

Minutes of the UH Manoa Faculty Senate Committee on Administration and Budget
June 8, 2009, 12:00 noon Hawaii Hall 208

Present: Ross Christensen (chair), Bob McHenry, David Duffy, Judith Inazu, and Mary Tiles
UHM Faculty Senate liaison

Absent: Denise Antolini, Tricia Wright, Shirley Daniel, David Chin, Matt McGranaghan, Dave Sanders, CN Lee

Invited: Vice Chancellor Cutshaw

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes of the May 11 meeting were approved as corrected.

VC Cutshaw provided an update of the budget situation. UHM was cut \$37M this fiscal year, for which \$27M has been identified, leaving a balance of \$10M that still must be found. Some of the possible sources for that \$10M include \$14.7 in stimulus funds, \$7M in tuition revenue, and \$20M in RTRF. These are being discussed as possible ways of meeting the \$10M, but nothing has been determined. Although the FY ends on June 30, 2009, Manoa still has a year to come up with the funds, since the budget is balanced a year from now.

Additionally, just last week the governor levied another \$52M cut to UH, approximately \$30-31M of which will be Manoa's portion. The year will probably be spent laying off the non-tenured, temporary, probationary employees, while at the same time beginning the lengthier process of retrenchment and/or vertical cuts.

It appears that neither the governor, the UH president nor the BOR have the authority to implement furloughs at UH. UH will most likely begin negotiations about furloughs and other alternatives with the bargaining units. John Morton is UH's lead negotiator. There are many complexities in implementing furloughs at UH (e.g., 9 vs. 11-mo. faculty; whether employees on all sources of funds are equally furloughed).

Some members of the committee expressed the opinion that there is no statewide fiscal emergency since the legislature passed a bill to raise taxes to meet budget shortfalls. The governor vetoed the bill, and the legislature overturned her veto, so the tax bill should prevail. Apparently the governor still feels there is a fiscal crisis.

RTRF (return of overhead) funds could help meet our shortfalls by replacing general funds for research-related infrastructure programs, e.g., lab animal service or environmental health and safety.

Other options for dealing with the budget cuts include implementing a 4-day workweek and shutting down buildings over the weekend; closing down buildings over break periods; and initiating a payroll lag for faculty employees.

VC Cutshaw will continue to work on proposing that there be a more permanent budget advisory group at UHM, modeled after the budget workgroup. This would include the four vice chancellors, several deans recommended by the vice chancellors, representatives from the senate SEC, CAB, CAPP and possibly COR, ad hoc faculty representatives, and staff and student representatives. This will continue to be discussed over the summer but no action will be taken until fall. Perhaps the chancellor's prioritization committee (which continues to meet over the summer), could be combined with the budget workgroup in some fashion.

In answer to Chair Christensen's question about the benefit of the budget workgroup to the administration, Vice Chancellor Cutshaw responded that the committee has been helpful by looking at the operational efficiencies of several programs and in questioning whether there is duplication of effort among some programs.

After VC Cutshaw left the meeting, the committee continued to discuss the current prioritization process and difficulties in absorbing information on 900+ program assessments. It might be helpful to categorize these programs under themes or functions rather than discrete departmental/college programs.

The next CAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 6, 10:00-12:00 (note new meeting time). Chair Christensen will check if a room is available.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith K. Inazu