To: Eldon Young, Joseph Melodia  
From: Karen Cant, Vice President/Chair, Planning & Budget Committee  
Date: April 25, 2012  
Re: 2012-2013 Legacy Funding

Eldon and Joseph,

Special Program Reviews for college special programs were due to Planning and Budget in March 2011 for the 3-year period 2008-2011. At that time, Planning and Budget informed all special program leaders that the reviews that were submitted were not sufficient to justify continuing funding. Spring 2012 deadline for resubmitting was established, with the understanding that special program leaders would work with the Office of Research and Planning to respond to the concerns that had been expressed. At the Planning and Budget meeting on Thursday, April 19, funding for special programs was again taken up in consideration of the revised Special Program Reviews that had been submitted.

After reviewing the report submitted by the Legacy program, Planning and Budget Committee decided that the program needs to develop a plan of action to address the following:

1) The program review submitted refers to discrepancies in data and cohort identification. Last year, Planning and Budget asked all programs to submit specific information to eliminate the problems related to cohort identification. Despite that, cohort identification has not been improved. Please submit a plan to address the identification of your cohort of students to ensure that such discrepancies do not recur.

2) In Spring 2011, six students dropped out of the cohort (initial cohort in Fall 2010 was of 26 students). According to the review submitted, an additional six students (out of the 20 who continued) withdrew from the program, bringing the number of dropouts to nearly 50%. There is no mention of the reasons for such a large proportion of students dropping out. Going forward, what is the program leadership going to do to address retention and persistence issues?
3) The success rate of Legacy students (considering the modified data presented in the review) does not exceed that of non-Legacy students by 10%, which was the criterion for success as defined by the program. There is no indication in the Legacy Program Review regarding how the program leadership is planning to improve on this parameter. Planning and Budget will require a detailed plan with appropriate timeline and responsibility to address this issue.

4) The means of assessment defined by the program includes parameters such as “gaining better understanding of study skills” and “resources available to help them achieve success”. Please provide Planning and Budget with specific detail explaining how the program leadership plans to measure the outcomes in these areas?

5) PBC was in disagreement with the comment “low success had a lot to do with the caliber of students...” Students are placed according to their performance in assessment test. Once they are placed into a course, they are assumed to be prepared for that level of academic activity. How does the Legacy Program leadership propose to address this concern? What screening criteria will be used to further refine the student selection?

6) What is the ethnic background of the students participating in the Legacy program?

7) The action plan, along with the persons responsible for implementation, should be submitted to Planning and Budget by May 10, 2012. The committee will review the plan and make a recommendation regarding 2012-2013 program funding in its meeting on May 17.