

University Planning and Budget Committee

Minutes of the Meeting January 19th, 2021 via MS Teams

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

Chair Melnyk called the meeting to order at 1:49 pm.

Minutes: D. Harris made a motion, seconded by S. Cohen, to approve the revised minutes from the December 1st meeting. It was approved with no further comments. S. Cohen made a motion, seconded by D. Harris, to approve the minutes of the December 15th meeting. The minutes were approved with suggested changes.

Announcements:

Chair J. Melnyk stated that President Toro would be a guest at the February 15th meeting as she has items she wants to share with the committee.

Chair Melnyk also stated that the VP of Student Affairs would like to attend the UPBC meetings. Although he invited the VP to attend our next meeting, Chair Melnyk shared that the committee will have to amend our by-laws to include the VP of Student Affairs as an ex-officio member of the committee. He will follow-up on this issue.

Regarding the IPC, Chair Melnyk shared that arrangements had been made for the on-campus dwelling students to be tested for COVID-19 as they arrived that day (January 19th) and the testing was to be repeated every week. Arrangements were being made to have vaccinations follow.

K. Poirier stated that she would forward the minutes of the latest FPC meeting.

Brief Reports/ Divisional Updates:

CFO Casamento stated that an estimated 770 occupancy, including RAs, would be living on campus this spring, which is approximately 30-40% of the usual number and translates to a annual projected decline of more than \$13 million. Even if there is an increase in each of the coming semesters, she expects the improvement in occupancy will be over more than one academic year.

The CFO also shared that the university is to receive additional HEERF COVID relief funds from the federal government. The grant is \$14.9 million, of which \$4.5 million must be used to provide support students. The university has created a group to explore the best use of the money for the students. The remaining \$10.4 million can be used within a given set of rules and at this point we are intending to utilize the funds to offset revenue.

Provost Dauwalder shared that he was working on the 187 requests made thus far to use Zoom during the semester. The deadline for the requests is today (January 19th). Each license will cost \$90. He is also still working on the part-time faculty hiring issue.

OIRA: Y. Kirby said there is a 12-13% decrease in enrollment for the Spring 2021 semester. In addition, Connecticut is projected to lose approximately 11% of high school students in the pipeline through 2028. This affects financial projections.

A question was asked if anyone had looked on the types of classes that had to be cancelled due to low enrollment vs those having students on a waiting list. That had not been done.

Old Business:

Chair Melnyk shared that two departments had already responded to the email sent to department chairs regarding their providing information relating to review of their programs. He will forward those responses to the committee.

New Business:

Given the current interest in cost of programs, and that he had worked on one at the University of New Haven ten years ago, Provost Dauwalder used CCSU information to create one example that he had shared with Chair Melnyk, who had forwarded the email to the committee members. Provost Dauwalder had looked at CCSU academic maps of the number and type of courses needed to complete a program. He spoke to the committee about the various elements that he identified that affect cost and included as tables in the email.

A question was raised as to why there seemed to be a focus on Academic Affairs and not all facets of the university, understanding that financial aspects are important.

While appreciating the effort by the Provost, S. Cohen expressed the concern that the role of Academics might get detached from an examination of financial viability.

CFO Casamento shared that the Financial Department was starting to look more deeply at other aspects of university expenses such as revenue vs expense and the efficacy of expenses.

Chair Melnyk summarized the main thoughts of the discussion as he heard them. More discussion to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.

The date of the next meeting will be February 2nd, 2021, via MS Teams.

Submitted, J Hodgson, Recording Secretary