

Council Meeting #7 Minutes
January 27, 2014
PC Forum, 6:00pm

khosla strategic planning initiative

- I. Call to Order [6:07 pm]
- II. Approval of Agenda
 - A. *Motion to approve, seconded*
- III. Old Business - Approval of Council Meeting 6 Minutes
 - A. *Motion to approve, seconded*
- IV. Public Comments and Announcements
 - A. IR/PS Roaming Social celebrating Chinese New Year this Friday; there will be an email sent out.
 - B. Timia: we bought more Winter's Tale tickets; we have about 15 more still available. We will be getting more Spring Awakening tickets as well and sending out an email about them. For the spring, we will be getting tickets to Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty.
 - C. Feb 7: GSA Winter party in PC Ballroom B
 - D. There will be an email sent out about voting in the mayoral elections.
- V. Special Visits: Chancellor Pradeep Khosla - UCSD Strategic Initiative
 - A. For one year, we've been working on this initiative. We are close to finishing the first draft of the document. The draft is a broad document that captures conversations we've had about who we are and what we want to be.
 1. 8 words to explain the whole year's worth of work:
 - a) Student-centered: everything we do, is it good for our students?
And if it's not, we have to rethink.
 - b) Research-focused: our reputation as one of the top ten places in the world began with high quality researchers. We hired the best of the best faculty so we could attract the best of the best grad students.
We want to keep that opportunity going.
 - c) Service-oriented: we want to encourage everyone at this school to think that each of us exists to help everyone around us. Everyone should think that they need to serve, not that they should be served.
 - d) Public university: 6% of our budget comes from the state, so many ask why we are still a state university. Even if we got \$0, we would still be a public university. Our mission would still be one of access and affordability. This country's legacy has been one of education: how many of us could be here without scholarships and government aid? Each generation has to help the next generation.
In a few years, you'll be doing it for the people sitting here. We

will continue to be a public institution.

2. What have we done already?

- a) Access and affordability: Chancellor's Associate Scholarship: if you are an undergrad eligible for Blue and Gold and their family income is less than \$80,000, you have to take out \$10,000 loan every year, which is quite a lot of debt. We picked three schools and everyone who gets into UCSD from these schools gets to go for free. They are mostly first generation, low-income students. We might have 60 people coming in next year. We're going to expand to community colleges in the next year and expand to 100 scholarships. Our goal is to get \$100000 in endowment.
- b) Graduate situation: US government spends a lot of money on graduate education and research. We need more though, because we are constrained by federal laws and rules, so we want to do more than that. Goal: more money for fellowships.
- c) PhD education: PhD students picked the best of the best faculty to study with. Structure: in-state and out-of-state are pretty different, so faculty would go with in-state students instead of out-of-state. We're making investments to change that; also making similar investment in labs for undergrads. We're trying to increase faculty openings, 20 of them a combination between health sciences, Scripps and general campus. We need to invest more into these developments so students can work on important issues.

3. Questions

- a) Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I was surprisingly pleased by what was developed. Only concern: you hear a stronger voice from the undergraduate population. I noticed that a lot of ideas and initiatives that are being put forward don't speak to the conversations we've had. Another concern: our relationship with our mentors and how that can be improved.
 - (1) That's not a problem that can get solved through the administration and by throwing my influence around. It requires significant cultural change. We want to be as inclusive as possible. If we can't be, then society outside here cannot be inclusive either. We want to be role models, so that's in there. We cannot mandate inclusivity as a strategy. We have to build a conversation, discussion, discourse.
- b) There is a reputation of mistreatment of students in the medical school. It tends to be a self-regulating entity, which could be why

they it is perpetuated. As a medical student, I'm asking you to look into it.

(1) There's nothing you can do if things aren't brought up, so thank you for bringing it up. I would say, never assume that departments know of a problem and aren't doing anything to address it. I want to hear about these situations, so I can know what is it I am managing.

(2) Rahul: If I can add something--I meet with the Chancellor and Dean Barrett every month, so if you don't want to directly go to administration, you can bring it up with me or the other Execs and we can bring it up

c) How can you emphasize the *student* side, because right now it seems very faculty-centered. How can we expand it?

(1) I used to be a faculty member and in research, so I know what it's like. I think when things get done, it's 40% faculty having a good idea and 60% hiring the best graduate students to work on it. Over time, we want to build a little pool of funding for student-initiated ideas that bring faculty along, instead of faculty-initiated that bring student along. But these things will take time.

(a) Chancellor's Collaboratory Program: intended to encourage work between departments/fields.

d) What changes do you see happening with childcare (and other things that affect student parents) and the kind of support given to student parents?

