

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

March 8, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

Members present: President Suzuki, Dr. Ambrosion (arrived at 9:45 a.m.), Dr. Barnes, Dr. Berman, Mr. Carmona, Ms. Farris, Mr. Fremont, Ms. Martin, Dr. Ochoa, Dr. Ollenburger, Dr. Soriano, Mr. Storey, Dr. Tillman, Ms. Thomas, Dr. Turk (via speakerphone)

EO 665/Student CARES Initiative

Arturo Carmona and Davin Corona distributed copies of the ASI Resolution on EO 665 which recommends that a Universitywide task force be convened to “find solutions to drastically increase the success rate of students adequately fulfilling their remedial courses....” Discussion ensued with regard to the issues associated with EO 665, such as the common final in mathematics courses, lack of tutoring due to lack of funding, lack of information on the part of remedial students, and the deadline for petitioning which falls four weeks before the end of the quarter.

Dr. Ollenburger reported on efforts made to improve the implementation of EO 665 and the support provided to students to achieve competency in remedial/preparatory courses during the 2000-2001 academic year. For example, Academic Affairs created and funded a new position of Faculty Associate for GE and Advising that will coordinate the advising of EO 665 students with all colleges and schools and develop programs with community colleges to support students who are taking remedial courses and are trying to complete courses to return to Cal Poly Pomona. In addition, a group of advisors in all colleges and schools have been identified to support the Calling/Mentoring program of the Educational Equity Retention Program. There is also a plan to provide summer 2001 preparatory classes for EO 665 students through a transitory enrollment status, and meetings about possible course substitutions for students with particular disabilities.

Dr. Ollenburger reported that she will be meeting with the EO 665 committee on March 13 to discuss implementation issues and suggestions for policy or procedure changes.

Arturo then reported on the CARES program, a student coordinated community outreach and retention program that would include peer mentoring, counseling and advising.

While Cabinet members congratulated Mr. Carmona and the ASI on their initiative in developing such a program, Dr. Berman voiced concern with the fact that, were this program to be implemented, the University would have multiple outreach/retention efforts which could create confusion and lack of coordination. He suggested that the efforts of the students be combined with the outreach/retention program already in place. Concern was also expressed about the lack of continuity and accountability due to student turnover. Dr. Tillman expressed her support for the program.

Discussion centered around how such a program would be funded. The ASI's goal is to fund the program without increasing current student mandatory fees, and recommends that the "one-third financial aid fee" from student health fees be diverted to the CARES program.. Dr. Soriano asked what plans the ASI had made to infill the \$200,000+ financial aid that would have to be continued according to new Cal Grant guidelines. Mr. Carmona responded that the ASI was not prepared to provide substitute funding, but that he was willing to support efforts by the university and UBAC to find substitute funding. Ms. Farris reported that the Fee Committee is discussing options for funding the project, but a recommendation has not yet been forwarded to the President.

The President commended the ASI leadership and indicated the CARES program was a good concept that requires serious consideration. He recommended that ASI leadership meet with Laraine Turk, Ali Mossaver Rahmani and Rebecca Guterrez Keeton to continue the dialog about this program.

Schematic Design Approval for I-POLY

Chris McAlary, Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management, along with staff members and architects, presented the schematic design for the International Polytechnic High School recommended by the Landscape Planning Committee. Following the presentation and discussion, and based on the unanimous recommendation of the Cabinet that he approved the schematic design, the President approved it. Construction will begin on September 2002, with occupancy scheduled for January 2004.

Mr. McAlary took the opportunity to distribute information on the Ethnobotany Learning Center BIOTREK Project, an education-based outreach experience for K-12 students as well as College of Science students.

Report on Executive Council Meeting

The President reported on a number of matters discussed at the February 13-14 Executive Council meeting:

2001-2002 Support Budget - (1) Because of the focus on the energy crisis, there has been little activity with regard to the support budget. The Department of Finance believes the Governor's January budget will be funded; (2) The California economy is still doing well, but there are some signs of a downturn, particularly in North Carolina and Florida; (3) A question was raised whether the enrollment target for 2001-2002 should be increased by one percent. While applications are up, the yield has gone down (probably due to potential students' ability to apply to multiple institutions on-line); (4) The UC system has instituted a dual enrollment program with the community colleges whereby community college students are guaranteed admission to UC campuses. The CSU is in the process of instituting a similar agreement.

Energy Update – Pending bills in the legislature may abrogate the CSU’s contract with Enron. The CSU is vigorously opposing these bills. There are discussions with the Governor regarding \$120,000,000 which may become available for co-generation plans on campuses and another \$35-40,000,000 for conservation measures.

