Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee
Faculty Center
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Minutes
Wednesday, November 6, 2019
8:15-9:45am Old Main Boardroom


Observers: C. Henderson, R. Miller, A. Romero, C. Siggurdson

Guests: Cynthia Demetriou, Vice Provost, Student Success and Retention Innovation; Roxie Catts, Principal Advising Officer/Director, Advising Resource Center

Call to Order
Co-Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 8:18 am

Approval of the Minutes of October 16, 2019
The October 16, 2019 minutes were approved.

Updates

President Robert Robbins
Robbins updated the committee about the upcoming ABOR meetings starting November 21st including the Regent’s breakfast event. Robbins provided details to the committee about the opening of the new UA Honor’s Village. The committee asked questions regarding UA’s role as a Native American Serving Institution and discussed certification on this topic.

Liesl Folks, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Folks provided information to the committee about strategic plan initiatives and the ways implementation of the strategic plan has dovetailed with established university values. Folks is working with individual colleges to align college-specific strategic plan initiatives with the university-wide strategic plan. All colleges have their own strategic plan. Folks added the strategic plan highlights prioritization of initiatives that serve to improve first to second year retention and graduation rates. Committee members discussed concerns regarding faculty input on priority setting and budget allocation in the strategic plan. Folks explained that all strategic plan items were decided with faculty input, but many initiatives in the plan are staff led and the plan will be used to guide pillar investments.
Lisa Rulney, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Business Affairs
Rulney shared information regarding the capital development plan and current projects including:
- Old Chemistry building will be renovated into an active learning classroom space
- Construction of the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine
- Partnership with TEP for wind and solar energy and relocation of Facilities Management units
- Changes in scope of Applied Research building and Grand Challenges building
- Partnership with ClubCorp and revamping of university clubs in Arizona Stadium

Discussion
Cynthia Demetriou, Vice Provost, Student Success and Retention Innovation; Roxie Catts, Principal Advising Officer/Director, Advising Resource Center
Demetriou and Catts presented to the committee regarding Student Success and Retention Innovation (SSRI) activities and initiatives including:
- Analytics
- Retention Playbook (including mental health and wellness, online counseling)
  - Last-mile grants: for students who have 90+ credits but have a financial burden preventing the completion of the remaining 30 credits.
  - Balance grants: $800 per semester grants to pay small balances in order to allow students to register.
- Academic Advising initiatives including hiring 12 retention specialists for all colleges who will meet weekly and provide student data to academic advisors.
- Partnership with AZ Online and the creation of the undergraduate executive degree (modeled after MBA).
- Creation of a “grand central station” for advising and student information related to advising that is focused on students transitioning between colleges or programs/students without majors.

Committee members discussed with Demetriou and Catts avenues for formalizing the advice that faculty provide to students and expressed the need for student representation on committees. Questions were asked by faculty members regarding financial aid initiatives and cost of attendance and living estimates. Co-Chairs Brummund and Helm will plan a future meeting session focused on financial aid in 2020.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.