March 9, 2015

To:
Fiscal Policy Committee
Academic Senate

Fr:
Gayle Hutchinson, Provost and V.P. for Academic Affairs
Ysabel Trinidad, V.P. for Business and Financial Affairs
Michael Berman, V.P. for Technology and Communications
Genevieve Evans Taylor, Chief of Staff
Nichole Ipach, V.P. for Advancement
Gregory Sawyer, V.P. for Student Affairs

Re:
Fiscal Policies Committee recent request for information

On February 6, 2015, Sean Kelly, co-chair of the Fiscal Policies Committee (FPC) sent an email to me requesting information on staffing and budget for each division. I immediately forwarded this request to the Vice Presidents and the Chief of Staff. On February 25, 2015 the Vice Presidents and the Chief of Staff met with me and reviewed the list of information solicited.

We determined that the information requested was reasonable and should be reviewed annually. We also noted that much of it is currently published and available for the FPC to review. We encourage FPC and other members of the University community to review this information regularly to inform campus discussions and decision-making processes. To provide ease of access to some of the information you seek, we have included the following links:

Web links to relevant information

We, the members of the President’s Cabinet, appreciate the FPC’s template as a solid means for organizing information requested. However, the timing of this request is less than ideal. During the month of February, each Vice President completes his/her division request in preparation for spring deliberations. Preparing budget requests consumes the majority of staff time and shifting our focus to address the FPC request immediately would result in undue burden upon staff.

We embrace FPC’s eagerness to examine this information with us on an annual basis; perhaps the Strategic Resource Planning Task Force (SRPTF) would be willing to do the same. We propose that the FPC and SRPTF discuss this information with us on an annual basis and earlier in the planning process. We propose this meeting(s) occur at the end of the spring semester and/or at the beginning of the fall semester, as it would align with division annual reporting of progress made on strategic priorities and initiatives. Together, we would link the budget cycle to the University strategic priorities and division strategic plans.

This spring, we encourage FPC to view published information and we will make available that which is not published as soon as possible. Further, we would all benefit from a longer joint meeting with the FPC where we present information division budget proposals and explain how they align with University strategic priorities. In the spirit of collegiality, we hope you agree.

Cc:
Richard R. Rush, President
Jeanne Grier, Academic Senate Chair