



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Date: May 25, 2018

To: President Hagan

From: The University Budget Committee

Subject: Academic Senate Resolution on Increasing Faculty Involvement in the University Budgeting Process Amending PM 2014-04

As you are aware, on February 28, 2018, the Academic Senate approved executive resolution 17-19 (34 in favor/0 opposed/8 abstentions) recommending changes to Presidential Memorandum (PM) 2014-04 to increase faculty involvement in the University budgeting process (attached).

As you evaluate recommendations specified in this Academic Senate resolution, as current members of the University committee charged by the University President with receiving, reviewing, and making recommendations concerning budgets, enrollments, and strategic and divisional plans to the University President, we felt it important to provide feedback on the resolution to you in writing.

RESOLVED

The Academic Senate resolution indicates, “That the Academic Senate of California State University, Dominguez Hills calls upon the President and the Executive Cabinet to strengthen shared governance on the University Budget Committee through increased transparency and accountability of the budgeting process.”

Current University budget transparency and accountability continue to move in a positive direction. UBC members are unclear on the underlying sentiment embodied in this resolution language and do not believe the academic senate fully understands or appreciates current UBC practices and existing transparency and accountability in University budget reporting, allocation, and decision-making.

Sections III and IX

In general, UBC supports recommendations outlined in sections III and IX of the Academic Senate resolution regarding agenda items, timelines for agendas and reports to be provided to UBC, posting of agendas, notes, and presentations on the UBC website, and the frequency of UBC meetings. Recommendations prescribed in the resolution are procedural in nature, however, rather than policy-oriented and as such are misplaced in a University PM.

Section V. D.

The recommendation that the Academic Senate Chair (or, the Chair being unable to serve, a Senate Executive Committee designee) serve on the UBC to represent the Senate as a voting member is unnecessary and negatively impacts the current composition of the UBC.

Currently, faculty are appointed to the UBC by their respective college and all academic colleges and the University Library are represented. The Academic Senate resolution indicates, “The Senate Chair (or Senate Executive designee) does not represent any individual college or the University Library.” Rather, as previously stated, the resolution recommends the Academic Senate Chair, or Senate Executive Committee designee, represent the Senate.

The constitution of the CSUDH Academic Senate indicates, “Membership of the Academic Senate shall consist of elected members from the general and emeriti faculty and ex-officio members. The ex-officio members of the Academic Senate shall be the President of the university or his/her designee, all Vice Presidents, all Academic Associate Vice Presidents, Academic Deans, the Chairperson of the Academic Senate, the immediate past Chairperson if still a member of the General Faculty, the representatives of the university to the Academic Senate of the CSU, the President of the CSUDH chapter of the CFA, two at-large representatives of the non-tenure-track faculty (full or part-time lecturers, librarians, counselors, and coaches), a student chosen by the Associated Students, Incorporated, two staff representatives elected by the Staff, and Chairpersons of the Senate committees (if so designated by the Senate). All ex-officio members shall be voting members with the exception of the Vice Presidents, Academic Associate Vice Presidents, Academic Deans, and the President of CSUDH chapter of the CFA. An ex-officio member may also serve as an elected member.”

The recommendation that the Academic Senate Chair or Senate Executive Committee designee, serve on the UBC to represent the Senate, appears to UBC to be unnecessary. All constituents of the Academic Senate currently serve on UBC as voting members, including the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, who represents the needs and interests of faculty and the Academic Affairs division at large. It does not seem necessary or appropriate to UBC to designate both the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Academic Senate Chair or designee as voting UBC members representing the interests of faculty and the Academic Affairs division (in addition to five voting faculty representatives representing each college). UBC suggests other divisions receive similar consideration via the appointment of a second appointee from each division to represent the interests and needs of the respective division if indeed PM 2014-04 is modified to add the Senate Chair or Senate Executive Committee designee as a voting UBC member.

The resolution also indicates the Senate representative will provide regular updates to the Academic Senate. UBC believes updates to the Academic Senate on the University budget are best provided by the individual charged with oversight of all University financial resources: the Vice President for Administration and Finance/Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution Rationale:

The resolution indicates, “We appreciate that faculty from the stateside colleges and University Library are represented. However, the University Budget Committee is arguably one of the most important committees on campus, and Senate representation is essential for strong shared governance and is practiced on a number of sister CSUs, especially in the L.A. region.”

Faculty appointed to UBC by their respective college exemplifies strong shared governance. It is unclear how or why Senate representation on the UBC is essential for strong shared governance.

The rationale section further stipulates, “Representation of the Academic Senate also aligns well with the representation of the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI), the representative body for student participation in shared governance, which includes the ASI President who appoints two additional student members.”

It is unclear how the recommendation that the Academic Senate Chair or Executive Committee designee serve on UBC in addition to five faculty appointed by their respective college aligns well with the ASI President’s participation on the UBC and the appointment of two students to the UBC by the ASI President.

Further, the resolution indicates, “The Academic Senate Executive Committee also recognizes the current UBC Chair has worked to establish the desired timeliness in the distribution of materials to committee members, scheduled regular meetings throughout the fall semester, and created agendas to more fully address the perspective and scope of the UBC as outlined in PM 2014-04 Section II. The work of the current committee addresses concerns brought forward to Senate leadership regarding strengthening access of all UBC members to materials and information needed. This resolution seeks to institutionalize these important changes that have strengthened budget transparency and consistency in the practices of shared governance both for the members of the UBC as well as the larger campus.”

Recent changes enacted within UBC were self-initiated by UBC members and not as the result of information or action taken by Academic Senate. Like every committee, the University budget committee improves practices and procedures and makes adjustments over time based on experiences. Modifications initiated this year to enhance the work of the UBC build upon past practices and illustrate the positive and productive environment that exists within UBC. It is important to note, the current composition of UBC was established in September 2014. At that time two additional students were added to UBC in recognition of the importance of expanding student input on resource allocations, partially in light of increases in student tuition and fee revenue and in particular implementation of a CSUDH student fee increase. Integration of additional student members to UBC and creating an environment of openness, trust and respect required time and was not without challenges. Today, concerns regarding lack of transparency, trust, and respect no longer permeate UBC discussions and decision-making. Adding the academic Senate Chair or designee to UBC as a voting member jeopardizes the positive, productive work environment UBC has established.

The UBC does support the following recommendations reflected in the Academic Senate resolution:

- Elimination of a faculty appointee from CEIE to UBC. No tenure-tenure track faculty or full-time lecturers are assigned to CEIE and CEIE has been unable to identify a faculty appointee to serve on UBC on a consistent basis.

- Clarifying that the role of the past Chair is as a non-voting member. The existing PM is silent in this regard, however, in practice, the past chair has been a non-voting member. This also supports what UBC understands to be the intended representation of faculty participation on UBC, i.e., one from each college and the University Library.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter.

Enc: 2017-18 UBC Member List
Academic Senate Resolution
PM 2014-04