University Budget Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2015, 4:30 p.m., Mining Room (MPSC)

☒ Christopher Baxter (BILSA 2017) Secretary
☒ Les Hollingsworth (BILSA 2015) Chair
☒ Kara Candito (LAE 2015) Proxy Amanda Tucker
☐ Abulkhair Masoom (EMS 2016)
☐ Dawn Drake (Academic Staff Rep)
☐ Rob Cramer
☐ Lisa Merkes-Kress (Recording Secretary)
☐ Cathy Riedl Farrey

☐ John-Leonard Berg (KLIB 2014)
☐ Chanaka Mendis (EMS 2017) Vice Chair
☐ Ray Spoto (LA 2016)
☐ Vacant (Student Senate)

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Non-Voting Members
☒ Dominic Barraclough (Provost Rep)

Quorum-Minimum of four voting members required for action on business items

GUESTS: T. Nelson, R. Broussard

MINUTES

I. Call to Order
Chair Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2015
Spoto moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mendis. Minutes approved.

III. Announcements and Reports
Barraclough – A group led by Tonya Stappert is organizing to review computer labs on campus to evaluate usage and long-term planning. On a related note, the Creative Writing Lab (CWL) in Karrmann Library is now toxic due to construction. Candito will draft a letter for the next UABC meeting recommending that the Computer Lab evaluation group review dedicating space specifically for the CWL. Chair Hollingsworth invite D. Kiekhafer and Rob Cramer to attend the next meeting to discuss this possibility.

Barraclough – Governance elections are in process. One of the goals is to have a smooth transition of committee officers for next year. Ideally, each committee will have their new officers selected before summer recess.

IV. Academic Planning Committee Report
None

V. Unfinished Business
None

VI. New Business

1. After Action Review of Budget Reduction Process
General comments were solicited. Of note was the committee’s desire to know deviations between what UABC recommended and what the Chancellor ultimately approves. Given the concerns around the Governor’s budget plan discussion also ensued about the need to begin preparing recommendations for future reductions. The target number discussed was $5m knowing that this would be on the “high end” of what would be required. By prioritizing, we can adjust accordingly if the real target number is actually lower.

Motion: UABC requests a response from the Chancellor that outlines deviations between actions that he approves compared to UABC recommendations. Spoto initiated, Baxter seconded. Motion carries unanimously.
Motion: UABC should begin preparing prioritized recommendations to reduce expenses or increase revenues to achieve an additional $5m change. Baxter initiated, Spoto seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

2. Proposal for Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

Nelson and Broussard presented a proposal to merge the centers for WGS, ES, SEJ, and International Studies into a single department. This merger results in lower supply expenses and lower administrative FTE.

Motion: Spoto moved to endorse the merger, Candito seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

3. Review Budget Feedback Email

This item is moved to unfinished business for next meeting and will be addressed as part of the group’s development of additional expenditures (New Business #1, Resolution #2 above).

VII. Next Meeting Date Thursday, March 26, 2015

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Hollingsworth adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.