

Minutes of the April 25, 2013 Meeting

The meeting convened at 10:02 a.m. in room 817, Cathedral of Learning.

UPBC members present were: John Baker, Patricia Beeson, Thomas Braun, Stephen Carr, Shirley Cassing, Jerome Cochran, N. John Cooper, William Harbert, Kathleen Kelly, Susanna Leers, Alan Lesgold, Jon-Paul Matychak, Arthur Ramicone, Thomas Smitherman, Jem Spectar, Donald Ulin, Frank Wilson, and Ray Wrabley.

Also present were: Cassie Brenner, Amanda Brodish, David DeJong, Rich Henderson, Paul Supowitz, Kathy Tosh, and Thurman Wingrove.

Not present were: Monica Costlow, Thomas Cunningham, Arthur Levine, Gordon Louderback, Susan Patton, Deborah Walker, and Chad Zutter.

Minutes of the March 28, 2013 Meeting

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Report of the Chair

Provost Beeson provided an update on the incoming freshman class. Beeson noted that the Pittsburgh campus is on pace to meet enrollment and student quality targets. Further, she highlighted that the incoming class is diverse with respect to race and geography (domestic and international), signaling the university's growing reputation – an important signal given the declining number of high school graduates in PA. Enrollments on the regional campuses are more strongly impacted by the changing demographics in PA, but are faring better than PASSHE institutions and Penn State commonwealth campuses. Consistent with national trends, enrollments in some professional schools, like the Law School, are also declining.

In terms of planning, Beeson noted that academic unit plans are being reviewed by senior staff in the Provost's office, with an eye toward advancing high-priority areas. In addition, Beeson stated that the tuition incentive program for undergraduate programs on the Pittsburgh campus will be discontinued starting in FY14. If undergraduate enrollments on the Pittsburgh campus do increase, the additional tuition revenue generated by increased enrollments will be allocated centrally with a portion set aside to meet instructional and staffing needs. The tuition incentive program will remain in place on the regional campuses and for graduate programs on the Pittsburgh campus.

Finally, Beeson highlighted that although the Committee did not face budget cuts to the Commonwealth appropriation this year, flat funding still presented a budget challenge. She thanked the Committee for their hard work in addressing this challenge.

Update on the Commonwealth Appropriation

Paul Supowitz reported no new updates to the FY14 commonwealth appropriation, as the budget process is unfolding slowly. He noted that although flat funding is virtually guaranteed, University representatives continue to discuss the Commonwealth appropriation with

legislators.

Report of the Parameters Subcommittee

Dean Alan Lesgold presented the recommendations of the parameters subcommittee:

- For both in- and out-of-state students, a 3.5% tuition increase on the Pittsburgh campus, and a 2.0% tuition increase on the regional campuses.
- A 1.5% salary pool increase.
- No across-the-board reductions to the Education and General budget.

Recognizing the uncertain political and economic environment in which the University continues to operate, Dean Lesgold then presented the following recommendations of the subcommittee concerning budget priorities and discretion:

- The Chancellor should have the discretion to adjust the proposed tuition increase should political or other factors require this.
- Recognizing that the salary pool increase is below the rate of inflation, the subcommittee suggested that the Chancellor consider raising the salary pool increase should final budget numbers be more favorable than anticipated.

In providing context for the recommendations of the subcommittee, Lesgold stated that had the Commonwealth appropriation increased with inflation, it would have been possible to balance the budget with tuition increases also at the rate of inflation.

Finally, Lesgold reported that the subcommittee recommended the following allocation of the 1.5% salary pool increase: 0.5% for satisfactory performance, and 1.0% for merit, equity, promotion, and retention adjustments. John Baker spoke in favor of a 1.0% increase for satisfactory performance, citing concerns that non-tenure-stream teaching faculty would be disadvantaged under the subcommittee's proposal. In response, Dean Cooper noted that the merit, equity, and promotion component of the salary pool increase is distributed to both non-tenure-stream teaching faculty as well as tenure-stream faculty. Provost Beeson added that attempts are being made within in her office to address non-tenure-stream faculty salaries, and that increased funds in the merit, equity, promotion salary pool would provide greater flexibility toward this end. In response to a question from the floor, Beeson clarified that the 1.0% salary pool increase for merit, equity, and promotion would be distributed proportionally across units.

Following a brief discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendations outlined by the subcommittee. The motion passed with one vote against and the rest in favor.

New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.