

## **Strategic Planning & Budget Study Committee (SPBSC)**

### **Meeting minutes for October 22, 2021 at 10 a.m. via Zoom**

#### **Members in attendance**

Dr. Ross Alexander (non-voting), Ms. Candace Arnold, Dr. Wayne Bergeron, Dr. Stephanie Clark, Dr. Chris Cottingham (Chair), Ms. Jami Flippo, Dr. Kimberly Greenway, Dr. Kevin Jacques, Dr. Katie Kinney, Dr. Molly Mathis (non-voting), Dr. Eric O'Neal, Ms. Gwen Patrick (sitting in for Mr. Kevin Haslam), Mr. Ron Patterson, Mr. Evan Thornton, Mr. Ethan Dempsey, Dr. Josh Looney

#### **Members not in attendance**

Dr. Scott Infanger

1. Call to order: SPBSC meeting was convened at 10 a.m. via Zoom with Dr. Cottingham presiding as Chair
2. Approval of agenda
  - a. Dr. Kinney motioned to approve, seconded by Dr. Jacques (approved w/o objection)
3. Approval of minutes
  - a. Dr. Bergeron motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Flippo (approved w/o objection)
4. Remarks from the Chair
  - a. Plans for the current academic year are to primarily focus on evaluating & approving budget requests as last year
  - b. Chair is open to suggestion regarding other matters for the committee to take up
5. Remarks from Dr. Alexander
  - a. Dr. Alexander addressed continued enrollment growth at UNA & he emphasized the enrollment-sensitivity of UNA's annual operating budget
  - b. Dr. Alexander also discussed continued efforts by the UNA administration, particularly President Kitts, to increase UNA's relative share of state higher education funding
6. University budget report from Mr. Thornton
  - a. Mr. Thornton reviewed UNA's FY 21-22 budget, recently approved by the Board, with the committee
  - b. In terms of revenues:
    - ~\$75 million in tuition/fees
    - ~\$40 million in state appropriation (represents 16% increase from previous year, but should be ~\$10 million more to reach equity w/similar-sized institutions)
    - ~\$20 million in auxiliary revenue (also enrollment-sensitive)
    - Overall, ~\$100 million of revenue (out of ~\$130 million total overall) is enrollment-sensitive
  - c. Currently we have a ~\$4 million deficit looking ahead 2022; 2022 will be a "tight year" budgetarily, contrasting with in 2021, when we had savings related to pandemic (e.g., reduced hiring and travel), allowing us to remain in the black
  - d. UNA Foundation has been able to assist with providing additional funds for proposals via this committee which will likely be necessary moving forward as well
  - e. Budget picture will hopefully come more fully into focus in early 2022, depending on when state legislature finishes education budget, but overall Mr. Thornton is more concerned this year versus last year

- f. Mr. Thornton recommended that this committee still take and rank proposals, but then we will have to take a “wait and see” approach on how much money we can actually come up with to fund the proposals later in 2022
  - g. Proposal process was delayed into spring of last AY due to pandemic-related budgetary uncertainties, but a similar timeline might still be beneficial in this AY due to the aforementioned concerns
7. Old business
- a. Discussion of timeline for review of funding proposals in AY 2021-22
    - Per Dr. Jacques (2020-21 committee chair), the regular timeline for proposal submission to this committee is October 1-March 1 of an AY, but the committee approved a one-time shift to an April 1-May 1 timeline for the 2020-21 AY (due to pandemic-related budgetary uncertainties)
    - After some discussion regarding the overall budgetary situation as described by Mr. Thornton and other concerns regarding how the purchasing process might play out when (or if) proposals are actually funded, Dr. Cottingham proposed a new amended timeline of January 3-April 1 2022 for accepting proposals in AY 2021-22
    - Motion to approve the new amended timeline (January 3-April 1 2022) was made by Ms. Flippo and seconded by Dr. Bergeron (approved w/o objection)
    - Dr. Jacques volunteered to initiate the change in advertised timeline on the UNA website
8. New business
- a. Nominations and election for 2021-22 committee Vice Chair
    - Eligible members: Ms. Candace Arnold (staff, term expires 2024), Dr. Stephanie Clark (faculty, term expires 2024), Ms. Jami Flippo (staff, term expires 2023), Dr. Katie Kinney (COAD, term expires 2023)
    - Dr. Clark nominated Dr. Kinney to serve as 2021-22 Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Flippo
    - Nomination was approved w/o objection, making Dr. Kinney the 2021-22 Vice Chair and presumptive 2022-23 Chair
9. Adjourn
- a. With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Thornton and seconded by Dr. Clark (approved w/o objection)