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

Minutes of the Meeting of November 3, 2006 (Approved)

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

Members Absent: Steve Ugbah

Visitors: Bill Dinehart, Cal Caplan, Mark Karplus, Hank Reichman, Don Sawyer

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved. M/S (Opp/Erway), Unanimous.

2. Approval of the Minutes of 10-20-06

The Minutes were approved, as corrected. M/S (Opp/Spielman), Unanimous.

3. Chair’s Report

Garbesi welcomed Melanie Spielman, the new COBRA representative from the College of Education and Allied Studies.

Garbesi asked for clarification on the list of new tenure-track faculty salaries that was distributed via email from Gonzales. Gonzales indicated that this list is made up of new appointments that began in Fall Quarter ’06.

Garbesi brought attention to her email of October 23 to the President regarding feedback from COBRA on the Enterprise Funds budgets. Qayoumi responded by indicating that further clarification would be forthcoming, and that budgets such as these are probably best described by the appropriate unit heads.

Regarding budget reporting formats, Erway stated that a group of approximately eight persons from Administration and Business Affairs are making a big push to come up with a new budget reporting strategy by the year’s end. This would allow for greater flexibility and responsiveness. Garbesi stressed patience until this occurs. The replacement for Curt Robinson, Assistant Vice President for Enterprise Activities and Executive Director, CSUEB Foundation, will be hired soon. Qayoumi also expects to have a replacement for Dick Metz, Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs, on board by April 2007.
Garbesi reported on her attendance at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate. EXCOM accepted COBRA’s recommendation regarding a request for clarification regarding President Rees’ post-retirement position and salary. Senate Chair Reichman has sent letters to both Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Richard West and Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Gary Reichard requesting clarification. Reichman stated that this matter is of considerable concern to faculty and staff on campus. He will be at the Chancellor’s Office next week and at the Board of Trustees the following week and is hoping for a timely response to the letters. The BOT will be discussing a new policy on Executive Transition Pay at their meeting on November 15, as well as the CSU’s budget request to the Legislature. Lopez stressed that the central concern is that ETP salaries should be funded from the Chancellor’s Office.

Another issue discussed at the EXCOM meeting was the proposed UPABC Committee format. Questions were raised regarding COBRA’s role in presenting a unified voice from the faculty regarding budgetary matters considering the makeup of UPABC. Garbesi suggested that COBRA should create a formal report to the Academic Senate in April, which will allow more time for the Senate to consider COBRA’s recommendations than in prior years. It would also allow for broader dissemination of information to the campus faculty.

Discussion ensued on the best ways for COBRA to keep the campus faculty informed of its findings and recommendations. Reichman suggested that the Senate might schedule an Interim Report from COBRA at the next Senate meeting on November 21. It is expected that campus enrollment numbers will be clear by then. It was noted that the minutes of COBRA meetings are posted on the Campus’s home page. Caplan suggested that an Executive Summary is a better method of informing the campus faculty. Garbesi will create a Progress Report in the meantime to present to the Senate.

Sawyer reported that Qayoumi supports COBRA’s recommendation to schedule UPABC meetings at the same hour on Fridays so COBRA members could attend without scheduling conflicts. He also agreed to COBRA’s recommendation to add one additional faculty member to UPABC.

4. Establish COBRA goals and priorities for 06/07

Garbesi asked for thought on priorities for COBRA for the current year and beyond. Several suggested tasks were put forward. Opp would like to gain a better understanding of the role and relationship of the Auxiliary budgets within the overall Campus budget. Lopez wants COBRA to analyze the new budget reporting system to see if it meets COBRA’s needs. Motavalli stressed that an earlier COBRA report to the Senate should be a priority. Opp suggested that
budget information should be available on the web, in a format that is understandable and that meets the needs of the faculty for analysis. Petrillo suggested the importance of understanding the Academic Affairs budget and how each individual College manages its share and provides for transparency at the College level. He also stated that COBRA needs a greater understanding of many details of the various campus budgets, and that the best way to gain this insight would be to create subcommittees that examine specific budgets and report their findings to COBRA. Caplan stressed the importance of hiring more tenure-track faculty, and suggested that COBRA might investigate the parameters for the allocation of monies for salaries among the Colleges. Disparities in salaries increase concerns over salary equity, which is an important issue for morale on campus. There seem to be no standards in place regarding this issue. Other goals discussed included an examination of institutional debt (especially the PeopleSoft payments), learning how the $3 million cut will be distributed in Academic Affairs, how the $2.8 million augmentation will be utilized, and getting more information about Enrollment Services and ICS. Garbesi will summarize these suggestions and discussion will continue at the next COBRA meeting.

5. Dates and locations of future meetings

The next two meetings (November 17 and December 1) will be held in WA 800.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Edwards, Secretary