THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®
Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee
Faculty Center
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Minutes
Wednesday, April 6, 2016
8:15-9:50 a.m. Old Main Boardroom

Present: M. Galilee-Belfer (Co-Chair), R. Richardson (Co-Chair), D. Armstrong,
M.L. Brown, B. Bryson, A. Comrie, V. Del Casino, F. Cordova (alt. Alumni),
P. Dourlein, J. Duran, M. Felix, J.P. Jones, A. McClure, M. Miller,
L. Nadel, M. Proctor, C. Stoffle, J. Sun, M. Taylor, S. Umashankar,
K. Urquidez, A. Vaillancourt, X. Zeng

Absent: R. Blakiston, M. Burke, J. Fares, J. Florian, G. Goldman, S. Helm,
M. Jonen, C. Rocha, J.P. Roczniak, T. Tong, K. Whisman

Guests: Paul Blowers, Lisa Elfring, Melissa Fitch, Bill Neumann

Call to Order
Co-Chair M. Galilee-Belfer called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes of March 2, 2016
The minutes of March 2, 2016 were approved.

Updates
Provost Comrie reminded members that the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) will be in
Tucson this week and will set the tuition package for AY16-17. ABOR staff felt that the agenda
item on quality measures for the three universities needed further development and moved the
item to a future meeting.

Comrie said that the Arizona legislature continues to work on a budget for FY 17. Governor
Ducey’s budget request included an increase for higher education, and is being considered by
the legislature. Provost Comrie encouraged SPBAC to finalize the draft document it created
about budget priorities that included salary increases.

Search updates: Interim Dean of the College of Medicine-Tucson Charles Cairns has been
named the full-time dean and J.P. Roczniak, interim President and CEO of the UA Foundation
has been named the permanent President and CEO of the UA Foundation after a national
search. Provost Comrie is meeting with the Chief Diversity Officer Search Committee on Friday,
April 8 for its feedback on the candidates’ campus visits.

Vice President for Enrollment Management K. Urquidez updated members about the incoming
2016 freshman class. The total number of students that have placed deposits is down
approximately 200 as compared to this time last year, but given the constant flux in the
admissions environment, the figure is not a major concern at this point. 700 perspective
students paid their deposit last week. K. Urquidez also shared that all new students have been
contacted by phone either through the admissions office and/or the cultural centers. She also
discussed that Northern Arizona University’s (NAU) latest tuition offer to Arizona residents – free
tuition to those with a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher – may have some impact on enrollments
at UA. Urquidez also shared that the number of degree programs available through the Western
Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program, which allows students from 15 member states along
with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to pay 1½ times the resident tuition rate if accepted into the program, is very different between the three Arizona universities, with the UA having the fewest slots available (www.wiche.edu).

M.L. Brown updated the Committee about the Diversity Task Force, co-chaired by SPBAC member Javier Duran as well as Tannya Gaxiola and Bryan Carter. Brown is the SPBAC representative to the 60 member task force that includes eight subcommittees: Classroom Experience, Financial Aid and Admissions, Health and Wellness, Faculty and Staff Diversity, Cultural Competency Training, Spaces and Facilities, Student Experiences, and Student Support. She reported that when the Task Force, at its first meeting, shared University efforts already underway that address some of the students’ demands, students reported concern with their lack of involvement in the decision-making around these new efforts. Communication will be an issue, since K. Urquidez shared that changes to orientation were actually discussed with representatives from the Black Student group. She also reported student concerns about the timing of progress, especially with some of the students graduating in May. Members agreed that communication and establishing trust are both key to addressing the issues.

A. Vaillancourt updated the Committee on the possibility of creating a single job classification that would include both classified staff and academic personnel. The goal is to acknowledge status issues within the current system while reducing some of the anxiety and inequities surrounding current employment classifications and practices, and to help create a greater sense of community amongst employees. The Appointed Professionals Advisory Council (APAC) and the Classified Staff Council (CSC) have both been consulted and are supportive of the concept, and look forward to being part of the process. Classified staff who remain in their current job and position would be grandfathered in if they so choose to maintain certain current benefits; such benefits would change should a job change bring them to a new employment category.

Members asked if there has been any update to the exempt/non-exempt conversations in the federal government. A. Vaillancourt said that these conversations were ongoing, but that implementation might be delayed from the original timeline because of a recognition that the new rules would have a large impact on both employers and employees. The current proposal is that those making less than $50,440 would be eligible for overtime, a nearly two fold increase over current limits.

**Tim Bee-Vice President/Government & Community Relations**

Guest Tim Bee made a very well received presentation on the current Arizona State Legislative session. Bee reminded members that during the 2015 session, the Legislature anticipated a large deficit at the end of FY2014, and that the FY2015 budget cut $99M from the university system in anticipation of this deficit. However, the State ended FY2014 with a large surplus.

Bee talked about the proposed funding model for Arizona resident students, which all three state universities and ABOR support. Under the model, the state would provide funding of 50% of the cost of educating each in-state student, and we’d move away from the current performance funding model. The three Universities are requesting a $32M appropriation under this new model, which would include $8M in Governor Ducey’s proposed budget and an additional $24M to partially restore the $99M cut in FY2015.

ABOR is also requesting $8M in one-time monies for renovations to the UA Veterinary Medicine Oro Valley facilities. Bee said that the agricultural community in the State is very supportive of this request. Bee also talked about the proposal to move the Arizona Geological Survey back to the UA, and efforts to assure that existing state funding for the agency follows the agency.
Bee informed the Committee on a wide range of bills either currently before the Legislature or that have already been withdrawn that could have an impact on the University. More information can be found on the attached pdf.

Bee also shared that since the beginning of this legislative session over 100 student advocates have attended more than 48 legislative meetings, provided more than 480 volunteer hours, and written over 640 letters to legislators urging their support for the UA and higher education. In addition the UA has a thriving and competitive legislative internship program. This year 20 UA students lived and worked for a semester in Phoenix while earning both 12 units of academic credit and a stipend. The interns will be recognized at the end of their term of service at a lunch with President Hart and participating state agency staff.

**Honors Re-envisioning Task Force**
SPBAC member V. Del Casino, serving as chair of the Re-Envisioning Honors Task Force, was joined by Task Force members Bill Neumann, Melissa Fitch, Lisa Elfring and Paul Blowers. The Task Force, as part of its charge to “imagine how we will further grow and define our Honors experience for the 21st Century” (http://memo.ahsc.arizona.edu/index.cfm/memos/view/25181/8b1535d576d90a09), sought SPBAC input on where the Honors College could “go next.” The wide-ranging discussion included issues such as: (a) the role of an Honors experience in student recruitment; (b) what kind of experiences and opportunities should be available to Honors students versus all students; (c) who should be an Honors student/eligibility parameters, (d) how to address concerns that Honors represents a kind of elitism, and (e) how, within RCM, to fund an Honors experience. Members expressed the importance of the Honors experience being adequately funded and accessible to a wide variety of students. The Task Force was scheduled to meet shortly to synthesize input from various stakeholders and submit its report to the campus shortly thereafter.

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

**Future Meetings**
- April 20, 2016  8:15 am – 9:50 am  Old Main Boardroom
- May 4, 2016     8:15 am – 9:50 am  Old Main Boardroom