

University Resources Commission

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WebEx and Modular 108

Attendees Kathryn Funk-Baxter, Mike O'Brien, Chris Leach, Armando Alanis (for Allyson Atkinson), Joe Simpson, Leonard Love, Jarrick Brown, Deanna Reynolds, Dennis Elam, Brian Brantley, John Smith, Durant Frantzen, Rohan Christie-David, Teresa Petersen (for Edwin Blanton), Mary Kay Cooper, Darnell Smith, Phillip Rodgers, Brandy McLelland, Lloyd Butler

Absent Allyson Atkinson, Miriam Magdaleno, Edwin Blanton, Pablo Calafiore

Minutes

1. State of Texas financial highlights – Chris Leach
 - a. Recent forecasts indicate a state revenue shortfall of \$4.58 billion, which does not include the return to the state treasury for the 5% reduction in appropriations.
 - b. The Rainy Day Funds are anticipated to be dipped into and so may provide some cushion.
 - c. Overall, there is a significant amount of economic uncertainty at the state appropriation level.
2. Enrollment update – undergraduates – Brandy McLelland
 - a. Summer 2019 vs. Summer 2020: there was an increase in Summer 2020 enrollment as compared to Summer 2019.
 - b. Fall Enrollment is down about 1.45% (based on semester credit hours) at this point in time.
 - c. Registration is still open and students are still reaching out and enrolling
 - i. With enrollment occurring later than usual due to significant uncertainty, the next three weeks are anticipated to be more active than typical.
 - ii. This provides an opportunity to make significant progress over the next few weeks.
 - d. Many freshman courses are taking place on campus but a significant number of courses have moved online. This has been keeping the transfer rate steady.
3. Enrollment update – graduates – Dr. Mike O'Brien
 - a. Work is being made to close the gap in enrollment (a decrease of about 20 students); within this group of students decision-making is being done later in the year as well.
 - b. Year-to-year retention is holding steady.

- c. It is important to note that while there is a focus on year-to year number comparisons, historical trends are not holding true this year.
 - d. Enrollment by level and program is reported on a weekly basis to various stakeholders on campus.
 - e. \$800,000 in CARES funds were set aside to provide students additional funds in addition to financial aid.
4. Fall fee reductions and Jaguar Day One – Chris Leach
- a. The University has considered what fees can be reduced for the Fall semester in light of students not using those resources as much (e.g., no athletics fee in the Fall).
 - b. Jaguar Day One Program (JDO)
 - i. JDO is replacing individual e-book programs managed at the college level.
 - ii. This program should save students money but students do have the option to opt out.
 - iii. Most students enrolled in summer courses used CARES funds to purchase their books.
5. Proposal for spring tuition & fee billing changes on flat rates above 12 hours or even 15 hours– Chris Leach
- a. Proposal being submitted should increase formula funding through students taking more credit hours.
 - b. While this proposal has not been approved, it is something to consider from a budget perspective if it brings in more SCH during our formula funding base period.
 - c. For perspective, most A&M-SA students take between 9-12 hours, so this proposal would encourage students to take more hours.
6. Formula funding overview – Kathy Funk-Baxter
- a. The student credit hour matrix with various weights assigned by division and discipline will be distributed. For the University, developing programs in higher-weighted areas would help with formula funding.
 - b. A pie chart with state appropriations was shared. Pie chart includes funding received as part of student tuition. It also includes General Revenue (GR), which includes funding for Downward Expansion and Institutional Enhancement Funds.
 - i. As non-formula revenue sources decrease (as planned), the University needs to increase funding in other areas.
 - c. At A&M-San Antonio, the overall weight for the last biennium was low (1.80) due to the combination of programs. To change this and grow funding, the University can:
 - i. Increase the number of students enrolled

- ii. Encourage students to take more semester credit hours
- iii. Increase the number of programs offered with higher weighted courses.
- iv. Note, there is no “target weight” but 2.0 is the average overall weight and ultimately, the higher the overall weight the better off funding will be.

7. Capital project update – Kathy Funk-Baxter

- a. AAB Phase II design plans are going well. This project has a completion date of Fall 2022.
 - i. Some offices from Modular B are anticipated to be moved out, possibly as early as next summer, so Modular B can be moved offline saving the university rental costs.
- b. Athletic practice fields are getting closer to completion, with an anticipated completion of September 2020. As these are only practice fields, competitions will have to take place elsewhere, which will be an added cost for space rental.

8. CARES Funds and Minority Serving Institution allocation update– Chris Leach

- a. At this point, every dollar the University receives as part of the CARES act is already programmed for specific expenses.
- b. Guidance from the Department of Education on how to use the funds continues to change.
- c. The University projects about \$300,000 in CARES funding for Fall 2020, with \$500,000 worth of COVID expenses being expensed by August 31.
- d. The University was able to recover funds spent on parking fee refunds and housing expenses.
- e. Additionally, the MSI fund can be used to recoup lost revenues.
- f. The proposed FY21 budget does not include or anticipate furloughs or layoffs.
 - i. The University may need to dip into reserves but there are no plans for reductions in workforce.
 - ii. With regards to hiring, there is a soft freeze in place but new hires are being brought on if there is a critical need, funded by external funds and if the budget is available.

9. Open Discussion

- a. Budget meetings with division vice presidents will take place to provide budget information for FY 21.
 - i. Budgets being shared have remained flat as there is little to no new revenue.
- b. Once September starts we will have full appropriations from the state and that point can put together a statement of cash flows.

- c. Current University reserves equal approximately 4 months of operating expenses.
- d. Dr. Matson will be presenting the budget to the Regents August 4 as part of the Programmatic Budget Review process.

10. Adjournment

There being no additional comments, the meeting was adjourned with a note that the next meeting will take place in late September or early October.

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