

University Planning and Budget Committee
Meeting of February 12, 2014, 2:00pm
Clocktower Room, Student Center

In attendance: Yvonne Kirby, Charlene Casamento, Laura Tordenti, Rae Schipke, Thom Delventhal, Haoyu Wang, Kevin Oliva, Kathy Martin-Troy, Guy Crundwell, Chad Valk, Carlos Liard-Muriente

Meeting called to order at 2:03

1. No new business

2. Tabled; minutes from previous meeting are still at large

3. (Chad): Funds for the library renovation are being reapportioned. Some of it will remain in the library renovation budget and some will go to a half-dozen other projects but most of it will go to Engineering IT. This has been proposed as part of the Governor's budget, which "hops" the BOR. There are lots of interesting reapportionments that can be viewed at a CT.Gov link (Chad will post).

(Char): This is debt that will not need to be serviced.

(Chad): There are Kaiser updates, Copernicus, and the long-awaited upgrades to the turf on the football field. Phasing is up in the air still.

(Char): This is a pot of money that has already been approved as part of the 2020 law, which makes the reapportionment less complicated.

(Chad): The magnet school that was to be part of the new engineering school seems to be an idea that is past. Child care seems to have no home and East Campus appears to be dead.

There have been attempts to accelerate the new dining hall due to concern that the new residence hall will come on-line before the expansion of dining services.

(Kathy): Memorial Hall can handle it.

(Char): Richard, I and others are planning sessions to discuss how to handle this "hiccup." It seems to me there is 0% chance of the two opening in concert.

4. No announcements.

5. a. (Char): My opinion: Currently there is a law on the books that keeps block fund grants separate. New money is its own "bucket." I've heard that Dr. Gray wants to consolidate all "buckets." Despite how bad the economy has been, we've been able to maintain a balanced budget. This isn't true of many community colleges. We need to anticipate legislation and be ready to respond. So far, there's nothing on the horizon, but it's possible things could move quickly. We should be on the lookout so that we can understand the mechanics safeguard what exists.

(Chad) : We already bailed out Western and Southern.

(Char): Yes, we were given 3.2 million "receivable" as a result, which was supposed to be paid between '11 and '15. However, because of the state's restricted

finances it was put on hold in 2010 by the BOR and to date there has been no mention of paying us. Of our “unrestricted reserves” (46 million), 25 million is tied up in capital projects--in addition to the 3.2 million previously mentioned. “Unrestricted” is a misnomer. The concern is that people do not understand that “unrestricted” includes the capital projects and the receivable.

(Guy): As a faculty member I welcome 134 million dollars, but as a taxpayer...it's not really a plan. There's no indication where the money is going. All stakeholders were not at the table when the decisions were made. It's a waste of money.

(Char): It's a start, a “down-payment.”

(Chad): There seems to be evidence of dysfunction in our leadership.

(Kathy): They have a disagreement. And they have a year to work it out.

(Chad): The UPBC should recommend to the Senate--President, Stephen Cohen agrees with this-- that a statement about the current status of the 2020 plan be requested. Lines are going to blur as we move ahead, it's important that we assess now it's original intent and what shifts have already occurred. System-wide we were allocated 960 million, then Governor Rell froze it. Some has been released but there's no way of knowing if we're ahead or behind.

(Char): Much of that is law, which protects us to a degree. I believe there is an annual 2020 audit. I'll ask Richard. It is our hope that the the 134 million can help reduce tuition increases.

(Guy): More about this plan doesn't make sense than does.

(Char): I'm still optimistic. If we can move forward with just a 4% tuition increase, that's good for our students.

5.b. (Chad polls members present to see who will be at the 2/19 budget presentations and at what times.)

6. (Char): Yvonne and I learned last week--incase we didn't already know it-- the *every* student counts. We almost missed our baseline by a few students! We would have lost \$6-700,000. I can't solve every problem, but if you know of a student that is unable to register for what seems to be an unreasonable cause, please contact me.

(Yvonne): Enrollment is down in high schools. Numbers are down in other states as well. We have to improve retention.

(Chad): I understand we actually have a 15% increase in applications.

(Char): Last year there were 35 from North Haven High; this year there are 65.

(Chad): Carl says to plan on 2.6 million more in cuts. Is that the 2.6 million from last year?

(Char): That's the cut from this year and is annualized to next year's budget. Each division has to prepare a 5% contingency plan for fy 2015.

7. (Guy): As of right now there has been no response from the president.

8. (Yvonne): We are adjusting in-state and out-of-state coding.

Adjourned at 3:15