

Campus Infrastructure Assessment Task forces: Update October 3, 2013

Last fall(2012), following discussions in a variety of campus governance and administrative committees about the continuing financial shortfalls of the SSU budget and its continuing negative impact on the academic program, the Campus Re-engineering Committee organized six task forces designed to generate focused information on what the costs would be to bring key areas of the campus infrastructure into alignment with the needs of the academic program.

These task forces were intended to complement and support the separate efforts of the Provost and Academic Affairs to a) define the budgetary scope of the existing structural deficit in current academic programming, and b) to determine what additional resources would be required to improve current graduation rates. The overall goal was to 1) restore adequate funding to the “base” university budget in a way that would insure a 4-year graduation rate, and 2) to identify what additional resources would be needed to recruit additional national and international students WITHOUT displacing California resident students at the current level. The task forces were, in effect, a targeted ‘feasibility study’ of what would be needed to achieve these two goals.

The task forces were intended to be short-term, to provide specific information and costs, and to report their findings within a year. They were groups composed of faculty, staff, and administrators, and were chaired by individuals with administrative purview over the relevant areas of the campus infrastructure or budget. Calls for faculty participation on these task forces went out via the Academic Senate office, and were selected by the Structure and Functions Committee of the Senate.

The six task forces were:

- Urgent Maintenance and Repair
- Residential Community Capacity
- Instructional Capacity (infrastructure, such as classroom space, as opposed to faculty hiring, which was covered in the Academic Affairs budget review)
- Enhancements to Instructional Technology
- Co-Curricular Activities and Student Life
- Campus Conferences, Meetings and University Catering

This fall (2013), the task forces are bringing forward their reports to the Academic Senate and other campus committees. For the most part, the reports will include the results of these feasibility studies, and an initial estimate of what costs for bringing these different areas of infrastructure up to the level required to achieve the goals of improved graduation rates, and possible recruitment outside of California. In some cases, the reports will also include recommendations for future cost-saving, or more effective use of infrastructure and other resources. The reports are intended to provide some concrete data to the broader campus discussions about funding and budgeting priorities, what our options are for generating resources or reducing costs, and how to make decisions about the options available to us. The reports and additional updates will be made available via the Senate website and other relevant venues.