

Minutes

To: Gladys Gregory

From: Eric Fisher, Chair, Budget and Long-range Planning Committee

Date: 04/08/10

Re: Winter Quarter 2010 Report

The committee met three times in the winter quarter, on 1 February, 16 February, and 1 March. We also had an informal social gathering at my house on 5 March.

David Conn resigned, and he was replaced by Erling Smith. Margarita Hill, the representative from LandArch, has an ongoing personal emergency, and she has been unable to attend any meeting this year. I recommend that we replace her with Gary Clay, a person she recruited.

Jamie Callahan, the student representative, has never attended a meeting. Kimi Ikeda has attended only one meeting. Rick Ramirez stopped attending meetings about two months ago. Erling Smith has attended no meeting yet. I am worried that the Budget and Long-range Planning Committee cannot function fully effectively without the active involvement of University administrators and students. You may want to pass this information on to the Executive Committee because they have the right to drop some members. Also, a well placed diplomatic word from Bob Koob to Ikeda, Smith, and Ramirez might be warranted.

Andrew Kean and I gave an overview of the budget and an introduction to the financial dashboard to the Senate in January. In February, Paul Rinzler gave a one-minute briefing to the Senate on reconciling the University's financial

statements and the information contained in the financial dashboard. The dashboard was made available to all Senators in winter quarter. We have received positive feedback on the work of the Committee.

The main topics we discussed were: (1) reconciling the dashboard data with a broader view of Cal Poly's budget; (2) understanding the difference between the marginal and average costs of instruction; and (3) grappling with what it means to have effective oversight of the Administration on matters budgetary. I have been frustrated occasionally by my perception of a lack of professionalism among the administrators charged with overseeing the University's finances. Many of the members agree with me that administrators' tendency to hold important information close to the vest hurts Cal Poly.

I am most proud of this accomplishment: we have begun to raise the level of understanding about issues budgetary among several well placed members of this faculty.

All of our minutes are posted at our Google Group whose URL is:
<http://groups.google.com/group/cal-poly-senate-budget-committee>