**AGENDA**

Regular Meeting of the University of Colorado (CU) Denver Downtown Campus Faculty Assembly’s

Budget Priorities Committee (BPC)

https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/2016016073

April 2, 2023

10:00 am – 11:30 am

BPC Attendees: Joanne Addison (chair), Kelly McCusker (secretary), Katherine Gunny, Todd Ely, Miloje Radenkovic, David Tracer, Alan Davis, Ann Komara

Guests: Ann Sherman (Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration), Jen St. Peter (Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget), Constancio Nakuma (Provost), Leigh Ann Rutherford (UCDALI Rep), Tammy Hassan (Staff Council Representative), Julien Langou (Chair, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences), Sash Breger (Chair, Faculty Assembly), Lucy Dwight (Associate Professor, SPA)

* **Welcome 10:00 – 10:05**
  + Approval of meeting minutes
    - Approved
* **Updates from Jen and Ann 10:05—10:20**
  + Budget Update
    - State Level: House went into late night negotiations, significantly higher (almost 3 times higher) than expected, 9.4% increase to higher education for the state (9% for the CU system) with a cap on tuition of 3%, went to Senate today, probably won’t remain at such a high level, but might be $1M up from last year
      * CU Denver’s middle scenario was 6% increase of state funding and cap on tuition was 4%
      * Sending to [Board of Regents](https://regents.cu.edu/) soon, will send to CACB and then BPC soon after.
      * Board of Regents meeting on CU Denver campus in a couple of weeks will see tuition increase and fees and will vote.
  + Budget Open Campus Meetings Soon
    - Tableau dashboard will be live.
  + Budget Remodel Plans
    - The current model is relatively effective but does assume that we have incoming revenue that we no longer have.
      * We don’t have extra funds like model implies.
      * At the time it was put into place, some assumptions previously that were not corrected at the time.
    - Budget allocation review
      * Look at all money: where does the revenue come from and how does it get used?
      * Hopes for good representation across campus as we do this work, including BPC representation. Probably will start next month and go through December, with a break during summer. Previously worked with Deans but want broader perspective with associate deans and other faculty and staff.
        + Question from BPC for Ann: How many from BPC? What is the workload?

Ann will let us know later.

* + - * Will run budget models in parallel.
      * Looking for a consultant to assist with this.
      * BPC requested spreadsheets for multiple years for comparison and to create simulations.
      * Concerns about the term “incentive”, it’s more of a needs-based model rather than incentive-based. Incentive gives a feeling of competition.
      * May need to provide training on data literacy to faculty and others so they understand what they are looking at. And will need to provide context for shared meaning.
    - Communication plan changes
      * Will have broader communication about this in September and November.
* **Retirement Incentive 10:20-10:35**
  + 51 completed, just a couple that are being executed [now], total will probably be 53.
    - 2 classified, 11 IRC, 24 T/TT, 14 univ. staff done so far, plus 2 more t/tt and 2 classified still in process.
    - See table below.
  + Concerns about losing productive people.
    - When offering retirement incentive, can’t say only people of a certain age can retire.
    - This is a personal choice for individuals – equitable and legal.
    - Business School has accrediting requirements based on type of faculty and load.
      * Were criteria a little too lose? Could have been.
    - Deans have also voiced concerns. Looking at how to make this more strategic.
    - The previous program was a targeted program for retirement, but it was not working.
    - Can we offer an incentive for people to leave who are not effective?
      * This is complicated and requires legal involvement.
    - Criteria reviewed:
      * Accreditation requirements
      * Disparate retirement impacts
      * Reputation of the program
      * Future plan options / opportunities
  + Concern: A lot of uncertainty on keeping programs and how classes will be staffed.
  + Concern: Still unclear on if / when schools / colleges will be able to backfill or where budget savings will go.
  + $2M in ongoing rehires

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* **Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) 10:35-11:00**
  + A lot of AHEC fees are passed onto schools.
  + Mandatory Costs
    - Increases for classified staff, utilities, rent
    - At AHEC, over 70% of staff are classified.
    - Communicated increase was between 8-10%.
    - The state funding, in theory, should cover all those increases, so extra money is not taken from CU Denver, MSU Denver or CCD; plan on reframing the conversation to how state funding is coming in and that AHEC needs use those funds to cover increases in costs.
    - It’s been difficult to ask questions about transparency and responsibility to schools.
    - How do existing resources meet the needs of the institutions?
    - Any MOUs related to types of services? Yes.
      * However, if we aren’t getting a level of service, there is not a specific process for remediation.
  + Tivoli Bond fee runs out next year and needs to go to a student vote to renew.
  + Who audits AHEC?
    - Office of the State Auditor
  + What is going on with the “Ball Field”?
    - Schools would need to ask state for money to build up space and then lease the space.
  + Why isn’t the existing government structure already addressing this?
    - AHEC has not been open with plans.
    - Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (FACAB) reps found out about the Master Plan at the same time as the rest of campus.
* **Marie Williams, Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications 11:15-11:30**
  + Recent changes to how UCOMM is structured and its relationship to schools and colleges.
  + In Fall 2022 when budget reductions were announced, one of the reoccurring themes with deans was about concerns about communications and marketing and talked about unevenness. Talked with deans about their goals and gaps and then also talked with communicators.
  + Looked at similar sized organizations.
  + Created a working group to investigate options and ideas.
* How is the budget being distributed?
  + Schools and colleges would still pay for the positions even though direct reporting would be to central UCOMM because work is still being done for schools and colleges.
* Auraria Library is financially supported by MSU Denver and CCD too and is losing a dedicated marketing position without knowledge of this.
  + UCOMM will still cover all the work by central UCOMM.
  + The Library Director was not looped in at the time they should have been.
* Can you let us know how many FTEs are in UComm before and after the current changes? We have very limited visibility into activities outside of academic units.
  + Around 25 currently, will provide specific numbers later.
  + Most schools and colleges would have 7 communicators, business may have 4.
* Is there a precedent set for centrally managed speedtype since this is pioneering a new model? Is this a sign to come?
  + This is kind of a pilot.
  + Meeting with deans and their communicators monthly.
  + After one year do a deep assessment to see how it’s working.
  + Office of Digital Education is similar sharing of operational resources.

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**Next Meeting or via Email**

* BPC’s Role in Program Discontinuance
* BPC Elections for Next Year
* Letter for Chancellor