

Memo

Budget Committee of the Academic Senate

To: Policy Committee

From: Michael J. McIntyre, Chair, Budget

Subject: Request for Information on OVPR Spending

Date: September 19, 2006

At its meeting on September 11, 2006, the Budget Committee discussed the \$1 million in special funding provided to the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) in the FY 2007 General Fund Budget. The budget document provided money currently being used by the OVPR for various administrative purposes, including compliance with human research requirements, thereby freeing up money for other uses. The OVPR, in its January 23, 2006, memo to the Provost setting forth its budget request for FY 2007, had asserted that it needed \$5.6 million to meet critical needs, the most critical of which, according to the memo, were faculty setups and faculty recruitment offers.

The Board of Governor's Budget and Finance Committee, at its meeting of July 24, 2006, voted to establish a \$1 million fund, under the control of the Provost, to provide for faculty setups and faculty recruitment, in lieu of the \$1 million that would have gone to the OVPR in the budget proposed by the Administration. That action was taken because of a concern that the OVPR might use only a portion of the \$1 million for the high priority items — faculty setups and faculty retention offers. That decision was later overturned by the full Board of Governors.

The Budget Committee, nevertheless, remained concerned about how the \$1 million would be spent. It was suggested that the committee ought to request an accounting of the uses of the \$1 million from the OVPR. It also was suggested that if such monitoring were to occur, it would be appropriate to give notice soon to the OVPR so that it could put in place the necessary accounting mechanisms. After some discussion, the following motion was adopted by a vote of 7-1:

That the Budget Committee requests the Policy Committee to ask the Office of the Vice President for Research to provide an accounting of the expenditures it makes from the \$1 million special allocation it received in the FY 2007 budget, including an account of the amounts spent during the fiscal year for faculty setups and faculty retention offers, with a comparison to the amounts spent for those purposes from discretionary funds in the prior fiscal year.

By this memo, I am requesting the Policy Committee to consider the motion made by the Budget Committee and to take appropriate action with respect to it. It should be noted that the OVPR and the Provost have a separate fund of \$6 million for faculty setups. The committee motion is not asking for an accounting of these earmarked funds.