Education Doctorate – The President of the UC system, David Atkinson, rescinded his agreement with the Chancellor not to oppose unilateral authority for the CSU to award Ed.D. degrees. The CSU will continue to move forward, even though there is less than a 50 percent chance of receiving authority to award the Ed.D. degrees.

Common Calendar - The Chancellor’s Office will provide \$2,000,000 to each quarter-system campus to assist in changing to the semester system. Although campuses have not received official word from the Chancellor’s Office, it would make sense for Cal Poly Pomona to begin the process immediately in order to coordinate the change with the PeopleSoft project. A task force will need to be set up that will include faculty, staff and administrators. Donna Tillman suggested that we try to get the Chancellor’s Office to divide up the funds according to the sizes of the campuses involved. Discussion ensued concerning the time frame for the conversion, and it was generally agreed that the earliest we could begin would be in the Fall of 2004. Delaying the implementation of the new general education program was also discussed, but given the WASC report, and the WASC Commission’s strong recommendation that we move quickly with this program, it may not be possible to delay. The Cabinet also discussed ways in which to reduce the average teaching load. Some suggestions were to teach lower division classes in larger classrooms, to use teaching assistants, to use technology to a greater degree, and to reduce redundancy by eliminating outdated courses.

Remedial Education – The President has been asked to serve on a special systemwide committee which will review the English and mathematics requirements. Eighty percent of ESL students fail the reading test on the EPT, but many still pass because they score better on other parts of the test.

Report on WASC Commission Panel Meeting

President Suzuki, Vice Presidents Ollenburger and Farris, and Associate Vice President Ibrahim met with the eight-member panel on February 22 to review the WASC reaccreditation report and the campus response. The three areas of discussion were (1) shared vision, (2) diversity, and (3) the general education program. A letter from the WASC Commission is expected to be received shortly.

Academic Master Plan

Dr. Ollenburger reported briefly on the academic plan reporting forms and indicated that the budgeting process is moving along. All college and division budget committees have participated in the accountability process by reviewing the 1999-2000 UBAC allocations and identifying the performance indicators necessary for attaining departmental or divisional priorities.

The current 2001-02 budget requests are in process utilizing the new guidelines that require the identification of strategic actions for attaining priorities and key performance indicators for measuring progress toward attaining department, division or University priorities.

The next step in the academic master planning process will be to review changes made in the process this year and to evaluate the process, definitions and structure. Leading into next year the departmental, program and divisional strategic plans will be evaluated. A system will be developed to provide for (1) a planning structure that allows for planning and budgeting beyond an annual cycle, and (2) a more integrated system which more easily adapts to cross-departmental and cross-divisional requests.

Organization and Mission of the University Technology Committee

Dr. Berman distributed a proposal for the organization of a University Technology Committee which would assist in developing technology strategy and policy for the University. The proposal included the suggested membership on the committee. Donna Tillman indicated that faculty appointments to the committee should be made by the Academic Senate. Christine Thomas noted that there appeared to be no staff representation on the list, and it was agreed that a staff member should be included.

Dr Berman expressed concern that many information technology policies are outdated and need to be reviewed and updated as soon as possible.

One-Minute Items/Announcements

President Suzuki reported that he would like to take a more comprehensive look at public transportation. He would like to develop a campaign with incentives for people to use public transportation. Arturo Carmona suggested that all possibilities be considered. He indicated that students were willing to pay increased parking fees for alternative transportation.

Dr. Berman reported that he and Ron Fremont's staff had identified and purchased software that should be able to be modified to support the "campus alert" communication strategy.

Dr. Berman announced that he had worked with the Police Department to make it possible to keep open a late night computer lab during Spring Quarter.

Dr. Barnes updated the Cabinet on the Temple Avenue and Valley Blvd. railroad crossing.

Mr. Carmona updated the Cabinet on the problems associated with the MASA House.

Dr. Ambrosion reported that the Council of Chairs is discussing intellectual property rights and Research Council policies.

With regard to a question about the status of upgrading classrooms and equipment, Dr. Ollenburger indicated that she would discuss this with the deans on Monday. It was suggested that an update on the classroom renovation project be disseminated to the campus community.

Ron Fremont announced that PolyCentric had been launched and the survey results indicate that the campus community is pleased with this communication.

Paul Storey reported that the CSU Housing Assistance survey resulted in a 40 percent response rate.

Chris Thomas announced that the Library has a wine exhibit located at Terminal 2 at the Ontario International Airport.

Dr. Turk announced that the annual BroncoFest will take place on Saturday, April 7.

Ron Fremont announced that the Los Angeles Philharmonic would perform in Pomona again this year on Saturday, March 31.

The next meeting of the President's Cabinet will be held on Monday, April 9, 2001, at 2:30 p.m. in the President's Conference Room.