DATE: July 23, 2019
FROM: Emily Acevedo, Chairperson, Fiscal Policy Committee
TO: Veena Prahbu, Academic Senate Chair
CC: Annsha Harrison, Laila Asgari, R. Roquemore, J. Lazo-Uy
SUBJECT: Annual Senate Committee Report

Policies/Items completed during 2018-19

- FiPC members invited Veena Prabhu on October 25, 2018 to discuss the College RAAC Liaison’s role. She also provided an update on the new UAS position. The previous Executive Director of UAS wore two hats and these positions have now been separated: Executive Director of UAS and Director of Research.

- FiPC members invited Jeffrey Underwood on November 8, 2018 to discuss his priorities for 2018-2019 to incentivize faculty to apply for grants and scholarships. J. Underwood indicated that the Chancellor’s office funded RSCA with $151K. Expenditures in FY2017-18 totaled $24,496,330 compared with FY2016-17, where expenditures totaled $22,367,754. The number of proposals this year was 178 compared to 170 the previous year. The number of research awards this year was 117 compared to 126 the previous year. This total amount awarded this year was $36.7 million compared to $42.7 million the previous year. Four of six colleges were awarded >$1.0M compared to only three colleges the previous year. J. Underwood reported that there were 26 reassigned time grants awarded in 2018-19 compared to 13 reassigned time grants in the previous year. This increase is due to the removal of the “semester release” program, a program that was found to be in violation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Fund in the semester release program were reallocated to regular reassigned time grants. AVP Underwood worked with Provost Mahoney and CFO Chavez to hire a Director of Sponsored Programs. The Director of Sponsored Programs will report to CFO Chavez for salary and promotion and will report activities to Dr. Underwood. J. Underwood is making changes to ORSCA staff: increasing customer service, organization, improved technology, accounting, procurement, and HR in response to an external review. J. Underwood commented that it is difficult to get external agencies to change indirect cost rate. Currently, the average indirect cost rate for Cal State LA is only 9%. Underwood’s inquiries with colleagues suggest that the political climate is not optimal for asking for a rate change.

- FiPC members invited Lisa Chavez on November 8, 2018 to discuss University Auxiliary Services (UAS). L. Chavez indicated that it currently takes approximately 4 days after receipt of requisition by purchasing agent for the purchase order to be issued. Afterwards, the item is shipped to campus to be delivered to faculty. L. Chavez is working to eliminate the paper process to shorten the length of time between PO submission and receipt of an item. L. Chavez just hired a new Senior Director of Financial Project, Elaine Kist, to eliminate the paper process and shorten the purchasing timeline. Joyce Williams, the new AVP for Administration and Finance, started November 2018, and Tariq Marji, the new Director of UAS, started in January 2019. L. Chavez noted that it is difficult retaining Analysts in UAS, as these are technical
professionals, and UAS is unable to compete with salaries offered by USC, Cal Tech, and Children’s Hospital pay. Cal State LA has the ability to issue a wire transfer for international individuals on UAS grants to be paid.

- Lisa Chavez also discussed indirect cost recovery (IDC). L. Chavez noted that it is difficult to consolidate the UAS grants and contracts under the AVP for Research since that would significantly increase costs to the state due to the increased costs of providing benefits. L. Chavez reported that 8 years ago, UAS had a $10.5M deficit. As of this year, that deficit has been eliminated.

