

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & BUDGET
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 29, 2022

PRESENT:

Peter Atkinson, Entomology, Chair
Dana Simmons, History, Vice Chair
Reza Abbaschian, Mechanical Engineering
Bala Balachander, Business
Roger Lake, Electrical & Computer Engineering
David Lo, School of Medicine
Hiroki Nishimura, Economics
Frances Sladek, MCSB
Yadong Yin, Chemistry
Provost Liz Watkins, guest

ABSENT:

Bronwyn Leebaw, Political Science
Ayala Rao, Microbiology & Plant Pathology

Chair Peter Atkinson called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

The Committee unanimously approved the November 15, 2022 minutes as written.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Atkinson provided an update from the last Executive Council – the proposed new department of Society, Environment, and Health Equity (SEHE) in CHASS was discussed and is being tabled. The graduate student and post-doc strike dominated the discussion. Chancellor Wilcox attended the meeting and mainly spoke about the strike.

AB2046 MEMO DISCUSSION

Chair Atkinson asked the committee to review the two memos Dana Simmons drafted regarding AB2046 and the proposed use of the \$47M from the state for the construction of the OASIS building and provide feedback and suggested revisions. The committee will finalize these memos and pass them on to the Senate Chair for distribution to faculty, administration, and Executive Council (EC) if the Chair feels EC should co-sign the memos with P&B.

PREPARE FOR MEETING WITH PROVOST WATKINS

P&B will let the Provost know they look forward to working with administration on how the OASIS building will be designed and occupied. P&B would like to ask Gerry's office to provide the future intended use of this building for the next 5-10 years.

MEETING WITH PROVOST WATKINS

Provost Watkins attended and discussed the campus strategic plan, and a plan of occupancy and design of the OASIS building. Provost Watkins informed the committee that regarding the strategic plan, the topic of sustainability will be the 5th pillar of the plan. She

responded quite comprehensively with respect to the next steps of the plan and expects a winter release of the next draft with the plan being finalized in spring. Provost Watkins will be advocating for more resources from the state of California, this request will be added to the campus strategic plan. Provost Watkins is also adding several bullet points to the strategic plan that have to do with: 1) space to improve and expand teaching and learning, 2) renovating 700,000 square feet of research space, 3) housing for students with a priority for graduate and international students, 4) strategic hiring of staff – emphasizing staff levels, flexibility, and personal growth, 5) AASHE STARS (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education American - Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) program implementation (UCR has a gold rating now, but Provost Watkins wants us to attain the platinum ranking, and 6) investment in centers of research or development on campus – for example, the clean tech park, multi-college interdisciplinary programs.

Equity, transparency, and operational efficiency are main priorities for the Provost. She tried to keep the plan high-level with the creation of “To Do” lists for the future. Provost Watkins plans to ask administrative leaders to report on their progress in planning implementation as part of their performance evaluation each year. Provost Watkins believes that UCR needs to build on its strengths, pilot new things, and start small. Provost Watkins indicated that grant funding is the largest source of bringing additional funding to a campus, and UCR needs to mobilize fundraising on this campus. Grant funding is one guide to our strengths. Provost Watkins informed the committee that the new Graduate Dean’s first job will be to restructure the graduate funding model.

Regarding OASIS, Provost Watkins suggested that P&B engage with VC-RED Torres directly. P&B should suggest that the steering committee for OASIS be expanded to include Senate faculty/committees; if there is no steering committee, one needs to be established. CE-CERT, UNEX, and companies who will rent space in the building will be the first occupants of the OASIS building.

P&B agreed it will be a good idea to meet with the VC-RED during the round of meetings with the FEC chairs, so he is part of the committee’s earlier meetings.

P&B members wondered if Gerry Bomatti can further clarify if these state funds can be used for a privatized mission. Chair Atkinson will enquire.

The meeting was called to a close at 1:03pm.