

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING 05-08-2018 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 10-16-2018  
Sub. To Exec. Comm. \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by Exec. Comm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Sub. To Acad. Senate \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by Acad. Senate \_\_\_\_\_  
POLICY ITEMS \_\_\_\_\_

### Members Present:

Dianne Bartlow, Lindsay Brown, Nazaret Dermendjian, Greg Knotts, Amalie Orme, Jerald Schutte, Irwin Spolter (recording), Diane Stephens, Yarma Velazquez-Vargas

### Members Excused:

Michael Hoggan, Linda Noblejas, Sally Spencer, Setareh Torabian-Riasati

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of three items by Jerald Schutte (to be included as part of the Chair's Report).

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes from March 13, 2018

The minutes of the March 13, 2018 meeting were approved.

#### 4. Chair's Report/Active Learning Space

Dermendjian reported that UPBG meeting was postponed again so there is nothing to report since the last meeting.

Schutte provided an update on three main issues and discussed participation in Advocacy Day in Sacramento on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. He mentioned that the Chancellor took the tuition increase off the agenda for the Board of Trustees (BOT). He also reported on his discussions with legislators and personnel in various offices in Sacramento regarding restoration of the CSU's \$171M.

#### Issue #1 - Sustainability

Headway has been made on some bills and not others. The issue for the last plenary (May 9-11, 2018) and the final BOT meeting (next week) will revolve less around tuition issues

and more around sustainability. The Sustainability Report was issued two years ago which was adopted by ASCSU and acknowledged by the CO that is being revisited in consideration of this tuition increase. The Trustees have it on their agenda.

#### Issue #2 - Online Education

Another item that has resurfaced is a report concerning online instruction issued to the BOT. There is an extensive report attached to the education subcommittee of the BOT which is up for discussion. It appears that the current emphasis may come from AVC Blanchard's proposal that ATAC (started in 2002 to track the use of technology in education) and Commission on Online Instruction (started in 2015 to review online instruction) be combined into one committee.

There will be a systematic approach to vet online instruction. Schutte noted that he communicated previously to the Academic Technology Committee (ATC) that while online instruction may facilitate some certain positive results, it is outweighed by the unintended negative consequences. It is his opinion that Governor Brown, potential governor Gavin Newsome, as well as the Legislative Analyst's Office, and Department of Finance are all looking at online instruction as the panacea to solve the funding problem by scaling these classes to manage the budget because the SFR will increase. Schutte stated there is evidence that some students do not do well with online courses and students with these same characteristics tend to take longer to graduate.

#### Issue #3 – GI 2025 Effect on Grad Rates

A report will be issued from the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Statewide Academic Senate regarding the effects of GI 2025 on graduation rates. They have formed some reluctant conclusions about its short-term effects.

There was discussion among committee members about the support for and challenges related to online instruction, the benefits of hybrid instruction, and statewide initiatives such as Cal State Teach etc. Schutte stated that the current budget includes \$10M allocated for the study of the efficacy of online instruction, particularly as it relates to machine learning and artificial intelligence.

### **5. Executive Secretary's Report**

Stephens reported on budget, stating that Academic Affairs completed college budget review meetings last month and staff are now preparing for fiscal year end and next year. They are waiting for the May Revision for more information on the budget. There is likely to be the usual activity in Sacramento between now and passage of the Budget Act in June. In July, the CSU typically issues its Budget Memo to the campuses. In other words, we are in a waiting game to see the status of the State, CSU, and campus budgets.

Stephens also reported that the reorganization in Academic Resources and Planning has been completed. Additionally, the Department will be posting the Director of Academic Budget Management position following the death of the incumbent, Eleanor Jones. The Department is obviously saddened by this incredible loss. Stephens expressed her personal gratitude to the staff who have been doing incredible work to fill this and other financial staffing gaps in the Division for over 16 months. She looks forward to new leadership in this area.

In March, Stephens mentioned the revised shared use agreement with Northridge Academy High School; it has now been executed by President Harrison and sent to LAUSD for review and approval.

## **6. Annual Report for AY 2017/2018 Review**

The Annual Report was approved as amended to include the new policy on presentation of materials in advance of 48 hours for members to review.

## **7. Budget and Faculty Hiring – Provost Yi Li**

### **Faculty Hires**

Provost Li reported that there are 18 faculty hires. It is notable that the university was able to recruit nearly all the top choices/candidates. Several campus interviews and final decisions will be completed over the next few days.

### **Budget**

The Provost does not have much to report, however, there is guarded optimism regarding additional funding. The campus should be able to cover all mandatory costs such as salary, insurance, and health benefits with possible funds left over for other things including student success. He expects additional budget news by May 15 prior to the June revised budget.

### **Student Enrollment**

The President's Cabinet has made the decision for this coming Fall term to maintain a constant overall headcount. We expect an increase in student retention and more graduating students in a shorter period because of our student success programs. Our projection is to have nearly the same incoming student headcount – FTF and FTT as Fall 2017 (less 200). With this in mind, enrollment growth of impacted Tier 1 and Tier 2 majors must be controlled and remain impacted at the Fall 2017 average level. Because of the CSU Apply system, a group of 200-300 students who applied incorrectly do not appear as enrolled, but will likely be included in our enrollment headcount, increasing our original projection over the previous year.

With the current tuition schedule, as soon as a student reaches 6.1 units or more, the tuition is constant. However, if a student takes more units, this will result in an increase in cost because more classes/seats/instructors will be necessary without yielding more revenue. This situation will continue to affect the budget. The average unit load (AUL) will increase costs between \$5-6M. We do not collect funds from the CO for over-enrollment. For the last couple of years, the CO has not imposed penalties for over-enrollment.

### **Next Year Hiring**

The Provost stated that Academic Affairs is not looking at additional hiring due to state funding issues, although hiring may come later. It is possible that searches not completed will carry forward. We will review tenure density of certain departments. Stephens added that there are nine new positions (from the multi-year hiring plan last year) plus five carry forward searches.

Discussion ensued on questions about replacement for FERPS, how cluster hires are requested, created, and funded, the Director of Sustainability position, how many tenure-track faculty were authorized in 16-17 for hire in 17-18 and how many were hired, etc.

Provost Li stated that the challenge of higher education everywhere has been filling faculty lines. Based on the engagement tour, the message is that in California, UC institutions are regarded as top ranked and known for research; Community Colleges are responsible for workforce development and, very often, the CSU is not mentioned. Nevertheless, CSUN is in better shape than some smaller campuses in the CSU. CSUN has financial stability. To hold us whole, if we restricted AUL to 12, that would solve some of the problems, but it is clearly not something that we want to do in terms of student completion. We want our students to graduate as soon as possible and to have a successful career. Because of CSUN's structure and flexibility, our campus can weather financial storms.

## **8. Election of Chair**

Dermendjian was reelected by acclamation.

## **9. Additional Miscellaneous Business**

- a. Dermendjian to email members the notes from the next UPBG meeting.
- b. Schutte is serving on Athletic Director search committee and noted there is a strong pool with final four candidates coming to campus.
- c. Diane Stephens solicited ERC members interested in possibly serving on the Director for Academic Budget Management search committee.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

### **Notes:**

The next ERC meeting will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in UN 211

***\*THERE WAS NO POLICY RECOMMENDATION PUT FORTH AT THIS MEETING  
FOR SENATE CONSIDERATION.to Order***