

**COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & BUDGET
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

PRESENT:

Peter Atkinson, Entomology, Chair
Dana Simmons, History, Vice Chair
Reza Abbaschian, Mechanical Engineering
Juliann Allison, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Subramanian Balachander, Business
Bronwyn Leebaw, Political Science
David Lo, School of Medicine
Hiroki Nishimura, Economics
Frances Sladek, MCSB

ABSENT:

Roger Lake, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Ayala Rao, Microbiology & Plant Pathology
Yadong Yin, Chemistry

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

The committee unanimously approved the February 14, 2023 minutes as written.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES/REMINDERS

Chair Atkinson attended the February 16 Campus Finance Committee (CFC) meeting. At the meeting, representatives from Barnes & Noble spoke about the "First Day Complete" program that enables participating students to receive their required course materials for all courses at a discounted price. The cost of these materials is included in tuition or covered by a flat fee. Materials are prepared by Barnes & Noble and provided to the student on or before the first day of class. There are questions and concerns whether this program is the right route moving forward for students, faculty, and the university as a whole. If the students can purchase all their books at a discounted price, who is paying for the differential? Will faculty members get money back and/or benefit from this arrangement?

Chair Atkinson asked committee members to continue editing P&B's draft letter to Provost Watkins, in response to her February 17 email outlining how the administration will be addressing the financial impacts of the recent agreements between UC and the UAW.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UCR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND BEACON ECONOMICS LLC

The committee discussed the open letter written by University of California faculty, staff, and graduate employees urging the Regents "to investigate the use of the UC name and trademarks on research reports produced by a private company that pays the university to publish under the name 'UC Riverside School of Business Center for Economic Forecasting and Development.'

The letter goes on to state:

Since 2015, the company, Beacon Economics, LLC, has had an agreement with the Regents that allows Beacon to operate as the Center for Economic Forecasting and Development and to use the UC Riverside logo and other trademarks on its research products...In addition to avoiding disclosure of its finances, Beacon appears to conduct its research without meaningful faculty oversight:

- *There is no faculty oversight committee for the Center for Economic Forecasting & Development, according to Beacon management.*
- *Beacon co-owner and Center Director Christopher Thornberg identifies himself as UCR adjunct professor, but he does not appear in either the UCR business school faculty directory or in the UCR profile directory.*
- *In fact, none of the staff of the Center for Economic Forecasting are UCR faculty according to the UCR business school faculty directory and UCR profile directory.*

Because there are obvious financial components to the relationship between the UCR School of Business and Beacon Economics LLC, P&B felt it was within its charge to look into this relationship further. P&B members too are concerned about the current arrangement that allows Beacon to license the UC Riverside name. Chair Atkinson will touch base with Senate Chair Lee to determine what might be a best path forward for P&B and the Senate as a whole in learning more about and addressing this matter.

CAMPUS REVIEW ITEMS (6 TOTAL): 50% FTE TRANSFERS TO DEPARTMENT OF BLACK STUDY

The committee voted to support 6 total requests for 50% FTE faculty transfers to the Department of Black Study.

SYSTEMWIDE REVIEW ITEM: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PRESIDENTIAL POLICY BFB-BUS-43 PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES; SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

The committee deferred discussion of this systemwide review item until its next committee meeting on February 28, 2023.

MEET WITH VICE CHANCELLOR FOR PLANNING, BUDGET, AND ADMINISTRATION

In response to P&B questions, Vice Chancellor Bomotti indicated the following:

It would be unlikely UCOP would provide any funding to the campuses to cover the increased costs of the UC-UAW contract. UCR has already covered the FY23 cost impacts for TA's, and if normal salary increases were budgeted (4.5%) they should be covered for all UAW units. The campus is planning to recruit the same number of PhD/MFA students for Fall 23 as last year (~375) and use FY24 as a transition year to some stabilization that will be planned for FY25 (the Provost is leading a group to come up with such a plan by the end of this summer). This means the campus will cover one-time costs for FY24 for TA's and there will not be added costs for Schools and Colleges. Additionally, the Provost has announced that there will be \$1M in one-time funds to assist schools and colleges with the transition for non-TA UAW programs.

UCR's allocation of the redistribution of non-resident tuition (for those institutions over their policy limit) for FY22 was \$12.5M. UCR has not received any update for FY23 but could get an estimate in the near future. The CFC recommended allocation of these funds to cover the 2023-24 TA costs, with some (no more than \$1M) reserved to fund quantitative and qualitative analysis of undergraduate student retention and the building of data dashboards to help UCR plan for improving graduation rates and reducing equity gaps, starting with (but not limited to) training, organization, and increased hiring of academic advisors.

The meeting was called to a close at 12:55 pm.