



**ACADEMIC SENATE
MINUTES
MAY 7, 2020**

ASD 20-54

Approved 5-14-20

11:30 AM - 12:50 PM

ZOOM Meeting

Present: Badal, Baker, Barros, Biesiada, Brown, Bruce, Brusckke, Casem, Childers, Clark, Dabirian, David, Filowitz, Fitch, Forsgren, Gnanlet, Gradilla, Graewingholt, Holland, Jarvis, Jefferies, Jenkins, Kanel, McLain, Mead, Meyer, Nair, P. Oliver, Patton, Peissig, Preston, Reneau, Shoar, Stambough, Stohs Thomas, Valdez, Virjee, Walicki, Walsh, Woo, Wood, Wynants

Absent: Ceisel, Fidalgo, Matz, R. Oliver, Powers, Walker

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Gradilla called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

On behalf of the Senate Executive Committee, Vice-Chair Gradilla thanked the Senate for continuing to do their work in committees and being activity engaged this semester. He thanked congratulated the Senators that were re-elected. The Senate staff were acknowledged for going above and beyond with the transition to virtual Academic Senate meetings. Special thanks were given to VP Dabirian and the IT Department for their support in helping the campus community transition to virtual.

Vice-Chair Gradilla gave an overview of the structure and set-up of today's meeting to the Senators and attendees.

II. URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

IV. TIMES APPROXIMATE

11:40 AM - 12:10 PM

Subject: Fiscal State of the University - Spring 2020

Presenter: President Fram Virjee

President Virjee thanked the Senate for their work, he also recognized Senators Kristi Kanel and Michelle Wood for their amazing work they have done by creating places and spaces offering places for people to meet and talk and for their kindness and caring for our community during this time.

President Virjee gave the Fiscal State of the University Spring report to the Academic Senate. The budget update and specific details of allocation for FY 2020-21 and multi-year funding from the state were discussed as each slide was presented.

Charts, bars, and graphs indicated both CSU and specific CSUF overview for the following areas:

- Governor's Multi-Year Budget Plan
- FY 2019-20 Budget Consolidated
- FY 2019-20 Projected Year-End Balance
- State Budget Process for 2020-21
- FY 2019-20 Q3 Financial Performance
- FY 2019-20 Core Operating Funds
- COVID-19 Impact on 2020-21
- State Budget for 2020-21
- FY 2019-20 Operating Fund Budget
- FY 2019-20 and 2018-19 Expenditures
- COVID-19 Ramifications
- January Preliminary Budget for 2020-21

- Possible Budget Ramifications
- Additional Budget Implications: CSUF 2020-21
- CARES Act
- March Bond Measure (Prop 13)

Q&A:

Q: (Wood) When I think about the budget and our position at the bottom in terms of reimbursement; and when I think about the cuts that may be coming I know that if we have an across the system cut, that cut will affect different campuses differently and our being at the bottom will only exacerbate the existing inequities. What are your thoughts about how that might play out? What ideas do you have on advocating for our students? Do you have any thoughts about working with some of the other campuses at the bottom to collectively advocate for a more surgical, thoughtful way of distributing the impacts so that our students don't get the further burden of even more inequity in terms of resources offered?

A: (President) I was just thinking about this issue this morning and the cuts that we have to face and how unfair and inequitable it would be to make those cuts across the board equal for everyone if the funding for everyone isn't already equal. I want you to know that I recognize that. You know how dissatisfied I have been with the Chancellor's office on this issue of always having us funded on the bottom and pushing on it. This is another wrinkle of that. If what has been done in the past, the cuts are born proportionately the same across all campuses, then that will give exacerbate the funding inequity for Cal State Fullerton. I will plan to raise that issue, I will shout that issue, because it has to be said.

You said a second thing was working with those campuses who's at the bottom to try and galvanize some momentum for that issue. I have each year, when the list of funding has come out, I have contacted the presidents of the campuses that are in that lower three or four and said "Do you realize how unfair this is to you, can we get together"? The hard part of that is those campuses change just about every year and the only thing that stays the same is us at the bottom, so they have a varied level of interest each year in doing that.

The third thing I will say to you is one of the arguments that I will use, and that we should use as an institution in talking about that is the way to deal with this budget shortfall is not with across the board percentage cuts. What that does is just make everything hurt more, but it doesn't emphasize our priorities in our budgeting to make sure that we reallocate our resources in way on our campus that supports the things that are most important and provides less support for things that while still being important, aren't as important. We have to set our priorities. As a campus we will be reviewing our budget and I have asked each VP to do the same, from a lens of there may be some things that are so essential that we can't afford to cut them at all, and therefore there needs to be bigger cuts in other areas. There may be things that we have to stop doing, so that we can continue doing other things that we have to do, because they are the most impactful. We have been told by the Chancellor's office that is the way we ought to do it, but that's the way the Chancellor's office ought to do it too. What's good for the goose is good for the gander and that's what we will be saying to them. So, I hear you loud and clear.

