

University Planning and Budget Committee
Meeting of October 1, 2013
The Blue and White Room, Student Center

In attendance: Rae Schipke, Chad Valk, Thom Delventhal, Haoyu Wang, Yvonne Kirby, Kevin Oliva, Charlene Casamento, Matthew Bielawa, Kathy Martin-Troy

Meeting called to order at 3:00

No minutes available from previous meeting. They will be approved at next meeting.

Chad: Because Charlene Casamento's presence is required at another meeting later this afternoon, we'll reorder the agenda to hear her budget update first.

Budget Update (Charlene): The search for the ConnSCU CFO is progressing. Applicants have been narrowed to a not-so-short-list. Phone interviews are currently being conducted with the applicants on this list so that a short list can be determined.

Kathy: Are there any CFO's on that list?

Charlene: Jim Horvath

Chad: (Question about Dr. Miller, but I don't understand my notes)

Charlene: The residence hall bond sale is proceeding. A Due Diligence meeting was held on September 13. October 23rd has been targeted as a possible date for bidding to be closed. The bond is between 82 and 85 million and 3.89% interest.

Budget calendar: I'm not sure how our process will line up with the system office. So much is in flux right now. But I think we can look forward to February 19th for the budget reports.

Matt Fleury, President of CT Science, is the new BOR Finance Committee Chairman. Gary Holloway, interim Chair, resumes his role as a regular member. All 17 CFO's will be meeting with this committee.

Chad: Do you have a feeling as to whether President Gray will stick to his guns re: his promise of no tuition hikes?

Charlene: Nobody wants to see tuition increase. But we have to balance real costs and quality. Last year we submitted our recommendations for tuition increases in early December and then resubmitted 4 times.

Chad: I was asking more about the balance between fees and tuition.

Charlene: Tuition is even across campuses, but fees are different. Currently fees at CCSU are \$1400 lower than the sister schools. Of course, we'd hope to keep increases as low as possible without compromising quality.

Discussion of ex-officio voting rights: Chad shared senate minutes from January 28, 2013 which seemed to indicate that all senate committees were comprised in such a way that only faculty or staff members should be allowed voting rights. But there was still some vague language re: the UPBC specifically. It was agreed that we should get clarification from the senate and talk again at the next UPBC meeting.

Chad: Should we invite someone from ConnSCU to address the UPBC about their planning and how we can better fit into it?

Guy said that at the open forum, Dr. Gray was pointing back to university budget as a guide.

Kevin: Maybe we should invite Dr. Miller in before that meeting.

Chad: I'll invite him for the next meeting.

There are lots of changes swirling around us. We need to define what we're doing this year. For example, we're bonding a residence hall. How does that impact the master Plan? There are lots of dominos.

Yvonne: I think we should keep an eye on the presidential reports from last year and how our recommendations are impacting their movement forward.

Chad: Let's get these reports for next meeting.

The Provost's article highlights on-line learning. But *Blackboard Learn* was moved to the system office, making our on-line courses extremely unstable.

Yvonne: Dr. Gray talked about centralizing admissions, study abroad/internationalization, and fund-raising. I'm concerned we will lose our identity. What sets us apart?

Chad: Let's go around the table and each state our thoughts about this year's priorities for the UPBC.

Kathy: Low enrollment and what programs we are creating to address it.

Haoyu: Other sources of income. All the talk is of cuts, but enrollment, retention, graduation rates...that's how we can impact income. We need new customers.

Chad: I wonder if we might look more closely at budgets rather than just the portion that is chosen to be brought forward.

Rae: At one point, CCSU was the least funded per student. Is that still true?

Chad: I believe so.

Rae: I agree with Haoyu and Kathy, then. Enrollment.

Matt: We need to look at transfer students. They are a big resource for us, and the process of them coming in is supposed to be seamless, but it really isn't. We need more thorough orientation events for them.

Chad: I think there are 3 things that need to be addressed: on-line courses; Trad. on the ground; and hybrid. As for transfer students. I think you're right reducing the alienation for transfer students would be extremely fruitful.

Yvonne: Dr. Gray says that the students transferring from community colleges should pay the same tuition, but that makes us into junior/senior colleges. This is worrisome.

Kathy: That talk has been going on for 25 years.

Chad: Can we be proactive and come forward with ideas about what CCSU's identity will become? And, I raise again the question, should UPBC pursue funds that it actually might become a motivator in developing that identity?

Anyone who has knowledge of PBD's at other institutions, inquire about how theirs works.

Yvonne, quick report?

Yvonne: Enrollment is down 1.9%. Retention is up 1.8%.

Adjourned at 4:17