

Minutes
College of Biological Sciences
Executive Committee Meeting
June 12, 2009 – 2:30-4:00 p.m. - LS-223

Present: Sue Bodine, Ken Burtis, Carol Erickson, Ken Kaplan, Diana Myles, Terence Murphy (guest), Neelima Sinha, Sebastian Schreiber, Valley Stewart, Sharon Strauss, John Wingfield. Excused: Rick Grosberg; Jim MacDonald; Michael Turelli

The minutes of the 4/10/09 meeting were approved as submitted.

Announcements:

Bodine announced that budget cuts to the Library could affect subscriptions to electronic journals.

New Business:

Budget Update – Dean Burtis

Burtis said that because of the declining State budget and the lack of resources allocated to the University of California by the State Legislature the \$39 mil deficit at UCD has ballooned to \$109 million dollars. The only thing that would change that \$109 mil deficit is the State putting monies back into the UC system.

A saving of ~39 million is possible through furloughs/pay cut, leaving \$70 million.

Burtis said that campus handed down additional mid-year budget to the Colleges and that CBS' share is \$750K in addition to the \$490K in cuts that the College previously planned for. We do not know if this cut is permanent or for this year only.

The campus is considering how to manage with these cuts. Some ideas under discussion are:

- Furloughs for faculty and staff situation – for each day of furlough we save 1.6 mil (this campus only)
- Changes to the student / faculty ratio – increase units or decrease hours for some courses
- Campus is consolidating some departments within Administration.
- Additional increases in student fees

- Bodine asked if there were discussions at the campus level regarding combining colleges.

Burtis said that nothing is decided at this time and that the most dramatic action we have taken so far is to decrease the enrollment level. We are waiting for a hiring plan from the Vice Provost for next year. Burtis thinks there will be a significant slowdown in hiring for the next couple of years. Burtis said that the searches currently in progress would finish.

Burtis asked the Executive Committee for ideas on ways to cut costs. Discussion topics included:

1. *Curriculum* - Committee suggested that the number of hours and the unit values of some other courses should be revisited and that this might be a place to start exploring how we might be able to deliver our curriculum for a lower cost.

Action: Committee agreed that Dean Burtis and Sue Bodine will form a task force to evaluate CBS curriculum for under valued courses and Majors close to the unit limit.

Stewart suggested that as long as we going to revisit courses for units we could look at courses for inclusion of the new GE requirements.

Committee noted that curriculum changes would have to be approved by the Committee on Courses and the Undergraduate Council.

Murphy said the Courses Committee had developed a process for going through the GE changes without requiring that every course be reviewed the way it has been before.

Bodine and Burtis commented that the Howard Hughes report said that medical schools were moving toward areas of competency rather than requirements for one year of specified courses such as organic chemistry, chemistry, and physics and in the future students who were going to apply to medical school may have more flexibility in their schedules.

2. *Services* - Committee asked if we could consolidate ordering or centralize some services.

3. *Additional Support* - Committee asked if we could get additional support from the College of Ag or the School of Medicine for our graduate groups. Burtis said that it was reciprocal. CBS has faculty who have students in grad groups housed in medicine and immunology and that the SOM contributes to keeping the Center for Neuroscience running.

4. Erickson said that we have made dramatic cuts to graduate education every year and that she doesn't see how we can cut much more.

Math 17

Myles asked EC to comment on the possibility of changing the curriculum to require Math 17 for all majors as discussed at the 4/10/09 meeting.

Committee agreed that requiring Math 17 was a possibility if there were some changes to the course.

Action: Committee agreed that CBS could make a provisional intent to move ahead and Dean Burtis and Sue Bodine will set up a faculty focus group from Math and CBS with a goal of developing a proposal for review in the fall.

Burtis said that we need people [in the focus group] who represent the complete span of math diversity within the College because the course had to be appropriate for all of our majors.

Library

Bodine referred to the report sent to the E, Proposed Revision of Davis Division Bylaws: Change in Membership and Duties of Library Committee -- Instead of having college [library] committees we'll have five disciplinary committees (areas of emphasis committees); Science / Engineering, Biological / Agricultural Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Health Sciences. These committees would receive detailed budgets on their disciplines from which they can make cuts or make decisions about what cuts are going to be made and about which journals would be cut. Biological Sciences is on the Biological / Agricultural Sciences committee. On alternate years the chair would be from CBS and then Ag.

Bodine asked whether we want representation on the Health Sciences committee since there is considerable overlap with respect to Journals.

Action: EC agreed that CBS should have representation on the Health Sciences Library Committee in addition to the Biological / Agricultural Sciences Committee.

Dean Burtis commented that perhaps the rules about cheating and plagiarism should be brought up at Freshmen Orientation.

Old Business:

Student Cheating & Plagiarism - Sharon Strauss asked if we shouldn't ask all our students to sign an honors pledge about cheating or plagiarism before they can even be biology major.

The BIS Major Program Committee nominees were approved by the executive committee on 4/27/09. Committee members are: Lesilee Rose (MCB), Stacey Harmer (PLB), **Artyom Kopp** (EVE), **Brian Mulloney** (NPB), Jay Stachowicz, (BIS) & Marine Biology -Bodega Bay. Professor Stachowicz will serve until Don Strong returns from sabbatical in December 2010 and Mitch Singer (MIC). Professor Singer will be on sabbatical starting fall '09.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.