

UH Faculty Meeting on Budget

(Convened by the UH-Mānoa Faculty SEC, 2 September 2009)

Faculty Senate
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Honolulu, HI 96822

Agenda and Goals

Agenda:

- 1 Budget and prioritization status
- 2 Other relevant considerations
- 3 Open the floor for questions, suggestions, and discussion

Goals:

- Answer your questions as best we can on current budget status/proposals from POV of the faculty
- Solicit creative ideas/alternatives to 'obvious' courses of action
- Inform deliberations of Senate committees (CAPP, CAB), guide Senate stands in work with Administration
- Long-term goal: Concrete recommendations we can make to the Administration/BoR/public

Some ground rules

- Avoid undermining current contract negotiations
- Strive for constructive suggestions, instead of general complaints
- Try to focus on processes we have control over at UH-Mānoa (i.e., instead of System-level inefficiencies or Gubernatorial decisions)
- Collegiality: this is not a good time to launch an attack on a particular department or colleague you do not respect.

Budget and prioritization status

- Manoa has been cut over \$50million for each of the next two years:
 - ① \$36 million for which we planned last spring; includes \$20+million covered by central administration (unfilled positions, energy savings, increased tuition, RTRF, etc.), \$11.6million covered by 4% horizontal unit cuts across campus.
 - ② \$30 million in Governor's 'labor' cuts (we should get \$14.7million of this back in ARRA funds)
- Two committees formed last Spring:
 - ① VCAFO Budget Advisory Committee
 - ② Chancellor's Prioritization Process committee
 - ★ Originally designed for growth and replacement
 - ★ Ongoing concerns about transparency and data correctness

- Faculty Senate Response on Process Committee (21 January 2009): “(6) If the process leads to any proposals that include reorganization or elimination of programs as defined in the Report, such proposals should be explicitly tied to, and justified by, a timeline in cost savings and/or other clearly articulated benefit to the University. (7) The Senate must have the opportunity to fully review and respond to any proposals or outcomes resulting from the process. (8) The Senate understands that external consideration might require the Administration to make some policy decisions in advance of the conclusion of this process; such decisions should be carried out in a manner consistent with the points above, with an emphasis on transparency and shared governance.”
- Two committees merged (temporarily?) in August

Considerations

- Short-term issues
 - ▶ Retrenchment is irrelevant to short-term budget problems
 - ▶ 'Easy' sources of short-term funds are include contingent faculty, unfilled positions (including clerical/staff), administrative positions. Also RTRF? Building funds? Athletics?
 - ▶ Harder sources (since subject to negotiation) include Faculty/staff salaries, faculty pay lag.
- Medium- and long-term issues:
 - ▶ Hawaii economy tends to lag mainland, UH funding likely to lag recovery
 - ▶ ARR funds only for this biennium
 - ▶ Retirements expected, but (a) retirements might come the year after beginning of next biennium, and (b) many retiring faculty will need to be replaced to maintain core programs
 - ▶ Retirements won't be distributed in optimal ways; need flexibility to hire according to priorities. (a) Do we need official "retrenchment" to achieve this flexibility? (b) Does retrenchment actually translate to significant savings? (c) How do we ensure priorities reflect need and our primary missions of teaching and research?

Goals and Ground rules

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