UNIVERSITY of ALASKA SOUTHEAST

Strategic Planning & Budget Committee (SPBAC)

Meeting Notes/Summary of Discussion – November 11, 2019

Attendees: Michael Ciri, Julie Vigil, Jon Lasinski, Mae Delcastillo, Peter Sommers, Kristen Handley, Nathan Leigh, Lori Klein, Nathan Leigh, Jon Lasinski, Janelle Cook, Lori Klein, Karen Carey, Rick Caulfield, Pete Traxler, Elise Tomlinson, Ronalda Cadiente Brown, Tom Thornton, Maren Haavig
VIA Teleconference: Heather Batchelder, David Felts, Sarah Belmont, Leslie Gordon, Priscilla Schulte, Steve Atwater

Meeting started at 3:32 pm

1. BOR Meeting Debrief

Rick presented with input from Karen: BOR meeting spanned two days. First day workshop on clarity on roles and decision making at University. Stimulated by letter from Commission. Proposals presented by Faculty Alliance and others for policy changes. Board voted to consider them.
Second day addressed FY21 budget. Went over documents sent out from Board presentation. Budget proposal approved by BOR was for $277 million dollars.
UAS total cut adds up to about 2.7 million for FY21.
Universities have been asked to prepare a preliminary high level overview on how they will address these cuts.
All units should look at prospective reductions.
Start the ball rolling now. Ask deans and directors to look at both a 6% and a 12% reduction as part of this exercise.
Goal is to get people to think about our mission, priorities, partnerships, etc. Just get started thinking about this cut and how to address it.
There was a proposal for a one year tuition increase. Testimony from Student Gov't was very negative regarding that. BOR tabled the proposal until their January meeting. Expects that there will be outreach to students for more information.
Stressed importance of making sure student government representative is able to attend SPBAC meetings; couldn't come to this meeting due to concurrent Student Government meeting at same time.

There are a number of voices from UAF that are interested in implementing more differential tuition. UAF would like to raise tuition for some areas.
This difference in voices and opinion is part of the reason for the tuition proposal only being for one year.

Michael asked the group about what ideas they have regarding tuition next year.
Pete mentioned that he expects enrollment to be down approximately 5 %.
Tom guesses flat or down. Quite variable across individual programs.

More information/conversations are needed regarding what the real effect of what a 5% tuition increase would be. What results would we have in the University, what benefits/value may be gained if any.

Ronalda posed the question: what can we do to increase recruitment.

2. Program Review Update

Presented by Karen.
Fourteen expedited reviews right now. Five in Education, one in Math, five in Environmental Science, one in English, and Occupational Endorsements in Financial Institutions and Small Business Management. See full list at http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/program_review.html.

Have asked very specific questions of faculty like, do we need specific major, how can we consolidate programs. Is there some other way we can market programs to make them viable? Are there any that need to be eliminated?

Five regular program reviews under way right now, in their regular five year cycle. Expect results on those on 12/1.

12% cut anticipated to academic programs. Working on how we can get to that number.

UAA and UAF are doing full program reviews; UAA reviewing all programs, UAF reviewing half of their programs. Those will be done in mid-March. Provosts will then come together and make sure that programs are not eliminated completely from all campuses. Compare notes.

Send her ideas at any time.

3. FY21 Planning & Deadlines

Michael presented this section with input from Rick, regarding budget guidelines, planning etc. opened it up for questions and answers.

Q: Regarding the goals and objectives attached to President Johnsen's FY21 Budget Guidance letter: were they adopted by BOR?
A. Yes, the five goals have been adopted. Objectives listed here have been presented as best practices but have not been formally adopted by the BOR.

See letter at following link: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/admin/docs/spbac/2019-11-11/FY21%20Budget%20Guidance%2010-16-19.pdf

No other questions presented during this time.

Michael encourages everyone to contact him with any questions you have in the future via email and he will do his best to answer.

$1.9 million is UAS' share of the general fund reduction.
$800,000 in investments made up of results of compensation study to bring salaries up to general market increase. Second is an across the board 1% increase to salaries.

Refer to numbers on slides when thinking about cuts.
See link: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/admin/docs/spbac/2019-11-11/BOR%20FY2021%20Budget%20Presentation.pdf

FY21 reallocation will be within UAS, rather than the way it has been done in the past where it is given to SW then back to UAS. Last year the amount given back was $113,000 less than what was contributed.

Next year we will likely have a single UA appropriation, rather than something like this year's dual appropriation.

Plan initially for a reduction and later it will be decided how those cuts will actually be applied.

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Michael refers to UAS FY21 budget reduction plan. Hope is that this sheet will be filled in over the course of the next month, which will then be presented to the President in January. Conceptual reduction is what we would need to take in order to meet the budget cut goal.
See link: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/admin/docs/spbac/2019-11-11/fy20_revised_budget_plan_spbac.pdf

Information requested back from Deans and directors by the 21st.
Framework of a plan is the goal for January. We do have until May/June to actually build the budget. This will give us time to really think about options for positions/workloads/reductions etc.

Please work on thought exercise and think about one-time costs that will reduce institutional operating costs going forward. Things like invest once, and become more efficient. Lower long term operating costs through investments. Think about it.

Rick proposes meeting more often going forward.

Ronalda brings up issue of morale and working on ideas about how to raise and support morale on campus. What can we do creatively to support our people.

Send your ideas to Karen and Michael.

Meeting ended at 4:48pm