

University Budget Advisory Committee

Minutes – 11/1/2021 Meeting

At-large faculty members present:	Laura Bylenok (Assistant, CAS) – Secretary Randall Helmstutler (Associate, CAS) Suzanne Sumner (Professor, CAS)
College representative members present:	Chris Garcia (Associate, COB) Liane Houghtalin (Professor, CAS) – Chair Kyle Schultz (Associate, COE)
USC representative members present:	Arin Doerfler (Sr. Accountant-Fixed Assets) Kim McManus-Carini (Operations and Finance Coordinator) Marta Smith (Asst. Controller-Compliance)
Student representative member present:	Ellelyshia Ardo (SGA)
Members absent:	Nabil Al-Tikriti (Professor, CAS) Patrick Catullo (Director of Athletics)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm. The entirety of the meeting was dedicated to discussion in response to a request via email by Kristin Marsh (UFC Chair) for the committee to consider and weigh in on the UFAC recommendation and UFC motion in support of a collaboratively designed faculty equity study. According to Dr. Marsh, when UFAC brought its recommendation to UFC on Oct 20, 2021, faculty raised the concern that given the state of the budget during the pandemic, if we spend money on the study but aren't able to implement it in a timely manner, then it would be a waste of resources. Dr. Marsh asked for our perspective and whether our committee would endorse such a study.

Summary of discussion:

1. The committee discussed the funding of the study. Ahead of discussion, Ms. Smith had raised the question of whether there is already money in the budget for this kind of study, and Dr. Houghtalin reached out to ask Paul Messplay, who reported that there were some funds allocated last year, but the cost of the study would likely exceed the amount set aside. He also said that there are some limited resources available to be used at the President's discretion for one-time expenditures such as this.
2. Discussion transitioned to anticipated outcomes in the context of a constrained budget. Ms. Smith raised the concern that perhaps there would be no money to address the potential results of the study. Dr. Schultz suggested the results of the study could be used to create a budget priority to bring to the legislature in the future, and Dr. Houghtalin noted that the results of the study would be critical to define and identify the scope of the problem in order to address it going forward.
3. The committee discussed the possibility of including staff in the study. Considering the importance of the issue of equity for staff as well as faculty, and considering the potential cost savings in doing one study (for both faculty and staff) rather than two separate studies, there was general agreement that USC should be consulted and staff should be included, and the committee agreed to recommend that the UFC approach the USC to ask whether it would support including staff in the study.
4. Discussion concluded with addressing whether our committee could endorse the study, with the understanding we do not yet know the scope of the cost or whether the University

would be able to act on the results. Despite these unknowns, given the importance of equity and inclusion, the committee expressed overall support, and we will communicate our endorsement of the study to UFC before their next meeting in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bylenok

UBAC Secretary