(1) It has been brought to my attention by the GSA President. One solution would be to expand the Childcare Center. The problem is it's expensive and there are lots of regulations on children under 6 months, under 2 years, etc. Right now it looks nearly impossible to expand.

(a) Ideas were sent to you through the resolution

(b) Don't send me resolutions, send me ideas

(2) Dean: we already had a meeting with VCSA, Mark Cunningham and VC Matthews to discuss it. We are moving forward with the new housing project, so we are looking for ideas on how to accommodate children

e) Can we talk about the budget? And how much oversight we have over it?

(1) We're getting 5% more from Jerry Brown this year, but our total budget is 3.7 billion, including state supports and

student tuition. 5% increase is only on the \$300,000,000, so we only get \$15 million extra. He's stipulating that tuition cannot go up and everything else must be constant. So we have a \$5 million increase (because of the \$10 million decrease in another section). So we're already looking at a deficit. To manage, we're trying to cut down on the administrative side and cut costs wherever we can. But after 4-5 years of doing this, now we're at the minimum we can cut.

- (2) There is oversight, we're replacing an administrative officer with a CFO to manage the budget better. We're going ahead with an all-funds budget instead of top-down admin
- f) Facilities: we've struggled with academic teaching space, both lecture halls and teaching lab space. It's very strained so we're teaching huge sections back to back.
- (1) You're right, we doubled space in the bio/chem departments when we realized the problem. As we speak, state government has decided that there will be no more money for building spaces. Luckily interest rates are low at the moment, so we are considering it.
 - (2) We also have to look for better allocation. Last year, we inaugurated some buildings but no space opened up. So how did this happen? These take a lot of time.
- g) A lot of students want to pursue activities outside the purview of their advisor. How do you envision that happening? I think of a grant program that allows time/funding for outside projects.
- (1) How much would be enough? Would 20% be enough? It's a lot easier with fractions rather than all-or-nothing. Can you all develop this idea? \$25000 of stipend to support one PhD student for one year? \$60,000? So even if I could put aside \$1 million, it would only support about 10 students. How can we create a better program?
 - (2) On that point, it's currently against UC policy for graduate students to be principal members for grants from outside organizations/the government. Why it is UC policy: federal government gives grants to employees of an organization and there's a lot of regulations and liability that the organization carries, so it's complicated.
- h) Are we employees or are we students?

- (1) TAs and RAs are employees, students on fellowship are students
 - (2) Chancellor: I'll try to figure that out and get back to you.
- i) Social sciences: some students get funded really well, others are required to TA over and over again. I'm in a department that pays well but a lot of others feel strongly that departments should be equal/equitable. It's something to be addressed.
 - (1) You have to look at it in the following way: regardless of what department you are in, there has to be a source of revenue. We have no control over how much outside funding goes to which department. In the past, Masters and PhDs used to be funded by state government. They don't anymore, so we have to look at philanthropic and grant-giving institutions. A small amount comes from the endowment, scholarships, etc. but we've never raised enough money in our endowment, so that's our goal. There's no other option, because the state has decided not to fund anymore.
 - (2) To add to that: it's not a perfect world, and there's a huge discrepancy between faculty salaries as well. It's not up to us. We have a methodology that gives departments that have less outside support MORE money. It's not enough to even out student support, but its a step in the right direction
 - (a) Related: is there anything in the works to improve the transparency of these methods?
 - (b) These are largely department issues, so if students are unhappy, thats something to take up with the department
- j) Going off of department support for students, it seems to be UC policy that PhD students need to be supported but Masters students don't. We are required to pay tuition and not given any support. Do you see that changing?
 - (1) I would like it to, but I don't see it changing, because PhD is open-ended, it could take 4, 5, 6, 7 or more years. Terminal masters are quicker, and give the student more income quicker in their lives right after graduation.
 - (2) That being said, there's no rule against funding for Masters students.
- k) How does the building up of the endowment look? Where are we looking and what stream of funding are we looking at?

Corporations? Alumni? And how will those sources affect the mission of public education?

