Chair’s Report

- The Academic Council has recommended that the Restrictions on Funding Sources will go forward as originally worded, that is, there will be no special consideration for ORUs and other groups.
- The Cal-ISIS Review report has been forwarded to the Provost.
- Dynes has expressed pessimism on the ability of UC to retain administration over Los Alamos.
- UC is trying to maintain control over doctorate programs against a strong push by the CSU for separate control.

Budget update (Larry Herschman)

- Nothing much to report until the May revisions. A good quote from the meeting – “You can’t keep pulling up the carrots to see how they are growing.”
- Enrollment: the Senate is pushing for more students and UC needs to revisit the marginal cost per student.
- New positions: Given the uncompetitive position with respect to salary the assumption of new positions starting as Assist. Prof. Step III needs to be rethought.
- Maintenance: No longer funded.
- Concerns were raised about UC Merced. At present only about 30 faculty have signed contracts, although at least 50 are expected to be on board by September. The number of students will not be known until early May. If 1000 enroll that will mean a 20-1 student:faculty ratio, but if 2500 or more enroll then the ratio could approach or exceed 50-1. Nearly 7000 applicants have listed UCM as one of their choices.

Long term planning (Linda Guerra)

- A high level guidance team to meet bimonthly to propose in 6-12 month a vision of undergraduate and graduate education and the infrastructures needs.
- Modest growth at the undergraduate level is seen and no new campus will be needed until the 2020s.
- Excess unit fee policy was discussed. The premise is that large numbers of students are “hanging on” long past the time they should have graduated and using up student slots. There does not seem to be supporting documentation. The evidence is that the number is miniscule, thus it is not clear if such policies are needed. It was also pointed out that students in certain majors, especially in the performing arts, accumulate large numbers of units because of the contact hours involved that could put them over the limits before they could complete their course requirements for an on time graduation. The consensus was that this policy should be tabled unless more compelling evidence is presented that there is a real problem. More important to cutting the number of 5 and 6-year students is to assure all students that required courses will be provided on a timely basis.
Graduate and professional fees:
- Considerable time was devoted to the discussion of graduate and professional student fees. State analysts want the campuses to be creative in locally financing the fee increases. Stan Glantz made a forceful argument that current and projected fee increases could severely impact research-supported graduate education. The current fee structure represents a crossing point where it has become cheaper to hire postdocs than to take on graduate students. It also means that existing support systems such as endowments and training grants that support graduate students are going to fund fewer and fewer students because their amount will remain fixed. This will further erode the competitiveness of UC research faculty. The term a “perfect fiscal storm” was used to describe the impact of increased fees on graduate research/education, lack of competitive faculty salaries and potentially increased teaching loads due to difficulties in hiring that could lead to dire consequences for UC.
- Concern was also raised about alterations in the demographics of the professional students as they look at increased indebtedness as the price to pay to come to UC. It is clear that current financial aid policies cannot keep up with the increases in the fees, thus requiring more debt financing of professional education. It is clear that in the eyes of the legislature the old model that higher education benefited the state and thus should be publicly funded has shifted to the view that the benefit derives primarily to the individual and thus should be funded by the student.

Campus Mental Health Report
- A draft report on the impact of budget cuts on campus MH services was presented. Typical budget were in the 15-25% range. These cuts have restricted the number of visits per person, caused the departure of talented therapists and forced some to seek help outside of UC provided plans. The long term impact with respect to adverse occurrences cannot be assessed at this time.