

University Planning and Budget Committee

Minutes of the Meeting November 17th, 2020 via Teams

Members Present: J. Melnyk, J. Snyder J. Hodgson, S. Hazan, S. Cohen, J. Gamache, E. Pana, A.F. Pearson, S. Petras, L. Washko, L. Walter, R. Simmons, B. Barr, D. Harris, K. Poirier, C. Casamento, D. Dauwalder, M. Fallon, Y. Kirby

Chair Melnyk called the meeting to order at 1:48 pm.

Minutes: S. Hazan moved to approve the minutes of the November 10th meeting, seconded by D. Harris. Voted to approve.

Brief Reports/ Divisional Updates:

C. Casamento stated the University has to implement spending reductions to meet the BOR mandated reductions.

A question was raised as to how the money would be distributed if the fall enrollment was increased given the many and varied reductions. There is not an answer yet as many other factors need to be resolved.

Another question was asked as to whether we had been able to meet the Part-time Faculty/Graduate Assistant/University Assistant reduction figures. She responded that she does not expect us to meet the full amount due to Graduate Assistant commitments already being made and added that the Provost was still working on the Part-time Faculty reductions. The CFO is still working to identify technical adjustments.

The Provost stated that he was still working on the Part-time Faculty schedule and was looking at alternate sources of funding such as salary savings and other unused money to make up for not meeting the decrease mandated by the BOR.

Y. Kirby reported that she had finished the NSSE undergraduate pulse survey that she had announced at a previous meeting. She is also doing a food and housing survey now. In the spring there will be a student engagement survey. CCSU will be adding a COVID related module to that survey

A question was raised as to the amount of response to the food and housing survey and she responded about 5% so far. A follow-up question asked how the surveys were distributed to which the response was by email. It was queried as to whether thought had been given to using texting as students seemed more inclined to use texts than email. Her response was that this would be explored for the future.

Y. Kirby continued that a response had been received from NECHE regarding the August progress report addressing the recommendations from their visit. There would be no more progress reports for five years.

A committee member noted that there used to be a NECHE team in place and asked if it still existed. Y. Kirby said that none existed at this time.

Old Business:

K. Poirier noted that she was pushing the FPC for more communication to exist.

Chair J. Melnyk said he had talked to President Toro about the Workgroup Reporting process. Our link was through F. Latour and the Faculty Senate.

Regarding the focus of the UPBC priorities in light of the FY22 budget situation, Chair J. Melnyk said he had created a map of the issues raised in the email exchanges among the committee members which he displayed and said he would distribute. Discussion followed regarding the effect on campus climate and internal relations of this review of program effectiveness. Subsequently, S. Cohen made the following motion which was seconded by D. Harris.

“The UPBC requests that President Toro seek more information from the BOR concerning the consultant inquiry into academic programs on CSCU campuses, including the charge to the consultant and the terms and criteria of its investigation.”

The motion passed by verbal vote with no objections.

Again, the issues raised were goals, variables, and what do other institutions do.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.

The date of the next meeting will be December 1st, 2020, via MS Teams.

Submitted, J Hodgson, Recording Secretary