

University Planning and Budget Committee

Minutes of the Meeting February 16th, 2021 via MS Teams

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

Guest: J. Tully, VP Student Affairs, President Toro

Chair Melnyk called the meeting to order at 1:48 pm.

Chair Melnyk made a motion to dispense with the usual order of business and to give President Toro the floor. The motion was approved

President Toro began by outlining the current situation.

1. Next year budget will include the cut we implemented this year.
2. Enrollment is not expected to increase enough to cover any shortfall.
3. Any federal money is a one-time source of funding.
4. A new model for teaching is needed; we cannot change the students so we must change ourselves.
5. There most likely will be government actions that will need to be accommodated, such as a proposal to have automatic admission for the four state universities, or legislation requiring student climate campus surveys be created and enforced.
6. Students will have more competition for jobs due to the remote work ability, perhaps even international competition.
7. The pandemic has limited the university's options.
8. Expectations have evolved.
9. Learning outcomes must be focused.

President Toro has been doing research on what other institutions of higher learning have been doing and she shared some examples, the ultimate being closing the institution altogether.

Members of the committee raised some questions to her:

1. Have any surveys been done regarding the likelihood of students returning?
2. Are there any programs currently planned regarding working with the high schools?
3. What steps can be taken to ensure that any group working on an initiative is not working in isolation?
4. Are there any plans in process for providing support such as childcare, flexible schedules, in-person vs on-line learning to enable different populations to be students?
5. How can information be spread to the whole CCSU community to get widespread support?

Some of President Toro's responses included information about the Student Success Program (EOP) looking for Best Practices from other schools, plans in progress for a drop-off childcare center, identifying technology and training possibilities, requesting committees and small groups to implement information sharing practices.

President Toro said she is proud of the work being done and collaboration that is being implemented. CCSU is doing well and can continue to be a leader but we must foster more innovation.

In response to a question about costing models relating to the BOR, President Toro stated that she believes costing models are not sufficient but can help us determine if all available tools are being utilized.

In conclusion President Toro stated that we need to look at anything and everything and work together. She also believes that enrollment and retention are key elements to our success.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm.

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

Submitted, J Hodgson, Recording Secretary