May 6, 2013

Richard Hughey, VPDUE
Chancellor’s Office

Re: Summer Session Report

Dear Richard,

The Committee on Planning & Budget (CPB) has read with interest the “UCSC Summer Session Vision for Growth: Relevant, Transparent, and Sustainable” report (February 2013). We appreciate the work done to formalize the issues and to research the practices of other campuses for comparative purposes. We are, however, concerned that the report does not address many of the questions raised by the November 9, 2012 and August 28, 2012 CPB memos (attached). We note that in particular, items 3a-f. on page 10 are in fact a restating of the questions that we had hoped your division’s deliberations would address.

CPB is interested in seeing a funding model (or a series of alternatives) developed that would enable the campus to consider and evaluate the relative returns for instructors, the academic divisions and departments, Summer Session operations, and the campus general fund. In addition to the lack of a complete funding model, we are disconcerted by several of the report’s positions, including:

1. References to capping faculty compensation, given that increased ladder faculty involvement is a priority.

2. Consideration of divisions as the cost center to which funds would return, given that CPB’s position, and a position articulated in your report, is that faculty/department incentivization should be increased (we are concerned that the current return to departments is far too small to achieve the desired incentivization, and this would only be made worse if deans were allowed to impose a tax before passing through the rest of the money to the departments).

3. The justification for low graduate student instructor and teaching assistant compensation seems to be based on several misconceptions. The 220 hours (page 4) are described, incorrectly, as “contact hours.” The 220 in the union contract actually includes all labor of the TAs, including preparation, meetings with the instructor, and grading, so the comparison is invalid. It should also be noted that instructional hours for summer courses should be equivalent to academic year courses, or the credit hour equivalency would be suspect, and there would be educational policy issues. (In fact, summer courses are constructed with the same number of instructional hours.) As such, CPB maintains that
summer GSIs should receive compensation AT LEAST equal to compensation for academic year term TAs.

4. There is no mention of summer programs that by special agreement do not conform to ‘normal’ summer session funding assumptions. Only the arrangement with Community Studies is mentioned (page 8). These need to be accounted for in the discussion.

We would appreciate meeting with Summer Session Director Parikh to consider these questions. Her assessment of the funding model as it currently exists, and what we could do to both incentivize summer offerings and promote campus and community targeted programming, which would generate revenue for Summer Session and the campus general fund, would be highly valued.

In addition, we would like to consult with her about opportunities that she thinks Summer Session might provide for the development of innovative programs that could strengthen curricular offerings for our students, draw non-UC students to the Santa Cruz campus, and generate additional revenue for the campus.

Overall, CPB is concerned that consideration of Summer Session issues is impeded by the sense that it is always either “too soon” or “too late” to talk about these matters. It should be noted that CPB has been actively attempting to engage on this issue for at least two full academic years, to no avail. Given the absolute necessity of focusing on building up our revenue streams, the committee urges, in the strongest possible terms, that real Summer Session planning around the issues raised in our November 2012 and August 2012 memos occur in advance of the Summer 2014 session.

Sincerely,


Lynn Westerkamp, Chair
Committee on Planning and Budget

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Cc: EVC Galloway
    VC Delaney
    AVP Fiske-Bailey
    Director Parikh