Approved Minutes of the COBRA Meeting of Friday, November 13, 2009

Members Present: Eric Suess, Judith Faust, Tammie Simmons Mosley, Fung-Shine Pan, Kris Erway, Carol Reese, Jeanette Bicais, Janet Logan, Gary Li

Members Absent: Michael Hedrick

Guest: Interim Provost Fred Droer

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from 10-19-09
   a. Minutes from the 10-19-09 meeting still need to be approved. Three COBRA members were present and one visitor (Sue Opp) at the 10-09-09 meeting. No Presidential Appointees were present. Since a quorum did not exist, the meeting adjourned after Sue Opp explained the goals and mission of COBRA.

3. Report of the Chair
   a. Discussion focused on the budget crisis. COBRA committee members were encouraged to review Ex Com’s Task Force Report, so that COBRA could have a meaningful discussion. Discussion by COBRA committee members focused on a lack of communication regarding the severity of impact on faculty and what the near future holds for all concerned. COBRA members decided that a concentrated discussion needs to occur in which a clear explanation of CSUEB’s plan for the budget deficit is available and understandable to faculty members.

4. Elect (or identify who was elected) members of the committee who will attend UPABC
   a. The following members were elected from each college:
      i. Eric Suess – Statistics and Biostatistics
      ii. Gary Li – Geography
      iii. Fung-Shine Pan – Accounting and Finance
      iv. Janet Logan - CEAS
      v. Kris Erway – Budget Office, Presidential Appointee
      vi. Carol Reese, Academic Resources, Presidential Appointee

5. Examine the budget materials provided by the Provost, after the 10-3-09 ExCom meeting, in preparation for the November 17th UPABC meeting at 4:00 p.m.
   a. Before Interim Provost Droer arrived, COBRA members reviewed a memo from Interim Provost Fred Droer to Ex Com. The memo contained an overview of CSUEB’s budget from 2008 to the present and the impact on each college. Questions were raised, such as “What is relevant regarding the Academic Affairs Budget and what do faculty members need to know. Discussion focused on how
an additional 10% in cuts will occur in the 2010-11 Academic Year since the 10% CSUEB saved during 2009-10 because of faculty and staff furloughs will no longer be in effect.

6. Provost Dorer to meet with the committee to discuss budget materials. Time Certain 10:00 a.m.
   a. A memo to Ex Com from Interim Provost Fred Droer was passed out to COBRA committee members for review. The November 3, 2009 response from Interim Provost Fred Droer to Ex Com stated that "concerns were strongly expressed by Ex Com members that they lacked information regarding budget information." Interim Provost Fred Droer’s memo to Ex Com outlined his attempts to conduct a budget briefing for Ex Com, but this had not been on Ex Com’s agenda as of November 3, 2009. Of particular concern was how the budget crisis would impact Academic Affairs.
   b. Interim Provost Droer discussed that each college is to plan as though each will have a level budget and control of the budget with an additional 10% reduction due to the loss of “Buying Power” or the 10% furlough adjustment. Two colleges—CEAS and CLASS—were cited as spending over the budgeted amount.
   c. Interim Provost Droer discussed that CSUEB does not want to go over target regarding student enrollment. Faculty will be teaching more students and offering fewer classes. Interim Provost Droer discussed how it is more cost effective to have lecturers (teaching load = 45 units) versus tenured or tenured-line faculty (teaching load = 36 units).
   d. Interim Provost Droer discussed (1) needing to “right size” graduate programs. CSUEB cannot afford to have graduate programs that are especially high cost. The plan is to reduce by 50%; (2) laying off faculty members – 6 months notice is required.
   e. Interim Provost Droer concluded by stating that CSUEB needs to be transformative and the past ways of conducting business could not be continued.

7. Discuss who to invite to COBRA for next quarter
8. Collect suggestions about what to request in an invitation letter to prospective visitors to COBRA
9. Adjournment
   a. Interim Provost Droer discussed and answered questions regarding the implications of the budget crisis until 11:15 a.m. The meeting was then adjourned.