Q: (Bruschke) The TADCP money that had been the absolute life blood of the departments and some Dean's office operations has now been completely taken away from us and that's not an inconsequential cut for a department, it's absolutely essential. It's all the faculty travel, it's all the research support, and the student assistant money. It's a small drop in the \$600 million budget, but for my tiny little department's \$36,000 budget, it's 25-30 percent cut. The timing of that on top of the rest of this could not possibly be worse. We were getting slammed, blindsided by that cut. I want to communicate to you how hard that is and how that is going to affect people like student assistants who rely on that income. Where did it go? All this money use to come to academic departments and Dean's offices and now it doesn't. What happened to it?

A: (President) I wish I could answer your question in that level of detail and all I can tell you is VP Kim or I will get back to you to give you a good explanation. But I will say it is an example of things that we are going to have to look at regularly. Everything is going to be on the table for review and discussion and priority set forth. I know the Provost will be looking to the Deans, who will be looking to the Chairs for input on those issues of what those priorities should be and how we ought to be allocated. One thing that I haven't mentioned that we ought to acknowledge that have done as the CSU and as an institution is continue to pay everybody, even if they can't work, including our student assistants. So even if they couldn't do their job because of COVID-19, we are still paying them, so on the State side everybody is continuing to receive compensation. That is a great thing and an important thing for our community. I don't know how long that is sustainable, so we will be looking at those issues as well.

Q: (Baker) There were plenty of students that are concerned around the CARES Act and what can be done for undocumented students as well as international students that might not qualify?

A: (President) The students' concern about our student population who did not qualify for the CARES Act, they are not alone, I have the same concern. I know my administrators, faculty, and our community has a concern about those. The problem is, it is not as if we have a pot of money we can create, which is the only thing we can do in order to support those students. I can tell you, as I have mentioned, large numbers of students that were qualified for state university grant money, which includes our undocumented students; we paid \$10.5 million to those students in the last two months, so we have been trying to address those students. That doesn't help those students that have not gotten anything yet. At the Town Hall I mentioned we started a fund for faculty and staff and a fund for students. I have tried to lead by example by saying ten percent of my take home pay for the rest of the year is being donated to that fund. I want encourage everybody to contribute to that fund to try and raise some revenue. We are out talking to foundations to try and raise that money; we are out talking to donors to try to raise that money. As you can imagine, Philanthropic activity right now is very difficult, everybody is bunkered down trying to figure out where they are going to be and where they are going to go. I spent forty-five minutes with Lou Carrera, our Federal Representative on this issue, with Gil Cisneros on the issue and they have promised me they are camped on Speaker Paulose's door about this issue. They tell me Congress was blindsided by this issue, they had promises from Betsy DeVos, the Secretary of Education, that campuses would have flexibility to use this money as they needed it and these requirements imposed by the Department of Education took them off guard as much as it took us off guard. If there is another round of CARES money and I hope there is, and they are working on that, they have committed to push very hard to make sure that money is available for our undocumented students. I have been talking to our representatives in Sacramento and with the Chancellor we have been talking to the Governor about this issue, that this is something we many need to approach from a State perspective because the Feds are not helping. The State is talking to us through a lens of a \$56 Billion shortfall, I am not sure whether this will be their first priority or not, I hope it will be in the top priority. Senator Bakker I want you to know this is not going unnoticed and we are working fulltime to try and find a solution to it. What we are doing now is cobbling together as much money as we can and offering those who are not eligible for CARES to apply for that money on an application basis so we can help those that are most needy.

12:20 PM - 12:30 PM

Subject: Planning, Resource, & Budget Committee Update - Spring 2020

Presenter: Dave Mickey, PRBC Chair

Dave Mickey gave the Planning, Resource, and Budget Committee's recommendations on planning, strategic priorities, and budgetary matters for FY 2020-21. Given this COVID-19 fiscal environment, it was impossible for PRBC to know the outbreak's impacts on the budget; nevertheless, we anticipated that reductions would be necessary in 2020-21. PRBC focused much of its efforts during the spring semester on establishing priorities based on the Strategic Plan to assist in guiding 2020-21 budget decisions.

The priorities set forth below are organized by the Strategic Plan:

Our Commitment to Student Success and Completion

- Student Mental Health
- Reinvesting in Instructional and Support Infrastructure
- Basic Needs

Our Commitment to Faculty and Staff Diversity and Success

- Faculty Hiring, Retention, and Improving Tenure Track Density
- Staff Hiring and Retention
- Faculty and Staff Well-Being

Our Commitment to Learning Environment and Legacy

- Strategically Addressing Structural Deficits
- Core Operations Critical to Advancing Our Institutional Mission

Q&A:

Q: (Patton) Shouldn't we put GI 2025 spending on hold?