(1) 70% of what money we raise is going to be from corporations. It's going to be expendable. Money from individuals has different limitations--ie one person recently gave \$6 million but doesn't want it going to the endowment. We have an endowment of \$600 million. a lot of the fundraising is done by the Board of Trustees and Alumni. Less than 3% of money from the last billion dollar campaign came from alumni--which is why I said every generation should help the next generation. It will take some time, but we want to build a culture of student-giving. When we take money from alumni, that usually goes into the endowment. We are also talking to emeritus faculty

VI. Special Presentations: UCSD Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) Committee Rep Greg Goldgof: Update and Q&A (with Stephanie Baily, WCSAB co-Chair)

- A. We want to let you know what the SHIP committee has been doing to address insurance increases in response to \$57 million deficit. The UC is suing our actuary. Students are not responsible for any of that money. More structure has been given to the student board that meets with UCOP.
- B. How do we control the costs of premiums? We get to decide what we want to include in our benefits and we hired consultants so we can make the best decisions.
 - 1. Major costs that we decided are preventable: getting prescriptions filled at UCSD. The pharmacy costs a lot more, so we have to decide what the copay will be. encourage students to save costs
 - 2. Expecting 20% increase in costs in the upcoming year.
 - 3. Lots of issues to using student health: limited hours, off campus students don't have as much access, and lots of commonly needed meds aren't available at the health center. So we are trying to get stimulant meds (not currently prescribed as a policy) prescribed (\$10 copay) and trying to expand hours at student health center. Started a pharmacy formular committee?
 - 4. One question you should ask: how much do we want the price of insurance to go down? Because if the price goes down, the copay fees go up. Grad students have to decide what they want
- C. Questions
 - 1. What will be changing now that Obamacare has been implemented?
 - a) We are exempt from Obamacare for mysterious and complicated reasons but we have decided we are going to try to get ACA. It

will create a lot of turbulence in the system for a while. You should think about what you want for spouses/partners/dependents of students. We have extraordinarily high fees for dependents. Should we eliminate dependent insurance? No, but we need a better system/other options

(1) Example: morning after pill should be free

2. Why have our fees gone up? Why are we in debt?
 - a) We've been told that the premium was set too low in the past. It was \$350/quarter. The plan was rich benefit-wise, so we weren't paying enough for everything we were getting.
3. What was the process that got us here specifically? ie was it the pills, surgery, common cold, etc?
 - a) The old company was just wrong. Right now, there's a lot of antidepressants and stimulants being used. Most of the services are for mental health. We're making special allowances for mental health, but we have an issue: for physical health, there are long term options, there are providers who will provide care at discounted rates (UC providers). This isn't true for mental health. We got into a situation where people would have to pay more for mental health providers than for physical care providers. We're trying to expand CAPS and get people to see UC providers, since severity of mental health issues would only get worse if we made care more expensive. About expanding CAPS limit, it's currently 12 sessions over 2 years. It's that low because of the staff that we have, so we're looking at hiring more people or identifying providers that are cheaper
4. About dependent costs: costs were set so high to deter people from buying into the system. If you look at the cost of insuring my 1-year-old or my wife: it's way too expensive. So to suggest going to ACA or to the exchange, is kind of like saying: "Well you're not really part of the community." People don't want the dependent option to go away, but they want it to be reasonable.
 - a) ACA is disaster in general for the next few years. Grad students can say tomorrow that dependents' care should come from the same pool as students' care. If grads want that, we can advocate for that. It was my understanding that the graduate student community had communicated earlier that dependents should be kept out of the student pool.

b) On other campus: other reps have looked to see what it would cost if dependents would be put in the same plan. It is something that we're looking into.

5. *Move to extend by 2 minutes, seconded*

6. Are you all available by email?

a) Yes, Ted has their emails so you can send in more questions

7. Just want to clarify something: does UC at all subsidize our insurance?

a) No, UCOP takes on lawsuits for us, etc. but this is a self-funded program. Departments are bound to honor it.

8. If you have more questions, send them in.

a) Can we have a session in the future for more information and updates about what's happening?

b) Yes, we'll arrange to be back soon.

VII. Appointments

VIII. Finance Bills

A. APRF 6: Consulting club asking for funding for a speaker, performer, etc

1. *Motion to approve, seconded*

B. LIF 1: Physics department asking for \$230 to purchase freezer, toaster, coffee-maker and lock for their lounge

1. *Motion to approve, seconded*

C. APRF 7: \$170 for Science Policy Networking Event. Expect 30 attendees, money will be used for snacks and printing

1. *Motion to approve, seconded*

D. GRF 6: \$1000 for Visual Arts Open Studio event. Expecting 300 people, 100-120 grad students.

1. What was actual number of grad students last year?

a) We don't have the exact numbers, but we do have sign in sheets. We hope more than 120 people will come

2. It just seems unusual to fund this amount for so few graduate students

a) There are 30 different studios and different people go to each studio

3. Please have better sign in sheets this time

4. We've also asked them to better publicize the event to grad students

5. How much has GSA historically given?

a) \$1000

6. *Motion to approve, seconded*

IX. Call for Council Meeting 8 Agenda Items

A. Interim VC Alan Houston will be here next year, so send in questions

X. Adjourn [7:25]

