

University Resources Commission
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Attendees:

Alyssa Atkinson, Edwin Blanton, Brian Brantley, Jarrick Brown, Lloyd Butler, Rohan Christie-David, Mary Kay Cooper, Frantzen Durant, Dennis Elam, Kathryn Funk-Baxter, Miriam Magdaleno, Brandy McLelland, Leonard Love, Mike O'Brien, Deanna Reynolds, Phillip Rodgers, Joseph Simpson, Darnell Smith, John Smith

Absent:

Pablo Calafiore

Minutes

- I. Welcome/Minutes from October 28, 2020– Kathryn Funk-Baxter
 - a. Minutes from last URC meeting were shared in November via email. There being no feedback, the minutes were posted to the URC website.

- II. Forecasting Revenue for FY 22
 - a. Clarification was made; budget team uses student credit hours (SCH) instead of headcount as that is how fees are assessed.
 - b. FY22 forecast made using a 1% increase in SCH
 - i. 1% increase for summer 2022 based on enrollment from summer 2021, which had a significantly higher enrollment than the university has historically experienced. While there is optimism based on our enrollment, it is likely that the increase in summer 2021 enrollment is due to students trying to finish degrees, as well as the robust online learning options.
 1. There is optimism the uptick in summer SCH may continue due to the implementation of the summer Federal Pell Grant program.

2. However, questions were raised on the likelihood of the bump in enrollment continuing, considering summer 2021 SCH was significantly higher than anticipated.
 3. Since summer 2021 enrollment was driven by continuing students, it is likely the growth experienced in summer 2021 may not carry over to summer 2022.
 4. **Outcome: Kathryn Funk-Baxter will share summer enrollment for 2018 and 2019. The numbers will be reviewed and analyzed using the moving average from summers 2017, 2018 and 2019, and a new forecast will be done using that data.**
 - c. While census date has not taken place yet, the University is on track to meet budget projection with Spring 2021 enrollment.
- III. Use of FY 22 incremental revenue
 - a. There are continuing commitments on the budget to cover “bridge-to-base” items; these “bridge-to-base” funds are currently being funded from reserves.
 - b. New revenue sources would also be used to fund items not originally in the budget.
 - c. **Recommendation: for fiscal year FY 22, there be no new allocation of funds.**
 - i. This would ensure the University covered all existing commitments first.
- IV. Areas to improve financial position
 - a. members are encouraged to share their ideas via email, directly via one-on-one meetings, or during the next meeting on how to improve our financial condition.
 - b. Potential opportunities offered:
 - i. University consider expanding graduate programs, especially online delivery and on-demand graduate programs.
 - ii. University will do a comprehensive review of all contracts and seek to have negotiations if warranted.
 - iii. Explore where it may be advantageous to use shared services.
 - iv. Review our physical plan to ensure we have the right infrastructure to keep operating costs down (for example, using motion-sensing lights where it makes sense).
- V. CARES Funds allocation II
 - a. University anticipated to receive \$10.9 million, which must be spent by January 2022 (for goods and services received through the spring 2022 semester).
 - b. Expenses must be COVID-related.
 - c. Anticipated expenses:

- i. Athletics Fee that was waived for students for AY 2021 would be eligible for reimbursement
- ii. An additional \$6 million would be set aside for ongoing COVID-related expenses.
- iii. University is required to submit a plan to System offices on how University plans to allocate funds.

VI. Spring Enrollment update as of 1st class day

- a. While student head count was slightly lower than anticipated, this decline was offset by the increase in SCH students enrolled in, thus projected enrollment goal met for spring semester.

VII. Budget Calendar

- a. List of important budget dates shared with the committee.
- b. The 4% decrease in projected state revenue is not as dire as originally anticipated prior to the release of state sales and oil revenues data.

VIII. Discussion/Questions

- a. It is not outside the realm of possibilities to see a bump in enrollment due to positive vaccination efforts. If there is a bump in revenues, both URC and Cabinet would discuss before any funds are allocated and disbursed.
- b. There will be two additional meetings this spring and one in the summer.
 - i. February 24 or 25: discuss preliminary budget presentation
 - ii. Mid-April: Appropriations Update
 - iii. June: preliminary budget review after appropriations are finalized

IX. Adjourn

- a. There being no additional comments or agenda items to discuss, meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.