A: (Mickey) I believe GI 2025 spending is a mandatory cost and we don't have a choice.

- (President) GI 2025 is just a moniker for Student Success, making sure that we focus all our efforts on closing the equity gap, on retaining and moving our students to degree. It is a framework for Student Success. The same ideas that are in GI 2025 are also embedded in our Strategic Plan. We could say that we are not going to follow GI 2025 anymore, but unless we abandon our Strategic Plan and abandon our commitment to Student Success, then we won't need to continue to work on helping students to be retained, be successful, and graduate. What Dave Mickey is referring to is we do get certain dollars from the State that may be committed only for purposes consistent with our goal's objectives and GI 2025 and we are limited in the ways we can use those dollars. It may be as the Legislator and Chancellor's office tends to do, lifts some of the limitations on funds and allows us to use funds more flexibly and more versatility. If that happens, that will free us up to be more creative and strategic in the way we use all our dollars.

Questions from the Q&A option from attendees:

Q: (Denise Stanley) How do fall enrollments look for fall First Time Freshmen? How many have accepted on May 1st and are the numbers ok?

A: (President) The number of acceptances that we have received is slightly above where we were last year for both First Time Freshmen and Community College Transfer Students. The number of deposits we have received with committing to come to campus in the fall is about the same as it was last year or fairly close to it for both First Time Freshmen and Community College Transfer Students. One would think that we are in good shape when it comes to issues of maintaining our student body size. Caution that I would give is we don't know what the melt will be for those students, how many of them will actually come. There is always a melt, all our students that file an accept and all our students that file a deposit don't come.

We expect a melt to be larger this year, than it has been in years past, because students will be wrestling with the issue, do I want to come to a campus that is all virtual, partially virtual. Parents will be wrestling with the idea of do I want to send my kids to a campus during a COVID-19 epidemic where they are exposed potentially to a greater degree than might be if they stay at home and shelter in place. Should I take a gap year, is this the time to take a gap year? The Chronical of Higher Education did a survey recently of students and there is an explementary larger number of students that are thinking of taking a gap year and not coming in the fall. So we don't know and we can't predict because this is unprecedented times. If all the students come who say they are coming, we are actually going to be over subscribed. That will mean we will have revenue, at least on the tuition side. It will also mean that we will have to educated all those kids and we will have to pay attention to that. I expect that our yield will be below our targets because the melts will be larger.

- (Provost) We want to make sure that we have transfer students, so if there is some way any of the departments can reach out to the transfer students, this would be a good time to think about it over the summer.
- (President) Another issue is student housing; we usually house about two thousand students on campus. When we had to go to shelter in place, we ended up refunding for the remainder of the semester about \$7.5 million to students for student housing and dining services. We have debt service and we need student to live on campus in order to pay for our student housing our we would be in a terrible deficit situation. Can we actually expect students to come back and live on campus? And if so, what circumstances, singles, doubles, how is it going to work? We are working our way though that one small microcosm of the issues that we are working through on campus.

Q: (Walsh) President Virjee mentioned the debt service on housing and I assume also on parking structures obviously have to be paid. Do we know what the bond covenant committed in the way of funds? Is it only self-support revenue from those or is it our general fund as well?

A: (President) It is only self-support revenue as far as I understand it. Just as we are prohibited from using self-support funds that generate an excess in those funds; they have to be used for parking or they have to be used for housing. We are not allowed to use State Funds to support those programs either. We are in unchartered territory and sometime into it only self-support revenue the future, they might have to be some kind of bailout or exception to allow that, in order to actually assure we can pay the debt service on our student housing and parking. The ASI has the same issue with the TSU and the Recreational Center.

Q: (Kanel) This is directed to the Provost. You said to reach out to our transfer students, part of the problem is I do not have access to that email list. Do you know when we eill have access to our transfer students?

A: (Provost) I don't know off hand, but I can certainly find out.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/P (Wood/P. Oliver) Motion to approve ASD 20-46 Academic Senate Minutes 4-9-20. Minutes approved.

5.1 ASD 20-46 Academic Senate Minutes 4-9-20 (Draft)

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

M/S/P (Kanel/Dabirian) Motion to approve Consent Calendar. Consent Calendar approved.

6.1 ASD 20-47 Program Discontinuance - Spring 2020

6.2 ASD 20-50 New Programs Proposal - Spring 2020

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

No chair's report.

VIII. PROVOST REPORT – written report distributed on 5-6-20.

[2-page report](#)

IX. STATEWIDE ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT

No Statewide report.

X. ASI REPORT – written report distributed on 5-6-20.

[3-page report](#)

XI. CFA REPORT – written report distributed on 5-6-20.

[1-page report](#)

XII. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 ASD 20-48 Revisions to UPS 300.030 - Academic Appeals

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/P (Dabirian/Bruschke) Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.