

Minutes of March 25th 2014 Meeting

The meeting convened at 3:02 p.m. in room 817 Cathedral of Learning.

UPBC members present were: Patricia Beeson, John Baker, Thomas Braun, Richard Colwell, N. John Cooper, William Harbert, Jonathan Harris, Susanna Leers, Arthur Ramicone, Michael Spring, Donald Ulin, Frank Wilson, Ray Wrabley, and Chad Zutter.

Also present were: Amanda Brodish, David DeJong, Al Novak, Paul Supowitz, and Thurman Wingrove.

UPBC members not present were: James Cassing, Jerome Cochran, Monica Costlow, Ryan DeCaro, Kathleen Kelly, Alan Lesgold, Arthur Levine, Monika Losagio, Susan Patton, and Jem Spectar.

Minutes from February 7th 2014 Meeting

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7th 2014 meeting. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Report of the Chair

Provost Beeson discussed the practice of tuition discounting, noting that it is widely used to shape the freshman class in ways that enhance the learning environment and to increase net tuition revenue. Use of the practice has helped strengthen the student profile and has broadened our out-of-state market – an important market given the shrinking number of high school graduates in Pennsylvania. Beeson added that the stronger and larger applicant pool has allowed us to reduce discounting over time. Finally, Beeson noted that applications are up on the Pittsburgh campus (exceeding 30,000 for the first time), and direct applications are up substantially on all of the regional campuses. John Baker thanked the Provost for sharing information on tuition discounting.

Update on the FY2015 Commonwealth Appropriation

Paul Supowitz had no new updates to the FY2015 commonwealth appropriation. Supowitz reported that Pitt had strong support from legislators at Pitt Day in Harrisburg on March 18th. He noted that pension liabilities continue to pose a problem for the state budget and that revenues are running behind projections. Provost Beeson added that 40 states increased their funding to higher education between FY13 and FY14, according to the Grapevine Report; Pennsylvania is not one of these states and ranks 47th in state funding for higher education (per capita and per \$1000 of personal income).

Budget Update

Art Ramicone provided an update on this year's budget, noting that research revenue and expenditures are running below expectations.

Parameters Subcommittee

In Alan Lesgold's absence, David DeJong provided an update of the activities of the Parameters subcommittee. DeJong noted that in the subcommittee's first meeting, key budget parameters were quite preliminary. Thus, rather than working toward a recommendation for the UPBC to consider, the subcommittee received reports on faculty salary benchmarking at the Pittsburgh and regional campuses.

Revenue and Cost Attribution Study for FY2012

Thurman Wingrove presented the Revenue and Cost Attribution Study for FY2012. Wingrove noted that this is the 16th revenue and cost attribution study, the purpose of which is to identify and categorize revenues and expenses for the University's units, with a focus on the academic units. Wingrove reviewed the methodology employed in the study as well as its limitations and caveats. Committee members discussed factors influencing the outcome of the study, including the amount of external research, the number of undergraduate students enrolled in a school, and the mix of in-state vs. out-of-state students. Additional time to view the report will be given to committee members at their request. John Baker expressed his thanks to the administration for their willingness to share reports, such as this, with the UPBC and the Senate Budget Policies committee.

New Business

There was no new business

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.