Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate

Meeting of January 7, 2008 (as approved January 14, 2008)


Absent with Notice: Assia Shisheva.

Invited guest: Seymour Wolfson, President of Academic Senate.

*Liaison

1. The meeting, for members only, convened at 11:01 a.m. The minutes for the meetings of November 28 and December 11 (as corrected), were approved without objection.

2. Report by Chair. The chair began the meeting by giving a report on the process for considering the allocation of funds that had not been allocated in the FY 2007 and FY 2008 budgets. He explained that the meeting was called for members only to allow the committee to formulate its own proposals for spending unallocated money so that it would be in a better position to interact constructively with the Administration. The goal is for the committee to approve a plan for spending the unallocated funds that conforms to the criteria set by the Board of Governors (BOG) in its Priority Resolution of August 29, 2007. According to that resolution, the previously unallocated funds are to be distributed first to Instruction, and then, respectively, to Academic Support, Research, and Administration.

   Tables were distributed by the chair that provided a template for an allocation plan for allocating the 2008 (Table 2) and 2007 (Table 3) funds. Another table (Table 1) gave the chair’s estimate of the funds available that had not been allocated in the FY2008 budget. Table 4 showed the allocation proposed by the Administration at the December 12 meeting of the BOG’s Budget and Finance Committee. It was noted that no funds were allocated to Instruction under the Administration’s proposal, contrary to the BOG’s Priority Resolution. Discussion ensued.

3. Motion on Allocation of Unallocated Funds. Members discussed the plans embodied in Table 2 and Table 3 and the chair’s estimate of unallocated funds for FY 2008. By consensus, the committee adopted the estimate of unallocated funds as a reasonable estimate to be used by the committee in setting its spending plan for FY 2008 money. Some suggestions, adopted by consensus, were made for refining the allocation plans for FY 2007 and FY 2008, and some minor errors were noted. The chair was also asked to prepare some pie charts indicating the difference between the allocations proposed by the committee and by the Administration.
After discussion, the following motion was made, seconded, and approved without opposition:

That the committee approves the allocation plans embodied in Tables 2 and 3, as amended, and asks the chair to submit the plans to the Policy Committee with a recommendation that the plans be presented to the Academic Senate at its meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2008.

The chair reminded the committee that it has a meeting scheduled for January 14, 2008, at which time the Administration is expected to present its plan for the use of unallocated funds for FY 2008. Members expressed the hope that the committee’s plan would be taken into account by the Administration in formulating its own plan. The committee agreed that the draft tables would be treated as confidential working documents but that the revised tables, after consideration and possible amendment by the Policy Committee, would become public documents.

4. Adjournment. The committee adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Michael J. McIntyre