

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING 02/14/2023 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 3/14/2023

Sub. To Exec. Comm. 3/15/2023 Approved by Exec. Comm. \_\_\_\_\_

Sub. To Acad. Senate \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by Acad. Senate \_\_\_\_\_

POLICY ITEMS \_\_\_\_\_

## Members Present:

Elizabeth Dabach, Ellis Godard, Callie Juarez (non-voting), Gregory Knotts, Mirna Sawyer, Holli TONYAN, Nazaret Dermedjian, Katherine Stevenson

## Not present (Excused):

Yarma Velazquez-Vargas

## Not present:

Christian Tedeschi

## Guests:

Caroline Castillo (recording), President Beck, Provost Komarraju, Diane Stephens, Dr. Mary Beth Walker

## Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Gregory Knotts.

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

The members were informed that ERC meetings are recorded for minutes-creation and note-taking purposes and are destroyed after that process is done.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with no objections

### 3. Approval of the ERC Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022

The minutes were approved with no objections. K Stevenson abstained from voting.

### 4. President Beck, Provost Komarraju, and Dr. Mary Beth Walker

President Beck recognized the depth and importance of engagement and the consultative process. She stated that while she has no specific vision regarding the committee's ways of working, the ways in which inputs from consultations and data-gathering mechanisms are brought to the Provost, academic affairs budgeting process, and the senate are of functional importance. Conversations are ongoing with Cabinet leadership on opportunities to broaden engagement on the budget. She suggested that there may be value in engaging Michael Neubauer as part of these conversations.

It was noted that ERC does not create policies, but instead, functions in a primarily consultative manner as part of a larger collaborative process. The goal is to be proactive contributors. A reminder that at the Provost's behest, ERC created a rubric in alignment with the roadmap, to potentially guide evaluation and faculty input on use of unexpected funds.

President Beck spoke briefly regarding enrollment pressures on the CSU and Northridge. Starting with the 2024 budget; campuses that fail to meet their funded target from the Chancellors Office will have recurring permanent dollars held from their budgets and re-allocated to campuses with the ability to grow. Northridge is currently 3.5% below funded target.

Provost Komarraju stated that she has been impressed with CSUN and the high level of engagement by faculty. She expressed a desire to serve by keeping faculty and students in the forefront. Enrollment continues to be a key priority, particularly as it relates to recruitment and retention. In recent years, there has been an overall decline across categories. Input is welcomed from the committee on overall strategy, including deployment of available funds.

G. Knotts highlighted ongoing conversations at ERC regarding prospective approaches to faculty hiring and student recruitment efforts, including reacting to the current climate or proactively looking to the future to address anticipated areas of need. Current western approach focuses primarily on preparing students for existing jobs. There may however be a need for a paradigm shift to prepare students for expected jobs of the future.

The committee thanked President Beck, Provost Komarraju, and Dr. Walker for their time and contributions to the discussion.

## **5. Chair's Report**

There has been a slight decline in undergraduate enrollment in the United States in the last several years. CSU systemwide resident enrollment is also down in comparison to resident enrollment target (FTES). An overview of the broader CSU strategy was presented, including:

- Reengaging and reenrolling students
- Emphasizing retention
- Shifting to state-support summer instruction
- Launching PK-14 partnerships
- Expanding prospective student and continuing student market and communication

It was noted that Northridge has higher retention percentage between freshman year and sophomore than in previous years. A suggestion was made that academic standing be looked at in conjunction with enrollment numbers to help identify opportunities to provide additional supports to help foster student success. Intentional efforts are also required to address pandemic-related issues.

An update was provided from the recent UPBG meeting:

- There has been a decline in state revenues, taxes.
  - A budget shortfall is expected if faculty and staff compensation is negotiated

Discussion took place regarding the switch from self-support summer to state-side summer for 2023. Faculty hiring concerns were expressed for summer 2023. C. Juarez explained that summer is the leading term for enrollment.

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

C. Juarez instructed everyone to watch the the presentation on the Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance and CSU Enrollment that was emailed to the committee.

At UPBG campus budget priorities were discussed and forming campus budget priorities for 23/24.

### **Campus Budget Priorities 2021/22**

- Provide grant aid to students impacted by the pandemic
- Address resource needs for academic, student support and administrative operations
- Ensure financial stability of CSUN centers and institutes, enterprise operations and auxiliary organizations
- Invest in initiatives addressing student success goals and elimination of persistent equity gaps
- Reduce annual reliance on one-time funds to balance the base operating budget, to ensure future financial stability for the campus
- Continue to fund academic/student support facility development and critical deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs

### **Campus Budget Priorities 2022/23**

- Fund vital faculty and staff compensation increases
- Increase investments toward closure of persistent achievement gaps for our most underserved students
- Increase student basic needs and mental health investments
- Address the abrupt reversal of historically increasing enrollment at CSUN
- Maintain a stable budget position that minimizes deficit spending

ERC needs to provide input into the development of campus priorities for 2023/24. The next UPBG meeting will take place in-person on April 7, as a working session focused on campus priorities and campus revenue.

## **7. Faculty Feedback Sub-Committee**

G. Knotts reported that ERC has been looking at qualitative and quantitative mechanisms to gather feedback from faculty regarding their goals, as it relates to issues within the charge of ERC. A quantitative survey has been developed, and plans are underway for a qualitative townhall.

A draft survey has been developed. An overview of the process and considerations was provided. ERC members were asked to review the draft survey and provide feedback within 48 hours. There was recognition that the process has some flaws, however, expectation is that it will be further refined over time and it is important to begin a systemic mechanism for collecting faculty input regarding educational resources.

A qualitative townhall has been tentatively scheduled for March 13, the purpose of which is to increase faculty awareness of ERC and create mechanisms to gather faculty perspective around how university resources can be best allocated to support enrollment and retention. The committee approved the recommendation to proceed with the townhall as outlined, and also to refine the survey for a March distribution.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm

### **Notes:**

The next ERC meeting will be held on March 14, 2023, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

## **ERC's Charge**

“This committee shall make general policy recommendations in order to guide the allocation of all University resources which impact educational programs. In carrying out its charge, the committee may review and advise on current and proposed allocation of faculty positions; the allocation and the projected needs for space; support equipment and operating expense budgets; the allocation of resources for technology; the assignment and projected needs of support staff; the recommendations of other faculty governance committees which have significant educational resource implications; additionally, at the request of an appropriate University committee or an Associate Dean, independently evaluate proposals for new programs with regard to their impact on the available educational resources of the University.” — *from ERC Bylaws*