

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING 09-10-2019 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 10-08-2019
Sub. To Exec. Comm. _____ Approved by Exec. Comm. _____
Sub. To Acad. Senate _____ Approved by Acad. Senate _____
POLICY ITEMS _____

Members Present:

Dianne Bartlow, Lindsay Brown, Nazaret Dermendjian, Ellis Godard, Kim Henige, Greg Knotts, Linda Noblejas-Sapuay (recording), Jerald Schutte, Kate Stevenson, Dino Vrongistinos, Yarma Velazquez-Vargas

Member Excused: Diane Stephens (non-voting)

Guests: Callie Juarez (representing Diane Stephens), Mary Beth Walker

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Dermendjian welcomed everyone to the first meeting for the Fall semester. Introductions around the table followed.

3. Senate Liaison Report – Cheryl Spector

Spector stated that the charge for the Committee is noted on the agenda. She stated that this committee has the ability with shared governance to work successfully with administration. She hopes that the Committee can exercise their charge fully because any decision that administration makes can be strengthened by the Committee's input. Her role as a liaison is to review the approved minutes and look for policy issues that Senate Executive can review and put forward to Faculty Senate. Her other role is that if any member wants to step down, she can facilitate that process.

Spector thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on the Educational Resources Committee (ERC) and that she looks forward to reviewing the minutes and the work that this Committee will do this year.

4. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of the Statewide Senate Report from Schutte.

5. Approval of the ERC Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2019

The minutes of the ERC meeting of May 14, 2019 were approved with corrections.

6. ERC Chair's Report

Dermendjian stated that last year the Committee discussed some issues that have resource implications and are moving forward to have these issues on the table this year. One of them is the average unit load (AUL) increase. He provided a brief background. Students are taking more units because of the Graduation Initiative 2025. With more units taken, the university is incurring additional expenses because of additional courses being offered without the benefit of additional tuition fees. Income from student fees remain the same even though courses are added. This AUL increase creates a financial challenge. The campus has paid for the differences using one-time money from reserves. This is not sustainable for the university. Other issues for ERC include enrollment and how the university is balancing enrollment, faculty hiring and tenure density, and more transparency on the budget process.

Dermendjian reported that he attended UPBG meeting. He reported that the State Appropriation was \$28.8M and we had almost \$17.6 in commitments against it. Tuition revenue dropped to \$4.6M because of less non-resident and international students. Last year we had a shortfall of almost \$6.8M and there was a net of -\$75K in the budget. The one-time appropriation was \$4.8M. Vice President Donahue will be coming in October to give more information on the campus budget. Discussion followed on average student/faculty ratio (SFR), tenure density, CSUN Counts, managing the budget based on programmatic needs, etc.

It was suggested to add SFR to the agenda for discussion.

7. Executive Secretary's Report

Dermendjian stated that Stephens is attending her son's wedding and will not be able to join the meeting. She, however, sent her report and it was uploaded to myCSUNbox for everyone's review. Juarez is attending on her behalf to answer any questions that the committee has. Discussion ensued on questions regarding the additional seven staff positions that the college has to put a request or a proposal, where all the different Academic Affairs central offices moved, location of the Sierra Annex project and what is the plan for Sierra Hall, and the new scheduling software Ad Astra, etc.

Ken Rosenthal will be invited to the November meeting to talk about facilities and renovation projects.

8. Statewide Academic Senate Report – Jerry Schutte

Schutte reported that there are four items the Committee needs to be aware of that are of primary focus with the Statewide Academic Senate. They are priority issues that will be debated in both the Board of Trustees and in Sacramento.

- a. Assembly Bills – AB 130 that oversees Higher Education (passed) and AB 1460 - Ethnic Studies requirement in the CSU to graduate (pending). The Statewide Academic Senate is passing a resolution that will attempt to preempt AB 1460 and request all campuses to provide input on this three-unit requirement.
- b. CSU Audit – This came about when a senator from Fullerton was asked by staff union people as to why it cost so much for parking and why parking structures are being built instead of spending money on rapid transit. This then evolved into a state audit of the CSU. They discovered there are \$1.5 billion in reserves that was inaccurately reported as discretionary money. It is not discretionary because over \$1 billion is earmarked for operations and funds for maintenance that is carried in separate accounts on each campus, aggregated into the CSU balance sheet as “investments.” The CSU will change this and will recategorize these accounts to indicate their intended use.
- c. The General Education Task Force Report came about as the result of a 2017 ASCSU resolution. There were two resolutions that followed its completion, one to accept the delivery of the report and the other to reject the report altogether. Both failed.
- d. An additional Quantitative Reasoning Course – debated in the BOT last week but no vote until November.

Schutte recommended the Committee email him any questions or concerns regarding the four items above.

9. Provost Mary Beth Walker

Provost Walker presented the General Fund budget for Academic Affairs. She stated that when she visited the colleges and met with committees, she talked about bringing transparency and also explaining everything about financial matters. This document is a piece of that. It includes all the Academic Affairs General Fund budget. She stated that when she talks about the budget, it is in terms of sources and uses. (Attachment A)

This is based on the prior year 2018-19. The total prior year adjusted base of almost \$170M comes from the General Fund allocation from the State, funds for specific programs like GI 2025, the Chancellor’s Office target and recurring university funds. She also listed the permanent adjustments to that base of almost \$4.4M which included the budget reduction of \$4M, 2018/2019 new tenure track, salary increases and in range progressions and funds transferred to University Advancement and IT for the KCSN transfer. Academic Affairs also gets a one-time funding for cost recovery, carry forwards from 2017/18, PO encumbrances, enrollment growth, University one-time adjustments, student fees, benefits and other sources. Total sources for Academic Affairs is \$305,026,776.

For the uses of the funds, salaries amount to the biggest portion which is almost \$170M and benefits is almost \$83M. Other operations expenses include communications, travel, library acquisitions, financial aid, miscellaneous, etc. Walker explained that miscellaneous operating expenses include supplies, furniture, accreditation visits,

professional development, insurances on equipment and maintenance. Our total expenses equals to almost \$269,493,380. Academic Affairs ended the year with a carryforward balance of \$35,533,396 (i.e., General Fund, GI 2025, CO Initiatives and PO Encumbrances).

Discussion ensued on the Provost's priorities on the budget, professional development, faculty hiring and attrition, AUL increasing, multi-tier tuition fee, lobbying at the State legislature that four year institutions are better investments in comparison to Community Colleges, centralized advisement as part of student success, etc.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Notes:

The next ERC meeting will be held on October 8, 2019 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in UN 211.

**** THERE WAS NO POLICY RECOMMENDATION PUT FORTH AT THIS MEETING FOR SENATE CONSIDERATION.***