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

November 7, 2008

Approved Minutes of the Meeting of November 7, 2008

Members present: Jeannette Bicais, Isaac Catt, Kris Erway, Judith Faust, Armando Gonzales, Saeid Motavalli (substitute for Eric Suess), Sue Opp, Chair, Steve Ugbah, Ke Zou

Members absent: Janet Logan, Nancy Mangold

Guests: Mark Karplus, Shawn Bibb, Bill Dinehart

1. Approval of the agenda M/S/A
2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting M/S/A
3. Report of the Chair
   a. The chair introduced two new members for fall quarter: Isaac Catt, Communication, replacement for Mayling Chu; and Saeid Motavalli, Engineering, substitute for Eric Suess.
   b. Last year there were visits and reports (budget plans, benchmarking, plans for meeting budget, etc.) from various units to COBRA: DCIE, Student Affairs, etc. One unit that we did not get a report from was Foundation and Enterprise Activities. We will invite Chris Brown to come and give a status report. Another invitation will be issued to David Cain of Facilities Planning and Operations.

4. Old Business
   a. Returned document 07-08 COB 1 (postponed to future meeting)
   b. Draft 08-09 COBRA 2; 07-08 COB 3, Dissemination of Principles for Faculty Participation in University Budget Decisions

Because there are so many new people on campus, including new chairs and new deans, COBRA thinks it is imperative that the Principles for Faculty Participation in University Budget Decisions document is disseminated widely each year. The current draft document is a revision of 07-08 COB 3, which ran into problems. There was a motion to accept the draft and a second. In the ensuing discussion, a friendly amendment was proposed so that the new text of the ACTION REQUESTED section reads:

At the beginning of each academic year, the Senate-approved Principles of Faculty Participation in University Budget Decisions (2006-2007 COBRA1, revised), will be provided by Academic Affairs to UPABC members and to the heads of academic units, including Department Chairs, Deans, and the University Librarian.

The motion passed. It was also requested that the Principles of Faculty Participation in University Budget Decisions be placed on the Senate main page, not just in the COBRA page.

5. New Business
   a. Budget Update; possible mid-year cuts and the role of COBRA – Shawn Bibb, Vice President of Administration and Finance
Vice President Bibb brought the Powerpoint that was presented at UPABC last Friday and went over it with COBRA. With the Sept. 2008 State budget underfunding of the CSU by $215 million, an additional $31.3 million one-time, and a potential further one-time budget reduction of what looks likely to be 2%, things do not look good. New information in October gave an additional $1 million one-time reduction for CSUEB, adding to the $3.2 million base of the governor’s underfunding in September – with potentially more to come. All this adds to the $4.2 million structural deficit previously disclosed in our 3 year budget plan.

CSU priorities will be instruction, student services, and public safety. A key point includes the projection that for the next two years there will be no enrollment growth dollars available, but that we nevertheless want to stay strategic with our enrollment growth momentum. However, this will mean that without the enrollment growth funds from the state, we will be using more lecturers, since the cost of tenure-track hires are so much higher. Bibb pointed out that 37 years ago, our enrollment was comparable to SFSU’s – ours at 11,700, theirs at 13,200. But in the intervening years, SFSU’s enrollment grew 65%, while ours went down or stayed essentially the same.

The CSUEB budget strategy will be multiyear, with strategic approaches based on the Seven Mandates, the Academic Plan, and the Strategic Planning Summary and Priorities for Implementation. This essentially means no across-the-board percentages, no quick fixes, so that reductions are based on already-agreed-upon priorities and long-term commitments. Bibb reported that much of this year’s one-time cuts will be taken care of by money that had been in reserves, miscellaneous trust funds, etc., but with the outlook for 2009-2010 so grim, budget planning will take much cooperation university-wide. The Cabinet will exert leadership, and have ongoing consultations with UPABC, ExCom, and COBRA.

The deconstruction of Warren Hall is off the list of General Obligation Bonds, so for now Warren Hall will remain.

b. Review and approval of the proposed revisions to 07-08 COBRA 4, Year-end Report to the Senate and Recommendations to the President (if available).
   The year end report will not be available.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Faust, Secretary