

FRA Budget Advisory Committee

December 12, 2013

UBAC Activity Report

Today's UBAC meeting was both lively and positive (for a change.

The governor has sent a request to the Joint Budget Commission (JBC) for an increase of \$100 million for higher education. This represents an 11% increase over last year. We should realize about \$1.2 million increase in financial aid for our students if it is approved. (Brian Burnett believes both sides of the aisle in JBC support this proposal. And, as JBC goes, usually, so goes the legislature.) Furthermore, Colorado is the only state that has not had merit based aid in the past. The governor has requested \$5 million to be allocated for merit based aid. (See the UBAC website for all the glorious statistics. Also, following the \$4.5 million the governor gave us last year for architectural planning of the new VAPA building, he has requested an additional \$12.5 million for that project as well. Brian reminded us that the new office building under construction on Austin Bluffs has received to funds from the state, but still had to be approved by the state. If the State Development Commission approves the "City for Champions" proposal presented earlier this week, it would jump start by five to ten years building two of the health science complex near the Lane Building on North Nevada (\$9 to \$13 million from the Commission. Brian also said that the leadership team is in negotiations with "unnamed sources" to partner in that endeavor and that represent "very high" profile groups in the community. Finally, the salary compensation package for classifies staff, PESA, and faculty will probably be at 3%.

There ensued an in-depth discussion of the regent- required prioritization program review process. The original "quintile" procedure has been replaced by a rating system for both degree granting (n = 56) and non-degree granting (n = 63) units on campus. The lists of programs identified will be emailed to the campus when they have been finalized. We believe that the process will be completed (i.e., data collected) by the first week in February to be presented to the regents at their April meeting.

Bob Durham