

**COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & BUDGET**  
**MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 28, 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  
Ayala Rao, Microbiology & Plant Pathology  
Frances Sladek, MCSB

**ABSENT:**

Roger Lake, Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Yadong Yin, Chemistry

Chair Peter Atkinson called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

The committee unanimously approved the February 21, 2023 minutes as written.

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES/REMINDERS**

Chair Atkinson attended the PhD Funding Workgroup meeting on Thursday, February 23. Chair Atkinson, Senate Chair Lee and Professor Weirauch believe the workgroup needs to explicitly define its formal charge, to ensure all members understand the expectations and desired results of each meeting. A formal charge will ensure all workgroup members are working towards a defined goal and able to understand the workgroup's tasks, timelines, and whatever other pertinent factors. Senate Chair Lee, Professor Weirauch, and Chair Atkinson continue to hope the workgroup will meet more frequently.

Chair Atkinson indicated that Provost Watkins spoke at the Executive Council meeting on Monday, February 27. Provost Watkins echoed what she stated in her "UAW Contract Updates" email sent to UCR faculty and staff on February 17. Central campus has set aside \$1M in one-time funds to mitigate the salary and benefits cost increases to extramural grants "in progress" for GSRs and postdocs supervised by PIs who are neither able to amend their grant budgets nor to access discretionary funding to make up the shortfall. PIs in need of assistance should solicit their departments first to determine whether there are departmental discretionary funds available. If the departments are unable to contribute, the PI and the department chair should seek assistance from the college/school dean. The dean will make the determination whether to apply to Provost Watkins' office for central funding support. Requests from deans for central support should be submitted to Provost Watkins by April 15, 2023.

Chair Atkinson asked P&B members to continue editing the committee's draft letter regarding the relationship between the UCR School of Business and Beacon Economics LLC.

**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 March 14, 2023.

**MEET WITH ASSOCIATE PROVOST/CHIEF OF STAFF BAERENKLAU**

Associate Provost Baerenklau attended this meeting with the CFAO of the Financial Admin Services Team (FAST), Sean Cason. In response to P&B questions, Associate Provost Baerenklau indicated the following:

The UE budget is in a very different situation today than it was last year. In spring 2022, UE proposed new permanent and temporary funding to the Campus Finance Committee, which they supported and the Provost approved. A total of \$1.8M permanent and \$500,000 temporary new funds were received from system-wide lottery fund resources. New permanent funding is primarily supporting the Academic Resource Center (ARC) which had been facing a significant funding shortfall due to expiring temporary funds. Permanent funding also is supporting new staff in the Health Professions Advising Center (HPAC) and in XCITE, and will fund professional development activities for academic advisors campus-wide. Temporary funds supported student workers in XCITE during the Canvas cut-over, and will fund a new advising student information system ("CRM") that has been requested by academic advisors.

One significant challenge is determining how to effectively deliver the Senate-mandated University Writing Program (UWP) and the ARC support programs, given significantly higher salary and benefits costs for the represented academic student employees (ASE) who teach sections. With no changes to the structure of these programs, annual costs will increase by approximately \$524,000 due to the new UAW contract (UE is waiting for final numbers from the campus budget office). As is the case for the schools and colleges, increased ASE costs will be covered through FY24 with temporary central resources but UE will need to bridge the gap in FY25 and beyond.

New resources to help bridge this gap could come from Senate-approved credit-bearing activities offered through UE, but a second challenge is that progress towards fully-fledged academic division status has been slow. Division status was approved last year by the UCR Senate, with the consent of the systemwide Senate, but only recently has UE been invited to submit draft bylaws for review. Senate-approved credit-bearing activities in the areas of professional development, career readiness, the research process, co-curricular writing support, and other cross-disciplinary topics that connect to existing programs and expertise in UE are feasible only after UE can function as an academic division (e.g. establishing an executive committee that can propose courses). Absent this ability, UE's only significant source of new permanent revenue is additional central campus allocations.

### **MEET WITH DEAN OF GRADUATE DIVISION, SHAUN BOWLER**

Dean Bowler attended this meeting with the CFAO of Graduate Division, Cheryl Gerry. Dean Bowler provided P&B with presentation slides on Graduate Division's plan to meet objectives for the UCR 2030 Strategic Initiative and how funding agencies will be paying more attention to Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).

One objective for Graduate Division is to improve graduate student success and pipelines via improving graduation rates and decreasing equity gaps. Graduate Division will take action to provide support for faculty to apply for more training grants; support student applications for individual fellowships; and do its best to figure out the right size for TA budgets.

To be more deliberate about optimal lab climate and RCR compliance, Graduate Division emphasizes the following as a means to attract and retain good students by doing the right thing: adopting lab manuals and agreements; being intentional about mentoring; adopting some best practices; and making RCR part of a curriculum and discussion.

P&B and Dean Bowler discussed the consideration of possibly raising the money that Graduate Division receives from master's degree tuition, from 30% of tuition collected to a larger percentage. Also, it was discussed that perhaps schools/colleges could be incentivized to fund more PhD students by Graduate Division offering more money for first year fellowships, etc.

The meeting was called to a close at 1:10 pm.