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

Approved Minutes of the COBRA Meeting, Friday, January 22, 2010

Members Present: Kris Erway, Judith Faust, Michael Hedrick, Fung-Shine Pan, Carol Reese, Tammie Simmons-Mosley, Eric Suess (Chair)

Members Absent: Jeannette Bicais, Gary Li, Janet Logan

1. Approval of the agenda
   The agenda was approved.

2. Minutes of 12-4-2009 & 1-8-2010 are tabled until next meeting.

3. Report of the Chair
   Chair Suess spoke about how difficult it is for investigators/grant recipients to find out from the Foundation what funds are available in one’s grants. He said the accounting seemed inappropriate, poorly presented to faculty, and gave examples of how difficult it has been for faculty members to spend out money granted because the Foundation can’t give them answers as to what is actually a current balance. He also said that the Foundation is now starting to process funds through payroll which is a problem, because in department offices, staff’s job descriptions specifically say that they can’t work on grant-related issues. Presidential appointee Erway said that because faculty are already paid up to 1.00 from the University side, the intent was to gain efficiency by paying the overload the same way. She also indicated there may be new system-wide policies regarding grants coming in July.

4. Examine the budget materials provided during the UPABC meeting, Thursday, January 21, 3-5 pm.
   The committee discussed the budget materials provided at the UPABC Meeting, Thursday, January 21, for the benefit of those members unable to attend. The chair summarized the main points emphasized by the Provost as: 1) the short term $1.2 million added into Academic Affairs is an effort to help next year with scheduling since in 2011-2012, our base goes back to $44,193,000; 2) they are trying to keep tenure track faculty from layoffs; 3) there will be many fewer lecturers.
   Specific charts from the budget materials were discussed, in particular, the Academic Affairs 2010-2011 budget where certain elements are broken out, such as Open University funding and “Other” funding (grant reimbursements for PIs assigned time, for instance) to help create clarity as to where money is coming from, and how much is state support. A question was asked regarding how long it takes to see Open
University money, and Erway indicated that any given year’s allocation is based on the prior year’s earnings.

Summer school in many CSUs will be self-support only, but we and SFSU will be offering hybrid summer sessions – some state support, but primarily self-support. Other parts of the budget materials were discussed, including the focus on getting “super seniors” to graduate, and some specifics of the divisions and colleges. Faust said that she was surprised that CBE was eliminating MKTG 3495 from the Business Core, and possibly eliminating it altogether, especially since it’s the primary class where students learn how to find company and industry research in the business databases paid for out of Library funds. She mentioned having students who took this class in their Senior year being angry that no other business professor had ever brought them to the Library to learn about these databases, which would have made previous class research projects much less difficult. MKTG 3495 is also one of the most consistent money-makers for Marketing, bringing in students from many other majors (other business options, but also Construction Engineering, Political Science, etc.). Information Technology Services’ “closing, consolidation, and virtualization of approximately 20 computing labs” was also discussed. It was acknowledged that while this is a popular movement at universities such as Harvard and Stanford where students may be required to have laptops as entering freshmen, it may not be so appropriate for our students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, many of whom are low-income and may not have internet access or even computers in their homes, much less laptops to bring to campus. Questions arose as to the “virtual lab” system being considered or purchased. One member said she thought that the one already most used in the CSU is being purchased.

One member mentioned problems already having arisen from the institution of the “service ticket only” approach to getting technical help in the classroom. If there is no projector in the classroom, one can use a telephone to call for that, but if there are computer problems, you must put in a service ticket. But if the computer is not working, you can’t put in a service ticket.

Presidential appointees said that comments, questions should be sent to appropriate administrators. It was also suggested that Back to the Bay next fall might put more emphasis on practical responses to changes caused by the budget crisis.

The chair mentioned that the Provost will be presenting at Academic Senate next Tuesday. He asked members to send him reactions to the budget materials for him to include in a letter he will write to the Provost, so that the Provost can have it before the Tuesday meeting.

5. Debby De Angelis, discuss the budgetary impacts for Athletics resulting from the move to Division II. 10:00 (To be confirmed.)
Debby De Angelis, Director of Athletics, did not respond to Chair Suess’s invitation to attend our meeting.

6. Robert Phelps, Chair of the Concord Campus Advisory Committee, to discuss Concord Campus budgetary issues. 10:30 (To be confirmed.)
   Robert Phelps was unable to attend, will attend next meeting.

7. Collect suggestions about what to request in an invitation letter to prospective visitors to COBRA
   This item was not addressed at the meeting.

8. Adjournment
   The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Faust
Acting Secretary