

Budget Committee Meeting  
Department of Communicology  
October 2, 2020 @ 3pm

ATTENDEES:

Provost Michael Bruno, Dean Peter Arnade, Amy Hubbard, Emiko Taniguchi, Jared Leong, Jay Stout, Jaymi Urashima, Jessica Gasiorek, Jinguang (Andrew) Zhang, Lindsey Rice, Min-Sun Kim, Minwoong Chung, Sheila Kanemaru, Soo Shin, Tom Brislin, Wendy Pearson.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

*Budget Situation*

The University has taken steps to ensure we will end this fiscal year 2020-2021 (FY21) in good shape. We have taken some measures including a hiring freeze, travel freeze and restrictions on major spending which will position us to have reserves at the end of this fiscal year. We have not shut off spending entirely as evidenced by approvals where strong arguments were made.

All of the University's E/M employees will take a pay cut effective November 1, 2020. The State and unions are currently in discussions related to possible furloughs for State employees over the course of the next four years. We feel that the University cannot continue as a premiere R1 research university with four years of paycuts and freezes; this is not sustainable.

Having a stronger budget without the use of pay cuts and freezes is one of the drivers for the University to identify efficiencies and opportunities for enrollment growth.

*Process*

The Mānoa Budget Committee has performed a review of academic programs and made suggestions with the intent to provoke conversations, new ideas and counter proposals. Faculty have been open to discussions and suggestions and the Committee is open to ideas and feedback.

On the administrative end, Phase 2 of the Mānoa reorg is currently under development, creates four Vice-Provost positions and identifies for elimination approximately 12 E/M positions that will result in significant cost savings for the Mānoa campus. Additionally, a Blue Ribbon Committee is reviewing Athletics to assess the current program and identify a sustainable future for the program.

Review, approval and consultation with unions and affected stakeholders will continue through Spring 2021. The aim is to be transparent and collaborative throughout the process as we continue to work to identify cost-saving efficiencies and increase enrollment revenue.

*Details*

Committee suggestions included:

1. Reorganize the Department of Communicology (CALL) into the School of Communications (Social Sciences)

The deans, department chairs and faculty are in strong support to merge the units under a single umbrella. Discussions on a proposed reorganization between the two have been ongoing for several years. The units were asked to pause plans for reorganization due to other reorganizations around campus but were given the green light to resume in summer 2020. Since then, a working group comprised of representatives from Communicology, Communications and Library & Information Science has been meeting weekly to develop a governance structure, collaborate on the underlying principles for a merged unit, review executive policies on department chair responsibilities, discuss

new initiatives and other areas of importance to promote a smooth transition under a single umbrella. The Associate Dean of Social Sciences will be invited to participate as a member of the working group.

A draft proposal was developed in an effort to merge the units under a single umbrella while maintaining existing degree programs, at least initially, for autonomy, accreditation and to allow students to develop a coherent set of skills and knowledge in the diverse field of communications. This proposal continues to evolve. While mindful of the University's effort to assess the current landscape and possibly consolidate programs, the working group believes there is value in having degrees for students that provide essential knowledge and skills. One initiative (of many) is to create a center that will focus on communicating science and information. Utilizing skills in media journalism to help people train scientists to be more accessible and credible, as well as to help nonprofits and government agencies to understand and communicate science is important in this current environment.

2. Reorganize the Master of Library & Information Science (LIS) program and faculty from Information and Computer Sciences (Natural Sciences) to the School of Communications.

Communicology is in agreement that merging with both Communications and Library & Information Science is a good fit to further promote new and existing initiatives. Peer and benchmark institutions across the country have successful programs that incorporate both communications and library and information science under a single umbrella.

3. Stop-out admission to the BA in Journalism; and BA/MA in Communicology.

Based on feedback from the units, the Committee no longer recommends to stop out admission to BA in Journalism or the BA/MA in Communicology. Consideration may be given to maintain existing Communicology and Communications degrees eventually under a large degree program with distinct tracks or concentrations. Upon further collaboration and course development between units, the degree offerings may evolve over time. There is no desire to push the program in any particular direction at this time; intent is to give units time to reimagine their programs.

Outcomes:

There is strong faculty and administration consensus on the following.

Reorganize the Department of Communicology (CALL) and the Library & Information Science program and faculty from Information and Computer Sciences (Natural Sciences) into the School of Communications (Social Sciences).

We do not recommend the stop out of admission to BA in Journalism. The Committee looks forward to learning more about the plans for the reimagined degree program.

We do not recommend the stop out of admission to the BA/MA in Communicology.

*Additional Items for Consideration*

- Space needs - TBD
- GA allocations – TBD
- Timeline for implementation – ongoing discussions with unions and stakeholders will inform the timeline for review/implementation.