

Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee

Faculty Center
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Minutes

Wednesday, November 18, 2020
8:15-9:50am *via Zoom*¹

Present: B. Brummund (**Co-Chair**), S. Helm (**Co-Chair**), M. Abecassis, D. Ayoun, B. Berrellez, E. Cantwell, E. Cheu, S. Colina, P. Dourlein, J. Duran, J. Florian, L. Folks, G. Heileman, J. Hunter, J. Jones, D. Liverman, A. Miller, I. Moore, S. Moore, G. Perry, L. Rankin, H. Rodrigues, L. Rulney, S. Sen, T. Singleton, R. Stephan, J. Summers, M. Taylor, S. Troutman, B. White

Absent: L. Benson, S. Keim, C. Ramirez, J. P. Rocznik,

Observers: C. Henderson, J. O'Neil, R. Miller, S. Pawar, P. Scott

Presenters: Gail Burd, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Teaching, and Learning
Liesl Folks, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Call to Order

Co-Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 8:16am

Approval of the Minutes of November 4, 2020

The minutes of November 4, 2020 were approved.

Presentation: HLC Reaffirmation of Accreditation Visit

Gail Burd, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Teaching, and Learning

Burd presented to the committee details of the upcoming HLC reaffirmation of accreditation visit scheduled for April 27, 2020. Burd said HLC was one of seven regional accreditors that verifies if the University is following Department of Education rules and HLC core values of accreditation. She said the last visit was in 2010.

Burd provided information on the review's components. She said the University would provide evidence of providing a quality education and evidence of regular improvements. She added the new general education program would be an item requiring attention. Burd said the review would include special areas for accreditation and assumed practices. She clarified that assumed practices would not have to be addressed directly.

Burd also stated that HLC assumed and confirmed that appropriate academic programs had specialized accreditation. She clarified that HLC accreditation took place at a higher level and was

¹ Questions asked on chat that remained unanswered during the regular meeting were forwarded to the relevant presenters for follow-up reports and answers. Presenters' resulting answers are marked as "follow-up" in the minutes.

required for the University to operate, provide financial aid, and award accredited degrees. She added that all colleges, campuses, distance locations, academic programs and processes must be approved and would be reviewed by HLC.

Burd stated special focus areas may include:

- Challenges expected during the review such as: shared governance, financial planning, the Ashford purchase
- Areas that will be closely examined such as: assessment of student learning outcomes, general education, syllabi, and faculty qualifications for instruction

Burd said the University was prepared for the visit and had already completed one round of federal compliance but needed to update with current information. She provided an overview of the faculty and staff involved in the HLC Steering Committee (Gail Burd, Barbara Mills, Roger Miesfeld, Shelley McGrath, Kat Francisco, Cindy Williams) and Criteria Co-Chairs.

Committee members discussed how HLC accreditation overlapped with specific college/program accreditations such as AACSB for Eller or LCME for the College of Medicine. Burd responded she expected accreditors would approve Eller as is. She added that PhD programs were not accredited.

Burd was asked how students, faculty, and staff were recruited to participate and if recommendations would be taken. She responded a set of faculty were expected to come to the session on assessment and there may be an open meeting for faculty.

Presentation and Discussion: Activity Informed Budgeting
Liesl Folks, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Folks presented to the committee regarding AIB and key differences to RCM. She stated non-RCM tuition revenues were an example of how the University did not implement a true RCM model and AIB represented an opportunity to change to something more accurate.

Folks shared presentation slides to detail changes to AIB information that focused on research priorities. Changes included:

- Indication that the model has not yet been built.
- Encourage Inter/Multi-Disciplinary Innovation, Teaching, And Research. Folks stated RII should substantially expand seed funding for emerging multidisciplinary topics.
- Simplify F&A Distribution and Ensure Transparency.
- Stimulate and Reward Innovation and Growth. RII should be resourced to enhance research growth by focusing on research development efforts.
- Fund Central Support Units in Proportion to Activity. Folks said this was relevant to RII as a central support unit and it should be funded in proportion to research activity.
- Establish Activity-Informed Budgets for Central Support Units. Folks said support for RII services should scale with research and innovation for staffing of required RII compliance and administrative functions.
- Manage Adequate Funds Centrally to Meet Institutional Strategic Needs. RII should have resources to strategically invest in CORES and should stimulate non-STEM research as well as STEM-focused research areas.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the additional focus on research. Folks stated that even if research is not centrally funded there were still compliance requirements and the machinery that oversees research still needed to expand. Committee member Cantwell stated the focus of RII was

research excellence and said she hoped a faculty advisory committee for RII would be in place for discussions in detail.

Folks said there was a conversation with ABOR to focus on impact from research and there was need to improve how the University talked about impacts of activities.

Co-Chair Brummund asked if the exclusion of cooperative extensions from AIB would mean the extension would assume a central or public function. Committee member Rulney responded this change was needed to indicate that the University had units that received line-item funding and did not lend themselves to activities-based budgeting.

Committee members discussed with Folks the possible funding model for general education. She said that concrete details were not yet determined and expressed the importance for tenured and tenure-eligible faculty to engage with general education courses.

Co-Chair Helm stated a survey had been sent to committee members for feedback on AIB guiding principles.

Updates

Shilpita Sen, GPSC President

Sen updated the committee on efforts to create an initiative from the President's office to provide meals for students who cannot go home for thanksgiving or have to self-quarantine.

Jessica Summers, Chair of the Faculty

Summers stated she sent a communication regarding the special Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for November 30th regarding the Ashford report and recommendations.

Betsy Cantwell, Senior Vice President, Research and Innovation

Cantwell stated she was beginning a long-term evaluation of research space at the University. She added the University lacked a rolling research infrastructure plan and needed an underlying evaluation of research space in light of potential growth or change to research priorities. She stated she would send a memo to the committee to outline this process and a steering committee would be setup after SPBAC review. Cantwell also said she was seeking a discussion on using a different model for F&A. An additional SPBAC meeting to address this topic was added on December 9th.

Steve Moore, Senior Vice President, Chief Marketing/Communications Officer

Moore updated the committee on the Native Nations Flag Exhibit and connected article and video.

Lisa Rulney, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Business Affairs

Rulney stated the CAFR was posted and shared the link in chat. She also shared information about the Campus Safety Partnership Review which will look at community engagement and campus safety.

President Robbins

Robbins updated the committee about developments related to COVID. He expressed confidence in an upcoming vaccine and that President-elect Biden would have a process for getting the vaccine into place. He shared details of a conversation with the French research institute, CNRS, which is seeking a university partner in the USA.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 am.