



DATE: July 01, 2021
FROM: Gabriela Simon-Cereijido, Chair, Fiscal Policy Committee
TO: Talia Bettcher, Academic Senate Chair
CC: R. Eckard, J. Williams, R. Roquemore, J. Lazo-Uy
SUBJECT: Annual Senate Committee Report

Policies/Items completed during 2020-21

Due to the unprecedented circumstances associated to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FiPC members scheduled frequent Time Certain meetings with Provost J. Gomez and with other university administrators. Topics discussed revolved around the FY2021-2022 budget, the CARES Act funding distribution and reporting, and student, faculty, and staff needs.

- On October 22nd, 2020, committee members reviewed a Student Survey draft. The FiPC undergraduate and graduate student representatives edited the survey and distributed via ASI listserv, social media pages, and direct student outreach in classes. Responses were reviewed at the November 12th committee meeting. Student participation was higher than in previous years. There were 1,263 responses. Students appeared concerned about the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, advising quality, and mental health access. The committee discussed how Pell Grants have not kept up with tuition and related costs.
- FiPC Chair G. Simon-Cereijido attended the University RAAC meeting held on November 3, 2020. At the meeting, the group discussed the University's response to permanent budget cuts this fiscal year, budget planning for the FY2021-2022, and CARES Act funding distribution and reporting. This information was shared with the committee and J. Williams answered additional committee member questions about the CARES Act and budget planning.
- On December 10th, 2020, the FiPC and Senate Exec. Committee had a joint meeting with the Provost J. Gomez and AVP Administration & Finance/CFO L. Chavez. The Provost shared the measures taken to minimize the COVID-19 fiscal strains and CARES Act funding distribution and reporting.
- On February 11th, 2021, Provost J. Gomez visited our committee and gave an update on the University's financial status, including allocation of federal aid funds and the state's budget timeline update. The Provost answered committee member questions about the budget, the vaccination site opening on campus, and campus repopulation plans.
- On February 25th, 2021, N. Wada-McKee, VP for Student Life and C. Roberts-Corb, Interim AVP for Student Life reported on student support services, including Health and Wellbeing, Technology, Food Resources, and Emergency Grants including CARES Act and HEERF-II. Committee members discussed funding sources for ongoing student needs.
- On March 11th, 2021, L. Chavez, AVP Administration & Finance/CFO answered Committee member questions about the University's current budget. projected budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, budgetary concerns/priorities resulting from COVID-19, and the role of the FiPC in the budgeting process.
- On March 25th, 2021, T. Marji, Executive Director of UAS and J. Underwood, AVP for Research, answered committee member questions related to the policies and procedures of grant funding and research at the University.
- On April 8th, 2021, Provost J. Gomez and A. Bippus, Vice Provost for Planning and Budget answered committee member questions related to the University's current budget, CARES Act and HEERF funding reports, and the 2020-2021 Budget Priority Key Recommendations from the 2019-2020 committee.

- On April 8th, 2021, T. Pham, CIO & AVP Information Technology Services answered committee member questions related to the budget priorities for the Information Technology Services' strategic initiatives and support services.
- FiPC Budgetary Priorities 2021-22: Chair G. Simon-Cereijido reviewed 2020-21 Budget Priorities and Committee members drafted a document for the 2020-21 recommendations.

Ongoing Policies/Items

- The FiPC actively requested information and follow-up from the members who are College RAAC Liaisons. FiPC members reminded respective Colleges that Administrative Procedure 212 contains requirements for the College RAACs. Throughout the year, FiPC members reported meetings and updates. Due to the observed variability observed across Colleges, FiPC members drafted a memo with recommendations for College Deans regarding the Administrative Procedure 212. In the memo, the Committee recommends the following: (1) colleges should convene a RAAC or a Fiscal Policy committee aligned with AP 212. That is, these committees must minimally have the five members required by AP 212; (2) the elected college representatives to serve on the FiPC are expected to regularly report to FiPC; (3) according to AP 212, College Deans are expected to communicate to their RAAC or Fiscal Policy committees budget changes requested by executive officers for their divisions, (4) Deans should communicate College RAAC or Fiscal Policy committees when budget requests are communicated to the Provost; and (5) the RAAC or Fiscal Policy committees for each College should review the priorities and the college resource allocation request and submit recommendations to the Dean during the Fall or Spring Semester. In addition, we recommend finalizing the College recommendations in the Spring. In this way, they will be shared with FiPC and incorporated into the FiPC fiscal recommendations to be presented to the Provost.
- The 2021-2022 Budgetary Priorities were informed by the information from time certain with administrators held by FiPC this past year. We presented seven key recommendations for budgetary priorities. They include:
 1. Continue emergency support to students and avoid student tuition hikes.
 2. Expand both faculty hiring to improve Student-Faculty Ratios and staff hiring to maintain efficient functioning. Support equitable funding across the university's colleges, including an examination of Student Faculty Ratio across the colleges.
 3. Facilitate the streamlining of student aid provision, including food access, employment, remote learning support, and student health services.
 4. Secure funding for IT needs for in-person, online, and remote teaching and learning as well as professional development for staff and faculty.
 5. Prioritize health and cleanliness for in-person, online, and remote teaching and learning. This includes ventilation, vaccination access, COVID-19 protocols, exposure notification, and mental health access.
 6. Maintain transparency by emphasizing timely and effective communication between the administration and University faculty, students, and staff. Dashboards and clear policies and plans build a foundation for trust when followed by conversations with faculty.
 7. Keep track of students, faculty, and staff administrative and academic needs in an efficient and systematic way. Consider data collection mechanisms that could be adapted to emergency situations, including workload changes.
- We also recommend availability of physical and mental health resources for students, continuation of the alternative instruction option support, advising, and progress monitoring for students, and streamlining of student employment opportunities. In addition, we recommend support for faculty development for remote teaching and increase support for alternative teaching technical and material needs and maintenance of the existing vehicles to encourage and support research and professional development. We also recommend hiring and educating staff to clean, repair, and maintain buildings frequently and effectively, and if possible, continue facility renovations.

Future Policies/Items and Recommendations

- The FiPC members drafted a memo with practice recommendations for the Division of Academic Affairs and other University divisions and offices regarding communication with the FiPC. To facilitate communication and collaboration and considering that the Chair of FiPC is a member of our University Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC), we recommended the following practices:
 1. FiPC will benefit from learning the budget priorities and needs of the Division of Academic Affairs and its respective departments in a written form at the beginning of the Fall semester. This practice will help the FiPC with discussions and Time Certain decisions. In addition, the information will help FiPC members to communicate with the College RAACs in their meetings.
 2. FiPC will also benefit from learning the budget priorities and needs of other University Divisions in a written form at the beginning of the Fall semester. The committee will appreciate reports from the Division of Finance, the Division of Student Life, and the Division of University Advancement.

Feedback and Recommendations

- Continue conducting remote meetings during the AY 2021-2022. This modality resulted in improved member attendance to meetings.
- As recommended in previous years, FiPC members would like to learn about the budgeting process at the beginning of the academic year. It is of interest of the committee to understand the fiscal impact of the current pandemic on fiscal policy.