

Humboldt State University
University Budget Committee
Friday, February 2, 2007
Meeting Notes

Co-Chairs: Rick Vrem, Saeed Mortazavi

Voting Members: Glenn Sonntag, Lumei Hui, Colleen Mullery, Michael Thomas, Lou Ann Wieand, Laura Weare, Wayne Perryman, Mark Larson, Steve Butler, Judith Little, Robin Bailie

Proxy: Carol for Carl Coffey

Staff: Carol Terry, Linda Mortenson, Karen Earls

Observers: Greg Crawford, Jerry Saner, Randi Darnall-Burke, Susan Higgins

The UBC meeting scheduled for Friday, February 9 has been cancelled as we will convene on Monday, February 12 to hear the budget presentations. The next regular UBC meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 23rd to begin discussion on our recommendation to the President.

Rick sent out the President's revision to his reduction criteria guidelines by email and asked for comments on the receipt. The revision read as follows:

1. Reduce administrative costs by restructuring and seeking efficiencies wherever possible.
2. Reward efficiency and measurable goal achievement with incentives for all units on campus.
3. Continue to promote students making timely progress towards their degrees. Reduction of core academic offerings (not necessarily section numbers) for students should be a last resort to save money.
4. Continue to revise curriculum and reallocate funding to reflect current needs of society and students (Strategic Plan). This is a strong suggestion that our curriculum needs review and revision to reflect changes in student preferences and needs. For example, students across the country are asking to be given education about functioning in civil society. Courses in entrepreneurship and management of financial resources are suggested. Money needs to be found to accomplish this.
5. Support academic strengths in natural resources, environment and art (Strategic Plan).
6. As much as is possible, preserve curriculum and outreach efforts devoted to social and environmental responsibility. Whenever possible, link this to curriculum change (Strategic Plan). Make an effort to evaluate curriculum across the university related to these goals and determine if better approaches are possible that might save some money and in the process, keep our reputation for strength in these areas.
7. Whenever possible, consider using students for appropriate on-campus jobs instead of hiring off-campus personnel.

The UBC was appreciative of the President's work and felt that the prioritized guidelines were more clearly stated than the original draft. Steve remarked that item #3 could be stated more broadly in terms of general student success. Wayne agreed that persistence towards the goal and retention are inherent in the overall concept of student success. Wayne also noted that there was still no mention of diversity unless encompassed in item #6. Item #7 also created a discussion as to whether it served as an appropriate criterion for reduction.

A general discussion on the Delphi scoring of the major budget units (MBU) followed, allowing an information exchange between the members to understand how their scores were determined. Greg suggested that we focus on units whose scoring reflected the most variability and to that end, calculate the standard deviation as well as the average score for each MBU. Units that were specifically discussed included Graduate Studies, Health Services, Diversity, Children's Center, General University Obligations, and the Natural History Museum.

Ideas explored during the discussion included the possibility to sustain a program using funding sources other than General Fund or seeking the service from other existing campus units, raising fees where equitable, combining similar services to avoid duplication of effort or funding, considering even the small budgets as every little bit helps, understanding the historical beginnings of a program to determine if the current need still exists, questioning the efficiency of support organizations and agreeing that not all instruction is sacred ground.

Colleen felt the discussion was helpful in gaining clarity about various campus support services. Glenn realized his perspective on the meaning of "core" was shifting as the support functions were more clearly defined. Some disagreement was expressed regarding the level of detail being scored as certain divisions have more specific MBU's than others. The committee was reminded that it is not our job to micromanage the budget allocation to the department level.

Randi requested that the Delphi rankings be interpreted for the campus as assumptions are currently being made as to the high and low scores.

The concept of spreading the budget reduction process over 2 or 3 years was raised, especially in light of any academic program cuts which would, out of necessity, require that period of time. Saeed mentioned that if a good reduction plan was developed by the campus, it could be presented to the Chancellor for approval.

The UBC was asked to participate in 2 more Delphi scoring rounds over the coming week.

There is a possibility that the Goodwin Forum can be made available for the presentations and the committee was assured that notification would go out as soon as this possibility is confirmed.

The next UBC meeting is called for Monday, February 12th from 2 – 6pm in the University Center Banquet Room unless arrangements can be made for the Goodwin Forum.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Mortenson