

MINUTES OF THE CAMPUS BUDGET AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 2, 2018 AT 10:00AM IN THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING, ROOM 321.

Committee Members Present: Dr. Jesus Rivas (via zoom), Robert Anaya, Rebekah Peoble, Victoria Evans, Dr. Denise Montoya, Dr. Elaine Rodriquez, Leonardo Garcia, Max Baca, and Yvonne Quintana.

Committee Members Absent: Yvette Wilkes

Others Present: Dr. Brandon Kempner

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Denise Montoya made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Robert Anaya seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes - September 28, 2017

Victoria Evans made a motion to accept the minutes of September 28, 2017 as presented. Dr. Denise Montoya seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recognition of New Members

Max Baca introduced Dr. Elaine Rodriquez to the Committee. Dr. Rodriquez is a faculty member in the History and Political Science Department and is serving as the Committee Representative for faculty.

Introduction of Budget Director Stephanie Gonzales

Max Baca introduced Stephanie Gonzales as the new budget director. Stephanie Gonzales shared that she has worked as an auditor, has her CPA and worked at Thornburg Investments in Santa Fe for the last 13 years. She is married and has two sons.

Tuition and Fees

Max Baca indicated that he provided the Board of Regents with the tuition and fees presentation at their March 1st meeting. The Board requested more feedback regarding tuition and fees and therefore the second presentation was given to the Regents at their March 15th meeting as an action item (see Attachment A). As Mr. Baca went through the individual slides, he explained that the Pell grant funds had decreased immensely and would be researching that more. Another item that was discussed was the online and Centers Tuition Only Rate. Mr. Robert Anaya asked why the on-line and Centers tuition only rate increases were necessary. Mr. Baca mentioned that a lot of the universities are going to this model of on-line programs. He also indicated that these rates are for both in-state and out-of-state rates only. Dr. Rodriquez shared that this was a good idea in theory but was concerned with the application and that it would hurt the enrollment on campus. Max Baca stated that this on-line program is a rate generator and a different strategy and would help off-set costs at the main campus. Rebekah Peoble expressed concern that there isn't enough student participation or transparency in the process of requesting tuition and fees increases. Mr. Baca replied that he had presented this information to the Student Senate and the Student Senate President was given an opportunity to provide feedback. He indicated that she was okay with what was presented even though Student Senate did not recommend the tuition and fees increases. Mr. Leonardo Garcia expressed concern about the tuition increase of 12% for out-of-state tuition and felt that the out-of-state tuition would carry the university. Mr. Baca indicated that the 12% was comparable to other peer universities. Mr. Garcia also expressed frustration that there is no clear clarification on the alumni tuition waiver.

State Appropriations

Max Baca presented the Committee with information provided to the Legislators at the 2018 Legislative Session (see Attachment B). He also stated that he was disappointed that the Governor vetoed \$100K for the Native American Center; \$132K for motor pool replacement vehicles; and \$100K for the track. He did indicate that we did get a little more money in I&G, Athletics, Advanced Placement and Forest and Watershed Institute. Dr. Denise Montoya was part of the legislative process this year and stated that she felt it was successful based on the funding NMHU received and it was a good experience. She also indicated that Max Baca is very dedicated to the legislative process and works diligently as a lobbyist for Highlands.

Fiscal Stability Policy

The Fiscal Stability Policy was provided to the Committee (see Attachment C). The Board of Regents approved the policy at their March 15, 2018 meeting. The purpose of the policy is to establish and build the University's reserve fund which is necessary to meet one of HLC's concerns. The University will be more transparent regarding quarterly reports and audit findings and will be providing an action plan to the Board of Regents.

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Update - Dr. Brandon Kempner

Dr. Brandon Kempner reported that the Institutional Actions Council and Site Visit Team have provided a recommendation for Highlands University to be off probation. The HLC will be meeting in July to determine the final outcome. Dr. Kempner provided the four areas of concern regarding the finance section which include: 1) reduction in reliance of state funds needed to balance the university's budget; 2) stabilization of growth in student enrollment through identification of a clear strategy linked to metric-driven recruitment and student persistence goals; 3) clean independent audits of NMHU, the Foundation and Isotopes that does not yield any findings; a minimum there should be no repeat findings; and, 4) continued year-end financial report revenue and expense actuals that reflect net neutral or yield a surplus. These areas of concern will be addressed continuously.

Five Year Capital Plan - Sylvia Baca

Sylvia Baca presented the Board with the Five Year Capital Plan for Highlands (see Attachment D). Ms. Baca indicated that this process will be done on an annual basis as per the HLC and it also has to be approved by the Higher Education Department (HED). HED will either endorse it, revise it or deny the plan. Their recommendations on funding are based on the enrollment per building, wear and tear of the building, safety and mechanical issues, graduation rates on campus, number of students using the buildings, etc. She stressed that student population drives the funding. The Five Year Capital Plan will go before the Board of Regents on April 5 for approval.

FY19 Budget Changes

Max Baca reported that the University will clean up the positive balances. Mr. Leonardo Garcia asked if the University would consider early retirement packages. Mr. Baca stated that they have reviewed that; however, due to insufficient funds available, it would be an insult to give staff that have been here 20+ years such a small amount.

Persons Wishing to Address the Committee

Mr. Robert Anaya expressed his gratitude that Dr. Sam Minner afforded the departments with work study positions and that has offset his staffing requirements at the Santa Fe Center.

Suggested Items for Next Meeting

There were no suggested items presented.

Adjournment

Mr. Robert Anaya made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Elaine Rodriguez seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.