

Note: Below are some “unofficial” minutes of the Town Hall meeting that took place at UCLA June 29, 2009. They were taken in the spirit of sharing the content of this meeting with others in his department, including typos, clerical errors, and telegraphic style.

The meeting started with a 25 minutes talk by Senate Chair M.Goldstein who gave an update of the situation. This is summarized below.

From M.Goldstein talk

-The deficit figure that UCLA will have to absorb is changing almost daily. Right now

M.Goldstein estimated it to about \$113M

33M have already been budgeted by 5% cuts across the board for all departments.

40M are budgeted by salary cuts/furloughs

The c.a. 40M left that need to be budgeted will be through targeted reductions in specific programs.

- Many layoffs are scheduled. Goldstein estimated that at least 600 to 700 people would be laid off. Staff in departments would be the most affected.

- Targeted reductions in specific programs will be in 6 specific areas:

1-Personal commitments by the chancellor; for example IT and graduate student support.

2-Consolidate administrative functions. This will include cuts at Murphy Hall, in departments, Schools and Divisions.

3-Hospital. This is unclear how this will happen.

4-Public Service and Outreach Programs

5-Research on Campus and Organized Research Units (ORUs); right now it is unclear which ORUs will be the most affected and/or cut entirely.

14M are spent on campus-wide research. This will be reduced by 7M to 7M.

6-Toolbox reports identify areas where \$ can be saved; this will be implemented in a stepwise fashion; these areas will affect Faculty the most.

- Right now the Chancellor has not revealed the money that is being able as a reserve to offset some of the cuts. It is likely that it is in the order of magnitude of several \$M. This can be used to soften the blow for this year, but it will not be available next year.

- Making further cuts to departmental budgets is unlikely to happen. The 5% requested will not be increased.

- All this is only for this year. Next year will probably be as severe. The cuts will affect mostly departments and schools because the administrative cuts would have already been cut to the bone. Departmental cuts will involve consolidating programs and/or eliminating departments.

- The salary cuts –although mentioned as one year “commitment” – are likely to be for a minimum of 2 years.

- There is a high chance of students fees raise in January

- It is likely that we will have to pay more for the same level of Health Insurance coverage next year.

- A new model for UC, including privatization and high fees has been discussed. Right now the Senate and the President are negative about this perspective, but there might not be a choice if the financial situation continues to deteriorate. It is likely that the UC system will be moving to a different model but this will likely take a decade or so.

- Salary cuts: Feedback must be sent by July 9; Yudof will generate a proposal by July 12; a meeting will be hold July 17 to announce the official word.

- Regarding the Postdocs, there is conflicting information as to whether or not they will be affected. The Senate is opposed, but the problem is that postdocs are unionized. While this should be a good thing and prevent them from being affected, the same union also represents other classes of workers, and the union might be opposed to the cuts affecting only certain categories of workers.

- The Senate received 138 letters of feedback from Faculty. While 1/3 had no opinion, from the other 2/3, 88% were favoring furloughs over 8% salary reduction, mostly because furloughs would maintain salary and pension levels.

- About graded cut rates vs 2-tier cut rates; 1/3 had no opinion; the other 2/3 favored at 98% a graded cut rate. FECs are vehemently opposed to non-graded cuts.

- Regarding faculty paid on soft money, 25 Faculty expressed their opinion – 95% said that these should not be included.

- The only justification in favor of the 8% salary cuts is the ease of the administrative implementation. Implementation of furloughs will be very difficult to administer because there 6000 people employed in Payroll, and there are 29 different payroll dates.

Feedback during the Meeting:

- Most Faculty expressed opinion that Faculty and Staff paid from non-state funds should not be affected by the cuts. Some angry faculty members from the medical/public health school made very eloquent argument about this, and faculty from North campus mentioned that even though they would suffer the most from salary cuts, other like in the med school should not have to suffer for no reason.
- Most Faculty expressed opinion that they should be allowed to complement their salary reduced by furloughs or cuts from extramural grants if they have the opportunity. One possible mechanism is the fact that during summer, 27 days are unpaid – this might be used to add additional summer salary, etc...
- One Faculty expressed concern with the graded cuts, because UCLA has one of the highest salary grids for Professors (with Berkeley). Therefore graded cuts would likely affect UCLA Faculty the most.
- The concern that salary cuts would drive the most meritorious Faculty away from the UC system was reiterated, with a decrease of academic excellence. This was contradicted by one Faculty who mentioned that the situation for academic employment is bad everywhere, and that opportunities for academic employment do not abound given the current economic situation.
- It was emphasized that Faculty should adopt a team approach and talk with staff about these cuts.
- There was great concern about young faculty not being able to survive in Los Angeles given the monies already committed to mortgage and childcare.
- The situation for next year will certainly get worse with the possibility of eliminating some academic programs. Concerns were being raised about elimination of so-called “fringe” academic programs (e.g. exotic languages, etc..)

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