- FiPC members invited Provost Lynn Mahoney to a time certain on April 11, 2019 to discuss the 2019-20 budget priorities, faculty hiring and retention, and student success. The Provost explained her main role is to advocate funding for Academic Affairs and work with Deans and other members of senior staff to determine priority needs for funding. The Provost listed additional priorities for Academic Affairs: Grad 2025 Initiative, Learning Management System, E Advising tools, and increasing Tenure track faculty (committed to fifty searches a year), and Academic Advising. Since the Provost arrived, 235 faculty have been hired. She is still committed to hiring 50 Tenure Track hires as Cal State LA has one of the lowest tenure-track density in the CSU. Growing number of Lecturers have had to fill gap in instruction due to large number of unfunded students. The Provost indicated that the primary reasons why faculty have left are family related or a move to a R1 institution. The Provost indicated that Cal State LA is not funded for research as the Chancellor’s Office gives us $161,000. The Provost invested an additional three million dollars for research, Animal Care Dept., and for professional development (RSCA sabbaticals). The Provost increased RSCA support. The Provost reported progress in Grad 2025 initiative; prior to her arrival, the university 4-year graduation rate was 6%, but we are now up to 9.5%. The university’s goal is to reach a 30% 4-year graduation rate. Cal State LA has the lowest 4-year graduation rate in the CSU for several reasons, including remediation and curriculum. Remediation delayed progress toward degree. Additionally, the university has discovered curriculum issues, including hidden prerequisites or lack of access to courses preventing timely graduation. Now the campus uses an interactive degree plan instead of the road map. The Provost is not satisfied with student advisor ratios and plans to use some Grad 2025 funding if available. Currently, an advising subgroup is working on the most effective structure. Graduate education needs more attention. A strategic planning committee chaired by Karin Brown and Rennie Schoepflin are working on a plan for excellence in Graduate Education which will include advising.

**Ongoing Policies/Items**

- In Spring 2019, FiPC members, in collaboration with ASI, conducted a student survey. FiPC would like to follow up with ASI so that this student survey is administered each year, potentially in the Fall, to guide future time certains and ensure that student needs and priorities are accurately reflected in the Budgetary Priorities.

- The 2019-2020 Budgetary Priorities were informed by the student survey and information from time certains with administrators held by FiPC this past year. FiPC recommended an increase in the number of advisers for both academic and career advisement and prioritize facility renovations. Renovate and repair facilities that contribute to student learning such as classrooms, desks, and chairs (particularly those in King Hall and Salazar Hall). Renovate and repair facilities that contribute to student safety and well-being. Install more night lighting on the main walkway and on the pathway to the dormitories. Install handrails and contrast strips
for visually impaired en route to the dormitories. Repair elevators in a timely manner. Ensure restrooms are sufficiently stocked with supplies, including feminine products. Reduce food insecurity, which remains a central concern for students. Improve quality of food available at the food pantry and offer more food options on campus. Significantly increase the number of microwave ovens available to students who bring their lunch to campus and ensure that they are cleaned regularly. Invest in diverse hiring for both faculty and staff. Provide an advance for students who receive travel funding to limit excessive out-of-pocket expenditures prior to and during their travel.

- Over the past three years, FiPC members have worked to increase transparency over the budget process. In 2017-2018, FiPC submitted a recommendation to Senate Executive Committee requesting that FiPC members from A&L, B&E, CCOE, ECST, HHS, and NSS also serve as liaisons to their respective College Resource Allocation Committee (RAAC). This decision was unanimously supported by the Executive Committee, and later supported by Provost Mahoney and all the College Deans. 2018-2019 marked the first year that FiPC members from A&L, B&E, CCOE, ECST, HHS, and NSS also served as liaisons to their College RAAC. This will facilitate the flow of information between FiPC and College RAACs that will improve data collection and reduce redundant budget recommendations.

- In 2016-17, FiPC members recognized the need to maintain committee institutional memory that can be shared each year. In Fall 2017, FiPC began inviting the former chair of FiPC to share knowledge with new and ongoing FiPC members to maintain institutional memory from each academic year to the next. FiPC encourages that this tradition be maintained. Also, in Fall 2018, FiPC began storing all meeting documents on SharePoint through the University.

**Future Policies/Items and Recommendations**

- FiPC is encouraged to begin the discussion about budgetary priorities for 2019-20 in the Fall semester instead of waiting until spring.

- Invite Executive Director of UAS, Tariq Marji to discuss UAS’s vision and how it plans to work with ORSCA? What, if anything, will change under new leadership?

**Feedback and Recommendations**

- Provide more thorough training at the beginning of the academic year regarding the budgeting process as well as clarify specifically what is and is not part of “fiscal policy,” in order to avoid lengthy discussions or recommendations that fall outside the committee’s purview.