THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee
Faculty Center
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Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 2016
8:15-9:50 a.m. Old Main Boardroom


Guests: G. Burd

Call to Order
Co-Chair R. Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes of November 2 and November 16, 2016
The minutes of November 2, 2016 were postponed and the minutes of November 16, 2016 were approved.

Updates
Provost Comrie shared with the Committee that the Arizona Memorial Dedication on the UA Mall on December 4, 2016 went very smoothly and drew a large crowd.

Second, he updated the committee on the search for a new dean for the Honors College, which will be co-chaired by Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Melissa Vito and Associate Vice President for Research Neal Armstrong, with the members of the committee being finalized. It is hoped that a new Honors College dean will be named in time for the Fall 2017 semester.

Provost Comrie met with a group representing UA Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students. The discussion centered around their request for a more robust and enthusiastic document of support for protecting UA DACA students and allowing them to remain on campus. Comrie explained that all three Arizona university Presidents support allowing DACA-eligible students to continue their studies at a comparable tuition, and are looking at ways to fund their education should President-elect Trump and his administration rescind DACA designation.
Members asked about the notion of Sanctuary Campuses and were advised that these titles are largely symbolic, as there are no laws or policies involved with such designation.

Discussion followed concerning Border Patrol on campus (for things like recruitment) and ways to better inform the campus community regarding their presence to alleviate any potential sources of stress.

Members asked about the number of DACA students currently on the UA campus and were told there are currently about seventy students. Discussion ensued about DACA, which as an executive order could be rescinded by President-elect Trump, though it is premature for the UA to take any specific action since the President-elect’s position is not yet clear.

Members asked about the preliminary injunction that is halting the implementation of the U.S. Department of Labor’s new overtime rule and were told by M. Taylor that those UA employees that were moved from Exempt to Non-Exempt are now moved back to Exempt as of December 5th and would remain in that category until a ruling from the courts. Discussion followed concerning the minimum wage raise that passed in Arizona during the November election, which increased the minimum wage in Arizona to $10/hour on January 1, 2017. While state agencies like the UA are exempt, the UA is nevertheless planning a minimum wage increase to $10/hour come July 1, our new fiscal year. The population most affected by the increase will be student workers.

Assistant Vice President for Planning/Design and Construction Peter Dourlein updated members concerning the process that is underway for master building planning for the UA campus. An executive steering committee is in place, and a Phoenix consulting firm has been hired to more fully engage the campus and community with the planning, which happens formally every ten years. SPBAC will be part of the consulting, which is designed to include focus groups and online surveys.

Comrie reminded members that tuition discussions will start taking place in January between M. Vito, G. Goldman and himself in preparation for student conversations.

Members briefly talked about planned topics for the Spring 2017 semester, including budget recommendations, the space plan, value propositions for student education, and a planned visit by President Hart.

Gail Burd, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs—Preparing for the Higher Learning Commission Re-Accreditation Review

Burd distributed three handouts that helped clarify the expectations and processes that the University is preparing for in anticipation of a one-and-a-half-day campus visit from an Accreditation Review Committee in 2020. Burd has begun meeting with deans and department heads to help them better prepare all the information that is needed, which will primarily be gathered online rather than through paper as in previous reviews. Among the pieces under review: courses and course syllabi, with a focus on consistency.
and attention to learning outcomes. Members discussed the importance of clarity for students that different instructors may chose different course content and evaluation processes. It was also noted that hybrid and online classes need to have learning outcomes consistent with those of their face-to-face counterparts.

Discussion followed about the UA’s efforts to ensure that all courses in the course catalog be available to students, as opposed to not offered for multiple semesters in a row.

Burd pointed out the importance of assuring that faculty are qualified to teach their courses, including the importance of advanced or terminal degrees in the disciplines they are teaching and their previous job experiences.

Members pointed out the importance of *Inclusive Excellence* as part of the Reaccreditation process

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

**Future Meetings**
- December 21, 2016: CANCELLED
- January 4, 2017: CANCELLED
- January 18, 2017: 8:15 am – 9:50 am Old Main Boardroom
- February 1, 2017: 8:15 am – 9:50 am Old Main Boardroom
- February 15, 2017: 8:15 am – 9:50 am Old Main Boardroom