

**COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & BUDGET**  
**MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

**PRESENT:**

Juliann Allison, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Chair  
Vyjayanthi Chari, Mathematics, Vice Chair  
Bahman Anvari, Bioengineering  
David Biggs, History  
Meng Chen, Botany & Plant Sciences  
Richard Debus, Biochemistry  
Anthony Grubestic, School of Public Policy  
Cong Liu, Electrical & Computer Engineering  
David Oglesby, Earth & Planetary Sciences  
Liz Przybylski, Music  
Mark Wolfson, Clinical Sciences

**ABSENT:**

Steven Helfand, Economics  
Hyun Hong, Area of Accounting

Chair Juliann Allison called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

CPB voted unanimously to approve the November 12 meeting minutes.

**CHAIR'S UPDATES**

Chair Allison, Professor Oglesby and Professor Przybylski attended the November 18 meeting held by the Graduate Dean and Provost to discuss graduate student funding. At the meeting, it was conveyed that TA costs increased 64% at UCR from FY23 to FY25:

FY25    \$49.2M  
FY23    \$29.9M  
Difference \$19.3M  
New core funds \$ 7.0M  
Still needed    \$12.3M

To make up the difference of \$12.3M for TA costs, the expectation is that some of the funds that the Graduate Division previously managed would be used. In FY23, only \$5.6M of Graduate Division's \$12.2M allocation was used for first-year fellowships. The Graduate Student Health Insurance Program (GSHIP) for first-year graduate students accounted for \$1.6M. The \$12.2M was allocated to the colleges proportionally based on graduate student population to support one quarter of fellowship (at the base TA salary rate); and to contribute to the increased TA costs (towards the \$12.3M deficit).

With respect to first-year funding details, in FY23:

- *Students received an average of 3 quarters of fellowship at about \$5,000/quarter (total annual stipend = \$15,000).*
- *A third of students also worked during those quarters (most as TAs).*
- *Total expenditure on first-year fellowship stipends: \$5.6M.*
- *Plus \$1.6M for GSHIP.*

The first-year funding details for FY25 are:

- *Students receive 2 quarters of fellowship at \$11,333/quarter.*
- *Most students work 1 quarter.*
- *Total annual stipend/salary = \$34,000.*
- *Total expenditure on first-year fellowship stipends: \$9.5M (418 first-years).*
- *Plus \$2.1M for GSHIP.*

It was conveyed that none of these peer institutions support all their first-year students with across-the-board centrally-funded fellowships:

- *UCLA*
- *UCB*
- *UCSD*
- *U Florida*
- *UT Austin*
- *Georgia Tech*
- *UCD*
- *UCI*
- *U Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
- *UCSB*
- *Florida State U*
- *U Minnesota*
- *North Carolina State U*
- *UCM*

UCR has committed \$6M in one-time funds to support a second quarter of fellowship for the FY26 incoming cohort. This brings the total of one-time funds used to support graduate students since FY24 to \$22M. UCR has no more one-time funds for fellowship support, starting in FY27. There will be a renegotiated UAW contract in FY26. Multi-year salary increases are expected to be at least 4% per year.

Graduate Dean Kos and Provost Watkins indicated that moving funding for first-year fellowships from the oversight of the Graduate Division to the oversight of the colleges was done not to remove the Graduate Division from involvement in graduate education funding, but rather to increase efficiency of the management of these programs. By placing these programs within their home college, each Dean is aware of the sizes of the incoming cohorts and so can better assess

the needs of these programs in the subsequent years, which is a nimbler process than the previous model allowed. In addition, the aim is to reduce the workload burden on staff who were processing thousands of financial transactions every year between the Graduate Division and the colleges to accommodate the tracking of the “cohort” funds. This simplification of process locates all funds designated for graduate students within the administrative unit (i.e., college) where they are studying and brings graduate funding into alignment with how all other academic expenditures are administered. The Graduate Division continues to support diversity fellowships, dissertation fellowships, and recruitment fellowships, and works closely with the colleges on enrollment management and to ensure that full stipends are provided to students on extramural fellowships.

It was indicated that the campus does not have money for all investments in: fully funding graduate students; hiring more staff/faculty; and building renovations/to build new buildings. This is because of the fiscal realities of flat enrollment, modest indirect cost recovery (5.3% of total core revenue in FY23), an even more modest endowment, and annual fixed cost increases (total UCR faculty salaries increased by 6.4% last year, the highest among AAU institutions participating in the AAU Data Exchange; and total staff salaries increased by 4.6%, the 5th highest among this AAU group). UCR had to ask all units to cut budgets to be able to meet faculty and staff payroll costs for the coming years.

Graduate Dean Kos and Provost Watkins agree that faculty ought to be involved in setting priorities for UCR’s academic enterprise. If the faculty strongly believe that investment in graduate education should be increased, there is help needed in evaluating which other areas must be reduced. There should be more robust and candid discussion of how to help graduate students fund the full five (or more) years it takes them to complete a PhD with fewer teaching assistantships, as it relates to the concern about the relationship between student employment and graduate education. This is a vexing challenge that is being discussed at the system-wide level and across the nation.

**REDISCUSS CAMPUS REVIEW ITEM: PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM: 6<sup>th</sup> ROUND – ONLINE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (OMBA-SSGDP)**

CPB rediscussed the revised proposal for an Online Master of Business Administration self-supporting graduate degree program (OMBA-SSGDP). In its initial discussion of the review item at the October 22 meeting, CPB had the following comments/questions:

- *CPB raises an issue/question that is much deeper than this one proposal: Will UCR eventually have only self-funded online graduate degree programs?*
- *How does this self-supporting degree differ from the standard degree from a financial perspective?*
- *CPB understands that the OMBA shall be under the purview of the UCR Graduate Council and the Graduate Division to ensure adequate progress of students according to campus criteria. Yet, how will “financial success” be measured? What additional resources will be required to attempt to ensure the financial success of this degree program?*

- *If this OMBASSGDP does not turn out to be as financially lucrative as projected, what are the potential financial risks/implications to UCR as a whole?*

In addition to the aforementioned comments/questions, CPB now adds:

- *What is the source of the initial investment for this degree program? Specifically, where does the .6 Million and .7 Million in preparation and in year one come from?*
- *Will there be an audit to examine whether the degree program is meeting its financial projections?*

The meeting was called to a close at 12:13pm.