chair’s Report) and 3 (Election of COBRA Secretary) be switched. With this change, the agenda was approved.

2. Election of COBRA Secretary

Garbesi requested volunteers to serve as COBRA Secretary. Edwards volunteered to serve. Edwards was then unanimously elected as COBRA Secretary for the academic year.

3. Chair’s Report

Garbesi addressed changes in COBRA membership. Basu and Sawyer, who were serving temporary appointments, are no longer COBRA members. Basu has left the University and Sawyer has changed positions. Ugbah has replaced Basu, and an election for Sawyer’s replacement is necessary. Erway and Gonzales have been reappointed.

Garbesi, on behalf of CFA campus representative Tom McCoy, announced that two CFA roadshow information sessions on current bargaining issues are taking place at noon on Tuesday October 10 and Wednesday October 11 in the University Union.
Garbesi distributed a handout that comprised an analysis of California Ballot Proposition 1B by the Transportation and Land Use Coalition in Oakland. This analysis concludes that the Proposition, if passed, would likely present an undue burden on the State Budget which would result in spending cuts in areas such as education, health care, and other social services.

Garbesi spoke briefly about current conditions at CSU East Bay, including faculty and staff workload and pay issues, technical infrastructure problems, and an overall precarious situation for the University. She stated that she is optimistic about working on these issues with the new campus President, Mo Qayoumi.

4. President’s Budget Report

Qayoumi expressed optimism for a collegial and productive budgetary process for the University, based on meetings with various campus personnel. He stated that he is looking to provide better and cleaner access to budgetary information. He expressed recognition for Erway and Gonzales for all the budgetary information that they have provided.

Qayoumi distributed several budget documents detailing current year and prior year budget information. Determination of enrollment numbers can be complex and confusing. For example, for the 06/07 budget, CSU is counting 12 graduate units as one FTE instead of the prior 15 units. This change was grandfathered in, so there is no immediate budget impact to CSUEB.

Erway expects the number that the number of international students will be up over last year. Since FTE targets are now based only on resident enrollment, there is no FTE benefit from this. The Fall Student Census should be available in two weeks, which will provide more concrete enrollment numbers.

Erway and Qayoumi described the budget documents in detail for COBRA members. Qayoumi stated that, as a general principle, if Divisions are given an amount of funds, that the Divisions should be able to keep and use those funds.
Reichman asked for some clarification of an item on Budget Document D, under heading “Loan Payment (CMS).” This amount is listed as $550,000. Qayoumi indicated that this amount is the only external loan held by the University, and that he will provide a detailed long-range analysis of CMS at a future COBRA meeting.

In discussion of the Departmental Allocation Plans described in Budget Document E, Erway was questioned about the $235,500 amount listed under line item “Salaries” in the President’s Office budget. This amount is listed as a one-time fund. Erway stated that this amount is for the first year of President Norma Rees’ salary for her post-retirement position as a consultant for the CSU. Several COBRA members expressed shock and dismay upon hearing this. Garbesi asked Qayoumi if this were a certainty and he replied in the affirmative. Edwards asked if this is consistent with the practice on other CSU Campuses, and Qayoumi indicated that it is. Reichman expressed serious concern about the lack of budget transparency concerning this arrangement last year.

Qayoumi asked that COBRA members examine the detail and format of the budget documents to see if they meet COBRA’s needs.

Qayoumi expressed support for California Ballot Proposition 1D, which, if passed, would result in significant funding for the CSU. Governor Schwarzenegger has signed into law AB2951 (Goldberg) which will have a potential negative impact of approximately $400,000 for CSUEB.

Qayoumi was very happy to announce that due to his requests to the Chancellor’s Office for supplemental funding to improve campus conditions, the Chancellor’s Office has awarded CSUEB a $2.8 million one-time amount. These funds are earmarked for smart classrooms, servers, signage, Advancement, overall conditions of buildings and grounds, and other purposes. COBRA members roundly applauded this announcement.

Qayoumi then distributed handouts describing the membership, goals, principles, and timelines for a proposed University Planning, Assessment and Budget Committee. This Committee will replace
the Budget Advisory Committee of previous years. He asked for input from COBRA on this proposed Committee at the next meeting. Edwards asked if the Committee membership would include a representative from the University Library. Qayoumi indicated that it would not, as he wants to keep the size of the Committee to a manageable level.

5. Review of Policies and Procedures for Committee Operation

Garbesi stated that these have remained essentially the same, and that due to lack of time, any concerns can be brought up in the next meeting.

6. 06/07 Goals

This item was postponed for future discussion.

7. Dates and Locations of Future Meetings

Meetings will continue to be held on the first and third Fridays of the month. Additional meetings may be scheduled as required. The President’s Conference Room will not be available for the November 17 and December 1 meetings, so an alternative location will be determined.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Edwards, Secretary