

# **Minutes, Budget Committee of Academic Senate**

## **Meeting of April 24, 2006 (as approved, June 19, 2006)**

*Present:* Anjali Anturkar (budget office), Stephen Calkins (Acting Chair), Marc Cogan, Charles Parrish, Frederic Pearson, Louis Romano, Linea Rydstedt, Vishwanath Sardesai, William Volz.

*Absent with Notice:* Ravi Dhar, Charles Elder (liaison), Michael McIntyre, Assia Shisheva, James Woodyard.

*Absent:* Harley Tse.

*Invited Guests:* Nancy Barrett, Provost; John L. Davis, Vice President for Finance & Facilities Management

1. The meeting convened at 11:30 a.m.
2. The minutes of the March 6 meeting were approved as modified.
3. *BOG Agenda:* The committee discussed the upcoming Board of Governors meeting at length. In particular:
  - The Provost explained that the search for a new Vice President for Research is much more expensive than the search for an Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff because the former is using a search firm.
  - VP Davis discussed the \$5,200,000 in reserves, explaining that the University does not aim to retain a substantial balance in that account but rather strives to spend the money as fast as good projects are identified and managed.
  - A couple of committee members noted with appreciation the signals of sensitivity to historic architecture.
  - The infilling of the Mort Harris Recreation and Fitness Center Pool attracted considerable comment, largely lamenting the original decision to build the facility that is now costing so much to eliminate. When asked why the University was now going to use the space for exercise equipment instead of a proper lap pool, Vice President Davis said the decision was based on demand for additional machines. Although one or more members noted that machines are or may be located in residence halls, in the end no member spoke against the project.
  - The renovation of medical school teaching labs is to respond to a permanent increase in the size of the school.
  - Several committee members expressed appreciation for the listing of contemplated future projects. The \$27,350,000 Engineering Development Center was noted as the beneficiary of state support. Several members lamented not seeing other major projects, and were told that the list is not a “wish list” of major new

construction. It was further explained that the “running list of identified deferred maintenance projects” is imprecise as to dollar amounts and does not indicate when projects will commence, since that may depend on future developments.

4. *New business.* There was no new business.

5. *Adjournment:* The meeting was adjourned before 12:30.

Stephen Calkins