

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & BUDGET
MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2023

PRESENT:

Peter Atkinson, Entomology, Chair
Reza Abbaschian, Mechanical Engineering
David Lo, School of Medicine
Ayala Rao, Microbiology & Plant Pathology
Frances Sladek, MCSB
Yadong Yin, Chemistry

ABSENT:

Subramanian Balachander, Business
Roger Lake, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Bronwyn Leebaw, Political Science
Hiroki Nishimura, Economics
Dana Simmons, History, Vice Chair

Chair Peter Atkinson called the meeting to order at 11:10am.

The committee unanimously approved the January 10, 2023 minutes as written.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES/REMINDERS

Chair Atkinson attended the January 12, 2023 Campus Finance Committee (CFC) Meeting.

The meeting minutes can be found here: [cfc-1.12.2023-minutes-with-action-items.pdf](#). A discussion of the budgetary impact of the UC-UAW agreement/contract centered on these key points:

Review of TA component (3-year agreement)

- Moving to 3 steps which are experience based
- Schedule of salary increases 4/1/23 (FY23) , 10/1/23 (FY24), 10/1/24 (FY25)
- Fee Remissions now include campus-based fees for our campus
- GSHIP will now include children which is increasing the cost for relatively small population of grad students on our campus
- Childcare reimbursement increases each year
- Estimated at roughly \$15M cumulative base budget impact over the 3-year contract

Review of GSR components (3-year agreement)

- Moving from 10 to 6 steps and the 1st 3 are experienced based
- All other items are the same as TA components
- Estimated at roughly \$6.25M cumulative base budget impact over the 3-year contract
- Most GSRs are on external funding with a small scattering of GSRs is admin units

Review of Postdoc components (5-year agreement)

- Moving to 6 steps currently
- Campus employs about 233
- Childcare Reimbursements are new
- Estimated at roughly \$9M cumulative base budget impact over the 5-year contract

Review of Academic Researchers (5-year agreement)

- Numerous series included in this group
- Campus employs about 244
- Estimated at roughly \$3.2M cumulative base budget impact over the 5-year contract

Modeling efforts are underway by FPA/IR looking at FY22 actuals and reviewing student experience. The modeling will also include the Graduate Student Support component which includes transfers of college funding to the Grad Division for distribution to grad students. The modelling will be by S&C for FY23, FY24 and FY25.

Highlights

The good news is that UCR is fine for covering costs in FY23 for the TAs. The grants and contracts also are annually advised to budget for a salary increase for each fiscal year, and therefore they should be able to cover the FY23 increase.

- This is the right thing to do for our graduate students – they are an important component of our teaching and research ecosystem.
- The number of graduate students is relational to our undergraduate students. UG credit hours and FTE affect our funding from the state, so we have to act strategically.
- We know we will need a transition year FY24 to accommodate thoughtful planning in implementing this contract.
- The plan is to create a workgroup to include Deans and CFAOs to make a recommendation for FY25. This will include a re-evaluate of the current GSS cohort model managed in Grad Div. Consideration of establishing a 5-year package for incoming graduate students that would be included in the offer letters.

Chair Atkinson will be a part of the PhD funding Workgroup led by Provost Watkins. This workgroup will meet late January/early February.

[CAMPUS REVIEW] (ENDOWED CHAIR PROPOSAL) *JOHN E. AND ELIZABETH S. LEONARD CHAIR IN BIOCHEMISTRY (CNAS)*

P&B discussed the proposal regarding the John E. and Elizabeth S. Chair in Biochemistry. The committee voted unanimously in favor of establishing this endowed chair.

[CAMPUS REVIEW] FTE TRANSFER REQUEST: *JACQUES LEZRA 50% TRANSFER FROM HISPANIC STUDIES TO ENGLISH*

P&B discussed Professor Lezra's request to transfer 50% FTE from the Department of Hispanic Studies to the Department of English within the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. Planning and Budget voted unanimously to support this request.

[CAMPUS REVIEW] PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM: 3RD ROUND – ONLINE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (OMBA-SSGPDP)

Although SoB responded to P&B's 11-09-22 memo (containing questions and requesting points of clarification related to the proposal to launch an online MBA), P&B did not find that all of SoB's responses sufficiently clarified certain issues.

In their 11-0-9-22 memo to SoB, P&B stated:

We request that Everspring staff not be allowed to use UCR e-mail addresses since it would lead to confusion of email recipients and, since they are not UCR employees, it would be inappropriate to do so.

In this latest response from SoB, it was noted that Pearson Inc. is responsible for advertising, prescreening, and encouraging admission applications for the UCR Master of Engineering Online Program. Professor Kambiz Vafai, the director of the UCR Master of Engineering Online Program, indicated Pearson is using a UCR-based email in all communications with potential applicants. Is this truly the case? If so, the committee wanted to obtain further clarification on how the School of Engineering maintains control and oversight of such email use, specifically with respect to ensuring there are no security issues related to granting Pearson employees UCR-based emails and also ensuring there is no misrepresentation or misunderstanding that Pearson employees are UCR members.

Furthermore, in the 11-09-22 memo, P&B raised the concern:

Is there any reason why Everspring remains involved with a cohort of students once they have been admitted to the program? This seems to be the process followed by an SSGPDP in BCOE.

SoB responded that: "Everspring will serve as a single-point-of-contact for all student questions, then pass along specific items to the office of financial aid, or other school's resources where necessary...Student support after admission is a best practice for delivering outstanding student success and retention outcomes."

P&B remains concerned that Everspring as the "single-point-of-contact" for student support services does not constitute a "best practice," considering such service may not be as responsive and reliable as student interaction with the actual student support team within SoB (SoB/UCR staff). More clarification is needed to highlight exactly how the Everspring "student success advisors" would be better suited to support students all the way to graduation when compared to dedicated SoB/UCR staff.

P&B did not gain clarity on why the service fee to Everspring increases from \$12.50 per credit hour for online students to \$150 per unit for on campus students. How was this calculated?

Chair Atkinson will draft a memo highlighting P&B's outstanding concerns with the OMBA proposal.

FINALIZE QUESTIONS FOR MEETINGS WITH DEANS

The current draft document containing questions for the Deans will be circulated to the committee, as the goal is to finalize these questions in the near-term.

MEETING WITH VICE CHANCELLOR FOR PLANNING, BUDGET, AND ADMINISTRATION

VCPBA Bomotti attended the meeting for approximately 1 hour, accompanied by the Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor, Elizabeth Watkins, and Stephanie Flores, Executive Director of Financial Planning and Analysis. VCPBA Bomotti indicated he is working closely with Provost Watkins to plan out a longer term strategy for the salary scale increases of the four union groups.

The meeting was called to a close at 12:45 pm.