

Regular Meeting of the CU Denver Downtown Campus Faculty Assembly's
Budget Priorities Committee
Tuesday, August 18, 2020
Zoom
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Present: Diana White (chair), Keith Guzik (minutes), Quintin Gonzalez, Todd Ely, Katherine Gunny, Heather Johnson, Jennifer Sobanet, Todd Haggerty, Hani Mansour, Kelly McCusker, Roderick Nairn, Mike Radenkovic, Jody Beck

1. Welcome, Introductions/Roles, Norms 12:30 – 12:40
Attendees introduced themselves.

Norms.

- Some years back, this committee had an understanding on timeliness of information sharing and who should share it. Program approvals should be 2-weeks in advance. With other items, the committee requested receiving on Thursday ahead of a Monday meeting. Given that we meet on Tuesdays this year, this could be moved to Fridays.
- Faculty have noted in past difficulty in receiving information that cannot be shared immediately. If it's something that should not be shared, we can discuss how to manage it. The chair often gets put in that position.
- The administration representatives will give as much advanced notice as possible.
- With enrollment updates, one challenge is that data is updated on Monday, to have the most recent numbers. So, that would be the day before our meeting.

2. Updates from Provost and CFO 12:40 – 1:00

- Scott Dawson is the new Dean for Business School.
- Unsuccessful searches from last year will resume this year.
- Alana Jones is the interim Vice Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor of Student Success
- Construction is going well with the new housing building. Facilities folks have done an excellent job working to make campus safe for return.

3. Budget Office updates and discussion 1:00 – 1:30

- Quick recap, we were looking at projected shortfall of \$33m. In reality, that was \$54m because of state cuts. But \$21m in CARES funds mitigated that back down to \$33m. We managed with contingency reserves, operating reductions of 5%, and tiered furloughs.
- Since then, we are actually up 9 students versus last year. But the mix of students—with declines in international and out of state students—will mean revenue shortfalls. There is a decline in undergraduate students, but increase in graduate students, which means fewer credit hours. We are where we thought

we would be with revenue shortfalls. We don't expect additional reductions, but we don't expect to roll back furloughs.

- A lot of unknowns for rest of fiscal year. What is our retention from fall to spring? What is the state going to do? What is going to happen with board of regents? There was discussion among Board of Regents about reducing tuition, \$1,000 per full-time student per semester, and \$500 per part-time student. That would be \$33m reduction in revenue. Vote on that failed 5-4.
- Next board meeting in September, usually around 2 issues: enrollment update and compensation update. Both discussions likely to happen, even though compensation increases will be zero. Census date is key. And then in first week of November, the state budget request released, which gives first indication about higher education.
- Until we have more information about enrollment, retention, state funding, and international travel, we cannot have good idea about how budget will look.

Discussion.

- Committee will see if people are available on September 8 to go over basics of budgeting process with Faculty Assembly.
- The committee discussed its role. This is a bit unclear at moment. We need to revise bylaws and get them approved by Faculty Assembly. We have a formal charge that says review expenditures of units on campus, which is impractical. In practice, we receive monthly updates on budget, review budget impact of new programs, and consult on any of the above. In past, Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Budget (CACB) was large—that might change with new chancellor.
- Todd Haggerty is working on proposal for CACB to make it more manageable. We'll look to share ahead of September 8 meeting.

4. Executive Session

1:30 – 2:00

- From CAM, furlough letters did not do a good job in clarifying that it's a one-year furlough. Feedback was given to Todd. We could have given input on this.
- One issue here was that CAM budget officer had said additional furloughs were possible, so that had scared people. There are faculty with that lingering concern.
- Furloughs are based on individual salary, as if scaled to 1.0 FTU. So, if someone is 80% time, and making 58k, then they are subject to furlough based on 100% time, although anyone below 60k should be exempt. The committee thought that that's the logical way to do this, because exceptions are hard to do and not doing it this way makes it easy to game the system.
- Other concerns:
- What if we reduced our out of state tuition, might we increase overall budget by enrollment increases?
- We should look at new student fee structure. Those have all changed. Is that permanent. How does it affect the budget?

- Maybe a fee reduction for some groups would make being a student more appealing?
- InWorks update. We need to work with Advancement as well. Some frustration among colleges that reps from advancement change frequently, which costs us continuity.
- We seem to have reversed course on online initiatives. This committee doesn't play a role in that. But it would be good to get an update on that.